

Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
Approved Minutes

Present:

Mr. Malcolm Price, Board Chairman
Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Vice-Chair
Mr. Gary Gasdia
Ms. Diana LaMothe
Ms. Kara Roy, Vice-Chair, Board of Selectmen
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent
Ms. Mary Wilson, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Jack Gasdia, Student Representative

A. Call to Order

Chairman Price called the meeting to order.

B. Non-Public Session

1. Safety Matters:

*Ms. LaMothe moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A3 II (c), second by Mr. Gasdia.
Rollcall vote: Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Dr. Orellana, aye; Mr. Price, aye.*

The board discussed safety matters; no action taken.

Mr. LaMothe moved to exit non-public session at 6:37; second by Dr. Orellana. Motion passes 4-0.

C. Public Input

There is no public input.

D. Presentations to the Board

1. Voter Turnout: Ms. LaMothe had spoken previously at the Board of Selectmen's meeting about maybe having information at the Town Hall about where to vote, when to vote, and the importance of voting. Board of Selectmen thought it was a good idea and suggested she meet with Patti Barry. They suggested utilizing HCTV to encourage people to get out and vote. There was a follow-up meeting and they suggested having short clips on HCTV. They also suggested creating a poster and have them posted at various locations in town and at Town Hall. A few people did create some posters and they were wondering if the schools and town could split the cost of the posters. Mr. Russell would like to consult with the attorney to make sure this is appropriate. Check the message on the posters as well.

E. Requests of the Board

1. Facility Use Request, Hudson Historical Society Dinner & Auction: Mr. Russell presented a facility use request from the Hudson Historical Society. They would like to use the Hills House and field on June 12th – 15th, 2020 for their Hudson Historical Society dinner and auction. This is detailed in attachment # 1.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the use of the Hills House and Hills House field for the Historical Society dinner and auction, second by Dr. Orellana. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Fairview Healthcare Donation Acceptance: Ms. Wilson presented a donation from the Fairview Healthcare annual craft fair. They would like to donate \$2,325.50 to the Hudson School District At-Risk fund. This is detailed in attachment # 2.

Dr. Orellana made a motion to accept the Fairview's very generous donation in the amount of \$2,325.50, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 4-0

F. Old Business

1. Discipline Data: September versus October discipline data. There was an increase in discipline from September to October and Principal Keith Bowen from the middle school and Assistant Principal Jason Tesini from the high school are here to speak about the trends being seen at each school. Mr. Bowen had a PowerPoint presentation to show the board. He spoke about what has been seen for discipline at Hudson Memorial School from September to just before Thanksgiving. He reviewed the discipline process at the middle school and how students can be sent to the assistant principal's office and what happens after that. 50% is coming from the 8th graders, 35% from the 7th graders and 15% from the 6th graders. He went on to speak about the graphs that were created to show how many students were disciplined, for what behavior they were disciplined for and how many consequences were handed out. He stated that 82.3% of the students are never seen for discipline. 8-10% of the students are seen repeatedly for discipline. When a teacher states it's inappropriate behavior in the classroom, the assistant principals address the situation as such and support the teacher. Mr. Bowen also spoke about what the middle school is doing to change the behavior. Teaching the students self-regulation skills to be proactive with their behavior. He reviewed the 4 tenants of the Responsive Classroom structures. Students are removed from the classroom to limit the disruptions to the rest of the class. Students are suspended from school, if the behavior calls for it.

Mr. Tesini also spoke about discipline and how suspension does not always alter the behavior of the student. He had some handouts that showed trends of discipline at the high school. They have narrowed down the incident codes in the past few months, to speak with similar language to the students and parents. He reviewed the handouts he passed out to the school board. Inappropriate behavior has been the largest discipline issue, cutting classes is an issue and most recently, leaving school property without permission has increased. They did see an increase in discipline issues since September and with that, there was an increase in consequences. They were without an ISS teacher, as that person left earlier this school year. Their November numbers have decreased in discipline issues. They are beginning to track interventions with students. What's worked and what hasn't worked. He has shared the spreadsheet with the middle school in hopes to watch and see if there are trends starting with the 6th graders. Year-to-date: 20% of the high school students have been seen for an infraction; 80% haven't been seen. They have a new ISS teacher and they are looking to change what ISS looks like. They are looking for positive changes. He would like to change the word 'suspension' at the end of the consequence.

2. Policies: Ms. Wilson presented the 2nd reading of the following policies:
 - a) BIBA School Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops
 - b) BID Payment for Services Rendered by School District Officers
 - c) CA Administrative Goals
 - d) CB School Superintendent
 - e) CBB Appointment of Superintendent
 - f) CBG Superintendent's Development Opportunities
 - g) CBI Superintendent Evaluation
 - h) CCA Administrative Succession Plan
 - i) CCB Line and Staff Relations
 - j) CFA Individual School Administrative Personnel

Ms. LaMothe made the motion to accept the policies as listed above, second by Dr. Orellana. Motion passes 4-0.

G. New Business

1. Policies: Ms. Wilson presented the 1st reading of the following policies:
 - a) BIE Board Member Indemnification
 - b) CFB Building Principals
 - c) CHB Board Review of Regulations
 - d) CHCA Approval of Handbooks and Directives
 - e) CHD Administration in Policy Absence
 - f) CLA Handling of Non-SAU Matters
2. Extracurricular Nominations: Mr. Russell presented the following winter athletic coaches:
 - a. Assistant Indoor Track Coach at AHS: Russell Farrar \$2,450
 - b. Wrestling Coach at HMS: Shawn Lussier \$950

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the extracurricular nominations, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

H. Recommended Actions

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign. There were no manifests to be signed.
2. Minutes – Recommended action: Review and approve.
 - a) 11.04.19 Draft Minutes - Amended: ***Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the amended minutes as presented in attachment # 8, second by Mr. Gasdia. Mr. Price abstained.*** There was a comment made about what the minutes should look like, as they are recorded. Should they be verbatim? Look at the best way to capture the discussion. They should be summarized, but some of these are getting very detailed at the board's request. Moving forward, rethink what is being asked of the minutes and what is we are looking for to be in the minutes. Review the RSA to make sure you are meeting the minimum requirements. ***Motion passes 3-0-1 with Mr. Price abstaining.***
 - b) 11.18.19 Draft Minutes: Mr. Russell presented the minutes as detailed in attachment # 9.

Ms. Lamothe made a motion to accept the minutes from November 18th, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

I. District Administration Reports

Mr. Russell states that the Hudson School District has been approached by the Nash Foundation to fund a Challenge Day again this year. There was one community member who was against this the last time it was held at AHS. Mr. Russell is offering to have someone come in and speak about what Challenge Day is to the board, so they could make an educated decision.

Mr. Russell spoke with the primary disciplinarians at the schools, which are the Assistant Principals. They had a general discussion about discipline and their next meeting will include teachers to hear their perspective. Teachers need to feel supported.

J. Legislative Updates

1. 2019 Legislative Summary: They are not in session now. There is not a lot going on currently.

K. Committee Reports

Strategic Plan Update: This will be discussed at Monday's School Board Meeting.

Ms. LaMothe attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on Nov. 26th. Good news, the State Reps presented a check in the amount of \$627,061 which was a result of tax cuts. The department of revenue will be sending along a note on how that should be split between the Town and the School District. Not specified to be used for any specific purpose. A proclamation was made from the Governor on the State of New Hampshire for School Choice Week. The homeschool students are not required to report out to the SAU each year. They only have to notify the SAU once during their 12 years of education. The parents are not obligated to tell us even if they move out of town. (*Note: parents must notify the SAU in writing if they terminate their homeschool program.*) A ballpark number could be given to the school board, a list of new ones can be obtained. The Board of Selectmen discussed the school warrant articles. The Budget Committee also voted on the warrant articles. Board of Selectman voted 4-1 on warrant article 1, which is the Alvirne renovation. Warrant article 2, which is the operating budget, voted 2-3 not recommended. Warrant articles 3 and 4 were not discussed, CBAs are not done yet. Warrant article 5 was deferred until the town attorney was consulted as requested by the Budget Committee. Warrant Article 6, the HMS roof replacement voted 5-0, in favor. Chairman Morin thanked Library Street School for the implementation of the new traffic pattern. The staff worked well with the town and the neighbors. Chairman Coutu would like the conversation to continue regarding Government Day and Extended Learning Opportunities. Mr. Russell will speak with Mr. Peterson and get a report.

At the Budget Committee meeting there was discussion around warrant article 5. Should it be reworded? It was looked at and it contains the appropriate language. A motion was made by the budget committee to have the town attorney come in. It was decided that the budget committee will just email questions, which would be forwarded to Mr. Russell who would then forward them to the school's attorney. No questions came in.

L. Correspondence

1. Rubik's Cube Winners: On November 14th, Mrs. Peterson's 5th grade math enrichment students held their 5th annual Rubik's Cube Competition and Emma Coutu from Nottingham West and Lief Erickson from Hills Garrison were the winners.

M. Board Members Comments

Mr. Jack Gasdia: Tomorrow evening at Alvirne High School they will be holding a unified holiday play at 4 pm and 6 pm. Winter sports are getting underway. Good luck to them.
Ms. LaMothe: Saw on Facebook that the Hudson Police Dept now has a comfort dog, named Haven. Officer Downey brings her daily to Hudson Memorial School. She is having a positive impact at HMS. This program runs 100% on donations.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Spent this week at the winter concerts. Congratulated all the students and staff, they all do an amazing job. The high school last Saturday, the middle school was this week and the elementary school is next week. You can see the progression in the talent. Great job by all of them.

Ms. Roy: Happy Holiday season. Be safe.

Dr. Orellana: The music is amazing in this district. Kudos to the Classical All State music students. Can we invite Haven to some of the meetings? It's almost winter break, gear up, get your work done. We are almost there.

Mr. Price: Happy Holidays. Have fun. Be safe.

N. Non-public Session

Dr. Orellana made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3 (c) at 7:56 pm, second by Mr. Gasdia. Rollcall vote: Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Price, aye.

The board discussed personnel matters; no action taken.

O. Adjourn

Mr. Gasdia moved to exit non-public and adjourn, second by Dr. Orellana. Motion passes 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Piper (public)
Mary Wilson (non-public)