

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hudson School Board Meeting
April 1, 2013
Approved Minutes

Present

Mrs. Laura Bisson, Chair
Mr. Lee Lavoie, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Patty Langlais
Mr. Michael Truesdell
Mr. Bryan Lane, Superintendent
Dr. Phyllis Schlichter, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Jeanne Saunders, Director of Special Services
Ms. Karen Burnell, Business Administrator
Mr. Connor Sakati, AHS Student Representative

A. **Call to Order:** Mrs. Laura Bisson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:35 pm.

B. **Public Input**

Heather, Wayne Street, Hudson

Do you have evidence to support this restructuring change?

No concrete evidence. However, currently the district has 45-60 students on a watch-list at both the high school and middle school. Students are not prepared for grade transitions. If we could focus on students at grade 1, we would have the necessary resources to help all children succeed, above or below grade-level. Currently our resources are spread thin in all buildings.

Suzanne, 25 St. Anthony Street, Hudson

Would like the school board to consider grouping students together by what school they will be going to (Hills Garrison/Nottingham West). This will make the transition easier if students see a familiar face at a new school.

Non-Public Session:

Mrs. Langlais moved to enter Non-Public session at 6:50 pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (C) guardian request second by Mr. Lavoie.

Chairman called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Truesdell-yes, Mrs. Langlais-yes, Mr. Lavoie-yes, Mrs. Bisson-yes.

Motion passes 4-0.

The board entered non-public session at 6:50 pm.

The board discussed a student issue; no action was taken.

Mrs. Langlais moved to exit non-public, second by Mr. Truesdell. Motion passes 4-0.

Public session reconvened at 7:30 pm.

C. Requests of the Board

There were no requests of the board.

D. Presentations to the Board

Staff Member Input (Restructuring)

All input will be put on the website.

Mr. Joe Hurley and Mrs. Christine Kingsley (Zone A) addressed the board.

Request websites of districts using this K-1 model – Mr. Lane will get this information to the teachers.

How many teachers would there be per grade? One less 2nd grade teacher and one less 3rd grade teacher. We will maintain current levels on all other grades. Default Budget will play a part in this.

Do you think the budget would have passed if the Town's people would have known? Hard to speculate. This restructuring has nothing to do with economics. The board approached the new administration when they came on board to see if there were things we could do better. Waited to release this information until they had data to support this idea.

Currently there is no solid curriculum in Science, Social Studies or Math. Will look at this.

Currently there are 250 students in grades 3-6 that do not meet grade level. With this change, we would see progress in 5-7 years.

Joe and Christine felt this was quite a sudden change and are having a difficult time explaining this to the students. Should we wait a year and work toward this plan? They also stated that not all schools have the same resources - some have digital resources while others are still using textbooks.

What is your Plan B? Maintain all structures, reorganize staff (due to Default Budget), no plans to close any schools.

Mr. Lavoie stated that if a school does not have the necessary materials, we need to get it for them.

Dr. Schlichter stated Common Core is our guide (curriculum); we are moving toward consistency.

Lisa Perry and Peggy Dunn – Nottingham West

Teachers and paraeducators are not opposed to the plan but have many concerns and want equitable distribution of resources throughout the district.

Concerns: Numbers need to shift to reach all students to have success. Losses will be great, but we want whatever is best for the students.

Preschool program will be restructured no matter how this works out.

Joanne Gaynor – Dr. H.O. Smith
Know there needs to be a change; we are however a family unit (as is all schools);
concerned we will lose the family feel.

Elaine Yen – Reading Specialist
Read prepared letter, “Work to benefit the kids.”

Lisa Dupree
Most comments she has heard have been positive; this will benefit student
achievement. Concerns – parent support, already do a lot of work at home
because we are busy servicing our students. Have you considered looping?

Mr. Lane thanked all that came tonight. “You do the real work.” We will
continue to work together no matter what direction we go in.

Brief recess 8:30-8:39.

E. Reports to the Board Skipped
Superintendent’s Report

Assistant Superintendent’s Report
Dr. Schlichter addressed the board.

Director of Special Services’ Report
Ms. Saunders addressed the board.

F. Committee Report Skipped

G. Correspondence Skipped

H. Recommended Action

1. Manifests- Recommended Action:
Manifests are available to be signed. Make necessary corrections.
2. Business Affairs - Draft Minutes – Recommended Action:
Make necessary correction and approve.
February 9, 2013 (Deliberative Session)
*Mrs. Langlais moved to approve the draft minutes of February 9 as
presented, second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passes 3-0-1. (Mr. Truesdell
abstained.)*

February 18, 2013

Mrs. Langlais moved to approve the draft minutes of February 18 as presented, second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passes 3-0-1. (Mr. Truesdell abstained.)

March 18, 2013

Will come back to the board.

I. Old Business Skipped

J. New Business

Mrs. Bisson suggested that board members all get SAU 81 email accounts. Have board consensus; will get this done.

FY14 Default Budget

Board discussed default budget and list of potential items to eliminate.

All school principals present. This is an overview of the default summary. All projects are gone. Mrs. Burnell has already gone through and eliminated what she could. There is still a \$238,000 shortfall. Looking for line items that have the least effect on education. Principals gave some ideas for cuts and Mr. Lane has made some modifications.

Currently the district is in the middle of an accreditation process. This costs approximately \$49,000 over a ten-year period (\$3,000/yearly and \$19,000 for the visit). This should continue. Three-day visit is scheduled for November 2013.

Late bus – discussion

No late bus would affect students' ability to do afterschool activities as well as remediation. Discussed dropping late bus service from 3 days per week to 2.

Studio 19 – discussion

Just got new equipment from the Trustees.

Mr. Beals stated that there have been some transmission problems. Even without Studio 19, the class would still run - minus the transmission.

Farm Manager – discussion

Salary – milking and haying

This has been part of the school for a long time; it's tradition. Residents/Trustees would not be happy if this goes away. Currently the farm is self-sufficient with the exception of the Farm Manager salary. A cut here would mean a loss of revenue. We owe it to all to keep the farm going.

Mrs. Langlais moved to remove the Alvirne farm/Farm Manager salary from the table, second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passes 4-0.

Mrs. Langlais moved to keep the late bus at Alvirne and Hudson Memorial but change it from three days a week to two days a week, second by Mr. Lavoie. Motion passes 3-1. (Mr. Truesdell voted no.)

SERESC – discussion

This is a good resource; however, it has been underused. Once a district withdraws, they cannot get back in. Cost per year \$15,000

New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) – underutilized, cost per year is \$5,000. Add to list for consideration.

Afterschool/intramural sports at Hudson Memorial – Flag Football and volleyball. They do not impact academics.

Facilities – discussion

Could we look at facilities contracts and projects? Karen has already pulled all projects.

Grade 7 Textbooks

Sue Nadeau stated already using these for grade 8 had hoped to expand this to grade 7. These books align with Common Core.

Unanticipated Retirement

Mr. Lane did not think this would allow for any significant cost savings.

Mrs. Langlais suggested that the board set a specific date to discuss this and make the necessary cuts. Restructuring must be voted on by April 15 and all default budget cuts must be done by May 6.

Budget Workshop scheduled for April 29 at 6:30.

K. Board Member Comments:

Connor – People are hesitant about cuts, education doesn't end in the classroom. Extracurricular cut would be disastrous to students. Students should be in these budget cut decisions.

Mr. Truesdell – Special Olympics are in full swing. Regionals in Londonderry and States at UNH.

Mrs. Langlais – Agree with Connor. This is what happens when you don't get out and vote.

Drama club to States this weekend in Wolfeboro.

Mr. Lavoie – Tough week for all.

Textbooks at Alvirne – if you need textbooks, tell Mr. Beals there is \$6,000 available.

I was invited to Mrs. Senecal's classroom for a maple sugaring.

Mrs. Bisson – Sympathy to the Masterson family for their loss and to the family of the recovering passenger.

Elementary Restructuring Public Information Session tomorrow, April 2.

Cabaret was amazing!

Catie's Closet Gala raised \$40,000!

L. Non-Public Session:

Mrs. Langlais moved to enter Non-Public session at 9:57 pm under

RSA 91-A:3 II (AB) second by Mr. Truesdell

Chairman called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Truesdell-yes, Mrs. Langlais-yes, Mr. Lavoie-yes, Mrs. Bisson-yes.

Motion passes 4-0.

Enter Non-Public at 9:57

The board discussed staff nominations with the decision to postpone review and elections until April 8.

Mr. Lavoie motioned to exit non-public and adjourn the meeting, second by Mrs. Langlais. Motion passes 4-0.

The board exited non-public at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Murray