



## HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

18 Library Street Hudson, New Hampshire

6:30 pm Regular Meeting  
Followed by Non-public Session

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### Minutes - August 21, 2023

#### In Attendance

##### Board Members

Gretchen Whiting, Chair  
Maureen Dionne, Vice Chair  
Ethan Beals  
Mike Campbell  
Gary Gasdia

##### SAU Staff

Dan Moulis, Superintendent of Schools  
Kimberly Organek, Assistant Superintendent  
of Curriculum & Instruction  
Rachel Borge, Director Special Services  
Jen Burk, Business Administrator

#### A. Call to Order [0:00:05]

##### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gretchen Whiting called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Mike Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### B. Public Input [0:00:37]

There was no public input.

*Ethan Beals made a motion to add to the agenda items regarding adequacy increases and two more coaching nominations. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.*

#### C. New Business [0:01:19]

##### 1. Increasing Computers at the Elementary Level (Discussion)

Nottingham West Elementary School Principal Scott Baker and Hills Garrison Elementary School Principal Theo Tufts made a request for additional computers for elementary students. This proposal will provide a computer cart with 25 computers for each classroom. Once shipped, updating will be done and implemented in schools by the end of October. It was noted that writing scores had increased and writing skills had improved.

Both academic and technological aspects will help with writing improvement. There was discussion about support for the new technology. Funding is available through the ESSER III grant funding. These computers will be part of the budget cycle in the future. Ms. Whiting asked if students will be allowed to take computers home or if they would be used on snow days. Mr. Baker stated it is not advisable to have elementary students bring devices home.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request for additional computers for Nottingham West and Hills Garrison Elementary School students using ESSER III Funds as presented. Gary Gasdia seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

## **2. Adequacy Increase (Decision)**

There was a discussion about the increase to adequacy expected for this fiscal year of \$740,260, which was reported to the district by the State today. The School Board has two options with these funds – to either decide to increase appropriates for the fiscal year by that amount by going through a special meeting process with voters, or to do nothing and allow the additional adequacy to offset the tax rate by approximately \$.15 per thousand. The board had a discussion on how to proceed and decided to use the funds to lower the tax rate.

***Gary Gasdia made a motion to return the adequacy aid increase of \$740,260 to taxpayers. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

## **3. Retained Fund Balance (Decision)**

Ms. Burk presented information on the retained fund balance. Based on FY22 tax rate and assessment for FY23, the maximum contingency fund balance at 2.5% was \$1,103,665.

***In accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II, and voter approved warrant article #5 from March 2020, Ethan Beals made a motion to retain \$1.1 million in the retained fund balance account from fiscal year 2023 for fiscal year 2024. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

## **4. School Board Meeting Schedule for Budget Presentations (Decision)**

The budget presentation to the School Board and Budget Committee on October 14 has been cancelled. Budgets will be presented to the School Board as they have been in the past. There was a review of presentation dates:

October 16 - Overview with IT, Elementary schools and Facilities

October 23 - Overview with Hudson Memorial School, Alvirne High School, and CTE

October 25 - Overview with Special Services, Districtwide Warrant Articles and Default

October 30 - Wrap up and deliberation

November 6 - Wrap-up as needed

## **5. Nominations - Nottingham West Elementary School Choral Advisor (Decision)**

Nottingham West Elementary School Choral Advisor

Hills Garrison Elementary School Ski Club Advisor  
JV and Freshman Volleyball Coaches

***Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the nominations as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motions. Motion passed 5-0.***

#### **6. New Hire Memo (Decision)**

Superintendent Moulis presented a list of new hires as presented in the memo.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the list of new hires as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

There are 53 new teachers this year vs. 48 last year, with 10 openings this year vs. 20 last year. It was noted that the large number of hires this year does not correlate with people leaving but of the strides the district has taken to attract new staff.

#### **7. Staffing Update (Discussion)**

Superintendent Moulis shared a staffing update on Hudson Memorial School. Due to staff shortages there, the plan is to go from 8 teams (class size 18-20) to 7 teams (class size 20-24), and these class sizes will be manageable. Health/Physical Education and Project Lead the Way positions are still vacant. Another area of concern is the difficulty in hiring two special education teachers, which is a critical shortage area. The caseloads will need to increase for teachers that work with respective students. Board members were concerned about the potential burden on teachers with increased class sizes. There was a discussion about Unified Arts positions that are not filled, and that options are being explored. An art teacher was hired today.

#### **8. Paraprofessional Positions (Decision)**

Ms. Borge made a request to the School Board to modify 12 paraprofessional positions from part-time to full-time (two per building plus an extra one at the middle and at the high school). There are 47 vacant part-time paraprofessional positions district wide. There will be an offset to cost due to the teacher shortages, especially at the middle school level. The full-time positions will be posted and current part-time paraprofessionals may apply. Mr. Beals was concerned about potential impacts with collective bargaining arrangements and contractual pieces surrounding current negotiations. The board agreed to hold a quick "non meeting" for clarification.

***At 7:30pm, Gary Gasdia made a motion to take a 10-minute recess. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

***At 7:45pm the recess ended.***

***Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the modification of 12 paraprofessional positions from part-time to full-time as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

#### **9. Advanced Placement Chemistry at Alvirne High School (Decision)**

Superintendent Moulis shared a request from the Litchfield School District to tuition up to 10 Campbell High School students in AP Chemistry at Alvirne. This proposal is supported by Principal Beals due to the small class of Alvirne students currently enrolled in the course. The proposed tuition is \$2,187.50 per student. Transportation will be provided and funded by the Litchfield School District.

***Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the request by Campbell High School to allow up to 10 students to enroll in AP Chemistry at Alvirne as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

#### **D. Recommended Action [1:06:20]**

##### **1. Manifests**

##### **2. Minutes: July 17 and August 7, 2023**

***Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023 and August 7, 2023 as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.***

#### **E. Reports to the Board (Information) [1:07:10]**

##### **1. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Moulis reported that:

- A co-teaching model was discussed for Nottingham West
- Professional development has covered: emergency management, leadership, district priorities, the new evaluation and professional development program, school safety updates, and the new teacher orientation was held
- Superintendent Moulis attended the Hudson Old Home Days and joined the Lions Club and other organizations in the non-profit booth. He shared information on job vacancies with the community.
- August 31 - He and Mr. Gasdia will be on HCTV to discuss the beginning of the school year
- CTE driveway/drainage repair is complete, and paving will be done soon
- The kitchen ventilation renovation is ahead of schedule with the inspection to occur prior to school start
- The Hudson Memorial School science lab is to be complete by the start of school; the second one to be complete shortly thereafter
- He ate lunch with district facilities staff last week and thanked them for their work over the summer
- A handbook and policy review was done- available online
- Bus routes and schedules for back-to-school events were shared online and with families
- At the August 8 Board of Selectmen meeting - featured plan to restrict traffic during the school day at Hudson Memorial - will require public hearings so it will be complete in early fall
- Three workshop days are on the calendar this week for staff

- Students will return to school on August 28

#### **F. Committee Reports [1:15:30]**

Ms. Whiting noted that the State of the Town & District will be on September 28, 2023 (Meet & Greet) with the time to still be determined. There will be further communication sent out about the meeting.

#### **G. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments - N/A [1:19:38]**

The Board of Selectmen Liaison was absent tonight.

#### **H. Student Representative Comments - N/A [1:19:39]**

Ms. Tilley was absent tonight.

#### **I. Board Member Comments [1:19:40]**

Mr. Campbell expressed that he hoped people had a nice summer and noted that all the meet and greets are online and he wishes everyone good luck as the school year begins.

Mr. Gasdia thanked everyone involved in the Hudson Old Home Days. The dunk tank raised money for FFA. Alvirne is busy with band, parades, etc.

Ms. Dionne noted that the district is still actively seeking volunteers and paid employees.

Ms. Whiting welcomes everyone back. She said she is working on a process to give members of the School Board the ability to provide input on agenda topics.

#### **J. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a and c [1:24:28]**

*At 7:55pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a and c. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.*

Review of student matters

Review of teacher resignation

SAU staff was dismissed at 8:43pm

#### **K. Leave Non-Public Session and Adjourn**

*At 9:48pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to return to general session. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.*

Submitted by

Susan DeFelice

Non-public reported by Dan Moulis, Kim Organek and Gretchen Whiting

