



HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT ♦ Hudson, New Hampshire
Hills Memorial Library 18 Library Street

6:30 pm Budget Meeting
Non-Public Session

School Board Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2024

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 [0:00:10]

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

B. Public Input [0:00:35].

Grace Kennedy of 30 Glen Drive mentioned that Candidate's night would be held at the Community Center tomorrow and she was a School Board candidate.

C. Presentation to the Board [0:01:50]

1. AFJROTC Enrollment (Information)

Lt. Colonel Cheetham and Colonel Cole presented enrollment information about the CTE's AFJROTC Program. A letter had been sent from JROTC Headquarters regarding the JROTC program whereby a decision could be made in April or May of 2024 to discontinue the program, but Colonel Cole felt that was unlikely. An overview was provided:

Authorities & Guidance

- Congress Passed law 10 USC Sec 2031
- Department of Defense DOD Instruction 1205.13 policy

- Local School District

Program Enrollment

- Per law, units maintained participation levels equal to 10% of institution enrollment or 100 students, whichever was less. This has been in place since 1984.
- Hudson has 79 cadets which is under 100; this put Hudson on probation.
- Advocating for a review of title 10 USC Sec. 2031 related to enrollment.

Lines Of Effort

- Federal level
- HQ AFJROTC level
- Locally
 - Hudson summer aviation camp (July 2023)
 - New approach to weekly uniform
 - More field trips and events
 - In-person area school recruitment
 - Increased parent/guardian outreach
 - Scholarships

Discussion included accelerated pathway options with NH CTE programs - getting credit for student/seats enrolled in class. This would increase the number at Alvirne from 79 to 99 students. There was interest in fixing Title 10's provision of the ten percent class size requirement for JROTC enrollment. Efforts were made to see what other schools' percentages were across all services, including by Commissioner Edelblut. Congressional delegations will be addressed about the topic of reformation of Title 10. It was noted that overall recruitment in the services is low in the country. Student schedule challenges were mentioned as well e.g. AP courses that took away time from the JROTC program. Some students ended up changing interest in the program by senior year. JROTC at Alvirne is focused on credit/outcomes (vs. enrollment). There was discussion about retention from grade to grade. It was noted that the town gives much support to the JROTC program at Alvirne. A suggestion was for the Board/SAU to perhaps write a letter in support of the program. Making a connection with younger grades could be helpful also (field trips, etc.). It was noted that the program in Hudson is successful and only has the issue of not having the required enrollment. Congressional representatives are writing letters to the Secretary of the Air Force.

D. Old Business [1:15:58]

1. School Board Meeting Calendar - Draft (Decision)

There was review of a draft 2024-2025 School Board Meeting calendar for reconsideration after recent Board-suggested revisions. Updated meeting dates included: January 6 and 21, 2025; February 3 and 17, 2025; and March 24, 2025 as a Board reorganization meeting date.

Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Board calendar as presented. Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

E. New Business [1:17:55]

1. Travel Request - Alvirne Farm (Decision)

There was review of a travel request for Alvirne Farm Manager Emery Nadeau to attend the New York Farm Show in Syracuse, NY on February 22-24, 2024.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the travel request for Alvirne Farm Manager Emery Nadeau to attend the New York Farm Show in Syracuse, NY on February 22-24, 2024 as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Travel Request - Alvirne Wrestling (Decision)

AHS Athletes who placed in the top 3 on February 24, 2024 will qualify for New England Regionals in Rhode Island on March 2, 2024.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the travel request for AHS wrestling athletes to attend the New England regionals in RI on March 2, 2024. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. British Car Show Request (Decision)

The British Car Show requested use of the Hills House Grounds for July 26-27, 2024.

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the use by the British Car Show of the Hills House Grounds for July 26-27, 2024. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Permission for Students to Attend NH Student Teen Institute Leadership and Prevention Program at Camp Cote in Freedom, NH - March 15-17, 2024. (Decision)

Ethan Beals made a motion to approve the NH Student Teen Institute Leadership and Prevention Program trip as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

A presentation would be made after the trip.

5. Hand Carry Nominations for HMS Advisors/Cocurricular Dodgeball Program and for HMS Girls Softball Coach (Decision)

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the nominations for the HMS Dodgeball Coach and HMS Girls Softball Coach. Ethan Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

F. Policies - Withdrawal (Decision) [1:23:33]

GCAA - Highly Qualified Teachers

Current policy for withdrawal, as it is outdated and related to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Gary Gasdia made a motion to withdraw policy GCAA - Highly Qualified Teachers. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

G. Policies - Review (Information) [1:24:35]

EBB - Accident Reports

Current version was reviewed. No decision is necessary.

H. Policies - First Reading (Information) [1:25:58]

DKC - Expense Reimbursement

Proposed policy. There was a rewrite of expense reimbursement information to more align with what is done in other Districts. The Board wanting to see presentations/follow up (of trips) was discussed. Some employees felt uncomfortable coming to the Board to present conference requests and follow-up. The value of hearing what people learned from events/trips was discussed, as well as supporting professional development. An idea was for teachers to present to their faculty/department and not necessarily to the Board. Fiduciary responsibilities and expectations were also discussed. Having the Board be in the loop of learning was mentioned. There were staff members who did not take advantage of professional development improvement due to having to present to the Board; it was not beneficial for policy to interfere with someone's PD that would benefit student education. An idea is to have it be procedure (agenda item) vs. policy to share information/follow up from travel requests.

GDB - Employment of Non-Certified Personnel

NHSBA version with revisions. The district does not have this policy, but it is related to GDF.

GDF - Hiring of Non-Certified Personnel

NHSBA version with revisions. The last update was in 2006.

I. Policies - Second Reading (Decision) [1:57:53]

ACAC - Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy

Proposed policy with revisions.

EBCA - Crisis Prevention and Emergency Response Plans

NHSBA version with revisions.

EBCC - False Alarms, Bomb, Active Shooter, and Other Such Threats

Current policy with tracked changes.

FA - Facilities Development Goals and Preparation

Current policy with revisions.

JEB - Age of Entrance

Current policy with revisions.

Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve the following policies as presented:

ACAC - Title IX Sexual Harassment

EBCA - Crisis Prevention and Emergency Response Plans

EBCC - False Alarms, Bomb, Active Shooter and Other Such Threats

FA - Facilities Development Goals and Preparation

Ethan Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

There was discussion about policy JEB - Age of Entrance (delineation into two separate paragraphs for section C waivers; waiver timeline changes from March 1 to March 15 for this year; and #4: all appeals concluded by June 30th). Language will be included on the registration forms (electronically, which helps with legibility, accuracy, convenience and paper trail). There was discussion about clarity of using the phrase “in writing”. It was suggested to add “or facsimile”. There was discussion about having language regarding decisions on the probationary period being provided in writing. It was beneficial to not have ambiguity around the term of three months for the probationary period; this will be addressed in the process/on the form.

An amendment was made to item “C. Waivers”:

“as determined by the district” was added in both sentences.

Gary Gasdia made a motion to approve policy JEB - Age of Entrance as amended.

Maureen Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

J. Recommended Action (Decision) [2:12:49]

1. Manifests

2. Minutes: February 5, 2024 and February 10, 2024 (post Deliberative Session)

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2024, as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Maureen Dionne made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2024 (Deliberative Session) as presented. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (abstention from E. Beals).

K. Reports to the Board (Information) [2:13:40]

1. Superintendent Report - Dan Moulis

- Leadership meeting - discussion of after-school math support pilot program to begin in March 2024 for grades 5-12.
- The Legislative Conference on February 9, hosted by the NH School of Administrators Association, focused on the following bills: HB1643 (making curricula and materials available on the Website); HB1153 (mandatory and

elective public school curricula); HB1185 (what grades sexual education would be taught in); HB1312 (parental notification of student health/well-being and certain curricula); HB1308 (parental access to children’s library records); SB341 (mandatory disclosure by district employees to parents); SB1419 (prohibiting obscene/harmful sexual materials in schools and creating a procedure for removal and cause for action); HB1691 (updating definition of adequate public education); HB1471: declaring total solar eclipse in April as a school holiday; HB1671 (complete process for teaching discrimination and allowing educators and officials a right of action for damages and costs for false accusations; and HB1206 (prohibiting educator indoctrination). These are pending state legislature.

- The 8th grade open house at Alvirne High School was well-attended.
- The State Board of Education meeting highlighted business partnerships with the Hudson School District.
- Sports updates included: HMS wrestling team had an undefeated season; HMS cheer team finished first place; Alvirne Boys/Girls basketball team qualified for playoffs and Alvirne/Milford hockey team - qualified for division 2 playoffs. All were commended.

It was suggested that the after-school math support program be well-advertised and reiterated at the next School Board meeting.

L. Committee Reports [2:24:16]

Mr. Beals noted that the Strategic Planning Committee continued to host informational gathering sessions, even virtually. The next meeting will be on February 22, 2024. Public input is encouraged.

Ms. Whiting noted that the Budget Committee decided to hold the next meeting in April and not in March.

M. Correspondence (Information) [2:26:30]

There was review of the discipline reports, including tables and graphs, and comparisons from January 2023 to January 2024. Board feedback included: presenting a graph per school to see patterns over schools looking back over time; clarifying timeframes where incidents of bullying were under active investigation; and being appreciative of there being focus on accurate reporting and student behavior/accountability.

The financial report showed stability since the last report.

N. Board of Selectmen - Liaison Comments [2:34:00] - N/A

O. Student Representative Comments [2:34:01] - N/A

P. Board Member Comments [2:34:02]

Mr. Campbell mentioned that the Blue and Gold ceremony (Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts) is on Sunday, encouraging community involvement, and he congratulated Den 2 who got their whittling chip and first knife.

Mr. Gasdia noted that the district Facebook page content has been very good and he is appreciative of the event coverage and positive promotion of the district.

Ms. Dionne noted that recreational basketball is wrapping up and she thanked the Recreational Department and parents for their hard work and participation.

Ms. Whiting welcomed William LeBlond to his first School Board meeting. She also noted that there is more celebratory content being disseminated to the community. Meet the Candidate night will be tomorrow night.

Q. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II a, b, c and I. [2:38:47]

At 9:12pm, Ethan Beals made a motion to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II a, b, c and I. Mike Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Legal review

Letter of correspondence

Hiring nominations, 5-0 vote

Personnel matters

Ms. Organek, Ms. Borge and Ms. Burk dismissed at 10:12pm.

R. Return to General Session and Adjourn

At 11:13pm, Gary Gasdia made a motion to return to general session and adjourn. Ethan Beals seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Roll call vote.

Submitted by

Susan DeFelice

Non-Public submitted by Dan Moulis, Kim Organek and Maureen Dionne