

**Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
December 17, 2018
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Mr. Malcolm Price, Board Chair
Mr. Lee Lavoie, Vice Chair
Mrs. Patty Langlais
Ms. Darcy Orellana
Mr. Michael Blau
Mr. Lawrence Russell, Superintendent
Ms. Mary Wilson, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services
Ms. Karen Burnell, Business Administrator
Ms. Caitlin Lynch, AHS Student Representative

A. Call to Order

Mr. Price Board Chair called the meeting to order and Mr. Lavoie led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:37 pm.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Dan Pooler and Fred Kemmerer in recognition of their dedication, passion, and hard work resulting in an ARISS contact for Hudson Memorial School.

B. Public Input

Roger Coutu addressed the board regarding a proposal to move voting to April. Inquired of the board why the Hudson School District cannot vote in April if Merrimack can. Was asked by Mrs. Langlais what he already knew of the HSB presentation regarding the question. Mr. Coutu responded that he had not watched the HSB meetings.

Discussion of legal ramifications of postponing the vote. Mrs. Langlais explained the risk of losing qualified applicants to other districts whose budgets are secure. Mr. Russell explained the requirements for teacher renewal and the timelines as they abut to an April vote. Also explained that a late vote risks the loss of viable teacher candidates to other districts whose budgets have been passed.

Mr. Russell also explained that currently there is only one town in the State of NH that votes for school budgets in April. After securing legal input, it was concluded that it is not good for our children to change the voting to April.

Mrs. Wilson shared concern that a late vote could have negative impact on staff morale.

Mr. Lavoie stated that there have been votes that were postponed due to weather in the past. Also reported that the news of the selectmen's proposal was not communicated to the school district until the warrant article was drafted.

Ms. Orellana shared that she was sorry to hear Mr. Coutu's comment that he was ill-informed on the issue but was reassured that he had been educated this evening. Also shared her concern that changing an entire voting day in response to a snow storm is shortsighted.

Mr. Coutu – considering a Petition Warrant to change the vote. Mr. Coutu reports that he did not learn any more about teacher pink slips than he had before.

Mr. Russell responded that ultimately it is not good for kids to vote later.

Mr. Blau offered comment that it is not uncommon for snow to occur in April and that it would be a shame to move the vote only to experience snow in April.

C. Presentations to the Board

Kim Galluzzo and Nicole Kivett presented on their experience at the Association for Experiential Education International Conference. Ms. Galluzzo and Ms. Kivett presented at the conference related to Adventure-Based Learning. Results of study indicated increased prosocial behavior, decreased internalizing behaviors, and decreased externalizing behaviors as compared to the control group. Control group showed decreased prosocial behavior and increased internalizing and externalizing behaviors over the course of 6th grade. Described next steps for applying research to practice at HMS.

Full-day Kindergarten Petition Warrant Article - Fabiana Fickett, 13 Tamarack St Hudson. Summarized efforts of the State and the Town to expand kindergarten to full-day culminating in HSB's decision not to move forward with Full-day K now and a subsequent Petition Warrant Article. She requests that the board vote to approve the Petition Warrant Article.

Mr. Price responded that the intent of the board is to enter into full-day K fully prepared and not to rush it into effect.

Mr. Lavoie expressed concern that if K fails and then is put forward again, that voters will not approve an effort that had failed once before.

Mrs. Langlais reported that she is in receipt of an email requesting that she recuse herself from voting because she owns a local full-day kindergarten. She reports that she is in favor of full-day (public) K. Mrs. Langlais will recuse herself from this vote but states that she would have voted yes.

Ms. Orellana states that she is a proponent of full day K but would like to enter into it fully informed. She would like it to go through a year of planning before implementation.

Ms. Fickett: How much time do you need? Some of the residents have been waiting 25 years.

Ms. Orellana: Would like it to be part of a strategic plan. Questioned the dollars provided by the State.

Mr. Lavoie: Currently guaranteed \$1100 per pupil. There is a proposal in Concord now that would provide the full per pupil adequacy rate to K and divert Keno revenue to building aide

Ms. Orellana: Do we have to provide half-day K?

Mr. Lavoie: For those who request it, yes, we do.

Ms. Orellana: Do you dictate which model to use in your petition?

Ms. Fickett: No, it's just a dollar figure. Full disclosure, my youngest child is 2 years old. By the time she goes to K, full-day will be a reality one way or another.

Mrs. Langlais: How long would it take to create a really clear survey to the Town?

Mr. Russell: It's very quick to put out a survey to those connected to the district, estimate 3-4 weeks to get surveys out to a broader population and returned for analysis.

Discussion of deadlines for Petition Warrant Articles – need to be posted by January 8.

Mr. Russell: If we did survey, we may obtain some qualitative data that we don't anticipate.

Discussion ensued on the emphasis on not repeating the events that followed redistricting of the past.

Mr. Price: Willing to table this tonight and call a special meeting if necessary. Special School Board meeting on Wednesday, January 2 to consider.

Mr. Lavoie: Deadline for Petition Warrant Articles is January 8. We don't have the board warrant articles deadline in front of us. And need to forward any Board Petitions to the Town Budget Committee. That meeting is tomorrow.

Mr. Price: Willing to call the Budget Committee together if need be.

7:50 pm, 8-minute recess

Reconvened at 7:58 pm.

Mary Wilson presented information on 17-18 student data. Data is available on NHDOE website on report link. Ms. Wilson demonstrated how to access. Kudos to HSD staff. Goal set last year to meet or exceed state averages in ELA. HSD has meet that goal. Student data exceeds State average in ELA and matches State average in Math and Science.

Discussion – many areas of improvement. Some to still focus on including low socioeconomic and race and ethnic groups.

Mr. Russell: One of the reasons for redistricting the elementary schools was to narrow the achievement gap. Not seeing a dramatic result from this effort. Mr. Russell described the initiatives over the previous years. He anticipates growth to come.

D. Requests of the Board

Request from Kyle Hancock to attend a technology conference in Florida. Conference focuses on implementation of 1:1 technology. Funds to come from an existing budget.

Mr. Price expressed concern that the 1:1 initiative was presented in one sum but that additional costs seem to be coming with it that were not originally anticipated.

Mr. Price: Should we have done this before 1:1?

Mr. Russell: It wasn't offered until this year.

Mrs. Langlais: If Kyle goes to this conference, is he the one who teaches staff how to implement what he learns? Is he the best one to send?

Mr. Russell: Yes, because he is the one who trains IT staff, attends principals' meetings, is the hub for the department.

Mr. Lavoie motioned to approve on condition that Kyle presents (to the board) afterward, second by Mr. Blau. Motion passes 5-0.

E. Old Business

Second readings on two budget transfers: Mr. Lavoie moved approved budget transfer SB #7, second by Mrs. Langlais. Motion passes 5-0.

Second readings on two budget transfers: Mr. Lavoie moved approved budget transfer SB #8, second by Mrs. Langlais. Motion passes 5-0.

F. New Business

Proposed FY20 Warrant Articles

WA 1 – HS Renovation \$23, 989,957

WA 2 – Operating Budget \$54,765,345. Default Budget of \$54, 226, 858.

WA 3 – Alvirne Roof \$270,000

WA 4 – Capital Reserve \$100,000 from fund balance with no tax impact.

Mr. Lavoie moved to accept all as presented, second by Mrs. Langlais. Motion passes 5-0.

NH Bond Bank Loan Agreement

\$8,262,500 Bond

Mrs. Langlais moved to approve Loan Agreement and Certificate of Authorization, second by Ms. Orellana. Motion passes 5-0.

Teamsters Memorandum of Understanding: Reclassifying a position as “Groundskeeper 2” a groundskeeper with Pesticide Certification effective January 1, 2019.

Mr. Lavoie moved to approve, second by Mrs. Langlais. Mr. Lavoie asked if this will save us money in the long run; Ms. Burnell replied that it will. ***Motion passes 5-0.***

Extracurricular Nomination: ***Mrs. Langlais moved to approve the extracurricular nomination, second by Ms. Orellana. Motion passes 5-0.***

G. Recommended Action

Manifests - Signed

Minutes: 12.3.18 Draft Minutes

Ms. Orellana suggests adding last names and titles to the minutes regarding Champions Reps.

Mrs. Langlais motioned to approve with recommended changes, second by Mr. Blau. Motion passes 5-0.

H. Reports to the Board

None.

I. Committee Reports

None.

J. Correspondence

November Discipline Report: Includes a count of how many students were impacted by disciplinary events. Question if HSB prefers data in this format. HSB collectively indicated yes.

Ms. Wilson asked the board if these reports have value for the board in this frequency. Ms. Orellana replied yes, especially in light of the efforts of the technology department.

Technology Integration Specialist Report (info only)

Outreach Coordinator Report (info only)

K. Board Member Comments

Mr. Blau – great reports tonight, reflecting a lot of hard work.

Ms. Orellana – appreciated the data reported tonight. Shows efforts and provides opportunity to reflect.

Mrs. Langlais – saw the Unified Holiday extravaganza. Was blown away. Message to Mr. Coutu: Sorry that you felt the need to blow out of the meeting. No one intended to disrespect your input.

Mr. Lavoie – presented Christmas gift to Mr. Russell – Alvirne sweatshirt

Message to Mr. Coutu – Sorry for any offence resulting in correcting language of School Committee to School Board. We are a school board and have been for years.

Wishes Merry Christmas to everyone.

Mr. Price – Merry Christmas to all.

Invited Mr. Coutu to meeting tonight to offer insight into the determination not to vote in April. Decision made because children are at stake. HSB is willing to work with Selectmen but need to meet on common ground.

L. Non-Public

None.

M. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Lavoie, second by Mrs. Langlais. Motion passes 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Borge.