

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. Gretchen Whiting
Ms. Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent
Ms. Mary Wilson, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Karen Burnell, Business Administrator

A. Call to Order: Chairman Price called the meeting to order. Ms. LaMothe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Public Input: There was no public input.

C. Presentations to the Board: No presentations to the board.

D. Requests of the Board:

1. Panama Trip: Ms. Erica Foskitt, Science Department Chair, Alvirne High School is here to propose an educational trip for students and teachers to travel to Panama during February break 2021 through Education First Tours (EF). They would like to get 24-30 students to attend. The 8-day, 7-night tour would cost \$2,825 per student, included in that price is; airfare, hotel accommodations, breakfast, lunch, dinner, all guided tours, tour guides, motor coach bus, travel protection and global and local support from Education First Tours. The planning begins now for the students to create a donation page where they can ask for donations during holidays or in lieu of birthday presents. Additional fundraising ideas have been discussed as well. This trip includes both biological and earth science concepts and increases cultural and global awareness of the students. This trip is outlined in detail in attachment # 1.

Ms. Lamothe made a motion to approve the trip to Panama during February break 2021, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Donation Acceptance: Mr. Russell asked Dr. Orellana to speak on this donation. The Alvirne Trustees met in December to discuss the lack of funding for some of the things that needed to be trimmed back on. One of those items was the greenhouse for the CTE program. Mr. Russell presented a donation in the amount of \$150,590 from the Alvirne Trustees. The Alvirne Trustees voted to support the purchase of a greenhouse to the ongoing CTE construction project. The trustees feel the greenhouse is well connected to their missions and family legacy. This is detailed in attachment # 2. The School Board is very thankful for the Trustees generosity.

Ms. Whiting made a motion to accept the donation from the Alvirne Trustees for the greenhouse in the amount to \$150,590, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 5-0.

E. Old Business:

1. Policies: Ms. Wilson presented the 2nd reading of the following policies as shown in detail in attachment # 3.

- a) JH Attendance, Tardiness, and Truancy
- b) EBB School Safety
- c) EBBB Accident Reports
- d) EBBC Emergency Care & First Aid
- e) EBBD Indoor Air Quality
- f) EBCA Crisis Prevention & Emergency Response Plans
- g) EBCB Fire Drills
- h) EBCC Bomb Threats
- i) EBCD Emergency Closings
- j) EBCE School Closings

The nurses were consulted regarding policy EBBC.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the policies as outlined in the second reading, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Voting Information to Public: Ms. LaMothe wanted to encourage the community to get out and vote with the combined efforts of the Board of Selectmen. The Board was advised to not participate or spend money on posters. There was some discussion around this if there is no agenda and just encouraging the community to get out and vote. Ms. Roy and Mr. Morin also spoke about getting more people out to vote and get both boards to work together to get as many people out there and voting. There are a lot of registered voters in Town, but only a small percentage vote. It's best for the School Board to be cautious, as the schools are under scrutiny at times. It was suggested that the lawyer for the School and for the Town speak as they seem to have two different opinions on this.

F. New Business:

1. Extracurricular Nomination: Mr. Russell presented the following Hudson Memorial School nomination for Drama Club as detailed in attachment # 4.
 - a) Ms. Rebecca Crivello \$2,350

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to accept the extracurricular nomination for HMS, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Warrant Article Assignments: Mr. Russell presented the proposed warrant articles for the upcoming town election. Each board member is asked to take a warrant article to discuss at the deliberative session. Mr. Gasdia will present warrant article # 1. Ms. LaMothe will present warrant articles # 2 and # 5. Ms. Whiting will present warrant article # 3. She will be arriving late at the deliberative session. Dr. Orellana will present warrant article # 4. Mr. Price will present warrant article # 6. A request will be made that day to present warrant article # 3 last.
3. Timeline for End-of-Year Fund Balance Decision making: Ms. LaMothe would like to start talking about the process and timeframe for taking a look at the fund balance. Could it be added to the agenda to allow public input? It doesn't have to be discussed at each meeting, but it's there if anyone does want to speak to it. We could be prepared earlier than in previous years about what the funds are being spent on. The fund balance is reported to the Board as the year goes on. There will always be a fund balance. We could start to prioritize on the outstanding lists from the schools. Is there a way to get a list from the schools now, so when the funds become available, they are prioritized and there are no surprises to the board or the community. The

priority plan should start with Administration. Seek information from the department heads and teachers.

4. Policies: Ms. Wilson presented the 1st reading of the following policies as shown in detail in attachment # 6.
 - a) EBCF Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies
 - b) EB Joint Loss Management Committee
 - c) EC Buildings and Grounds Management
 - d) ECA Building Security
 - e) ECAB Access to Buildings
 - f) ECAC Vandalism
 - g) ECAF Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses
 - h) ECF Energy Conservation
 - i) EDC Authorized use of School-owned Communication Devices
 - j) EDCA Employee use of Electronic Communication Devices
 - k) EEA Student Transportation

Policy EBCF – On the response, should we add “notify our local emergency personnel”? The local health officials are notified earlier in the policy. Add “and local health officials” to the response.

G. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign.
2. Minutes – Recommended action: Review the following minutes and approve.
 - a) 12/12/19 Draft Minutes: The minutes from the December 12, 2019 meeting are detailed in attachment # 7.
 - b) 12/16/19 Draft minutes: The minutes from the December 19, 2019 meeting are detailed in attachment # 8. In section D, action items were not included in the draft minutes. Is there existing morning childcare at the middle school and it came back, as there is no before-school care at HMS. If there are issues with the bus company, are they notifying the schools in a timely manner? The bus company is notifying the schools if the buses are running late. Section E, Mr. Wells invited the board to join in on Challenge day. The Board welcomed the opportunity to join in on Challenge Day.
 - c) 12/26/19 Draft minutes: the minutes from the December 26, 2019 meeting are detailed in attachment # 9.

Ms. Whiting made a motion to approve attachments # 7, 8, and 9 with corrections to attachment # 8 sections D & E as just discussed, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 5-0.

H. District Administration Reports:

1. Superintendent’s Report: Mr. Russell asked the board if they would like to dedicate the annual report to someone. The narrative for the annual report is due by January 16th. The board will draft up a narrative. Music departments, specifically Mr. Gallagher’s choral students, went to a couple of different schools and did a tremendous job. They also went to visit a housebound staff member over the holidays and sang for him. He was crying and so touched by the visit. Mr. Russell will be at Alvirne this Thursday morning to have coffee and a conversation with anyone who’d like to speak with him. Mr. Russell will be at HMS on Friday morning. Mr. Russell

has asked to join the Board of Selectmen's meeting on the evening of the 14th. January 22nd, The Chamber of Commerce, The Lions Club, the Rotary and other guests will be at Checkers in the evening for a conversation about what is going on in the school district and the warrant articles. Snow date for that is January 28. He will be at H.O. Smith on January 23rd for coffee and conversation with the Superintendent. On the 30th at Hills Garrison and NWES on the 31st. On January 29, Mr. Russell will be meeting with parents at HMS. Parent and community meeting with the Superintendent February 12th, no venue has been set yet. Meeting with Hudson Litchfield Rotary on February 20th. He also has a meeting with the Hudson Democrats and Hudson Republicans at the Senior Center at some point. The dates are on the website and can be put Facebook for the public to see where and when to meet with Mr. Russell.

2. Assistant Superintendent's Report: Ms. Wilson will be participating in the ELC's Polar Night on January 17. On Jan 23rd, Ms. Wilson will be at Checkers to meet with ESOL and Title I families. She will be having a conversation with teachers about blizzard bags. A committee will be formed. Teachers facilitate authentic lessons online during a snow day. We'd need 80-85% of students to turn in the assignment for it to count as a school day. There was clarification made about the percentages and how that would be counted and how the students would show competency for that lesson. The conversation continued about what if a student doesn't have internet access or there is loss of power, what happens then? These are things that will have to be considered and worked out before going through with this.
3. Business Administrator's Report: Ms. Burnell is looking for another meeting to be scheduled, this would be for the bond issue for the high school and it shouldn't last more than 30 minutes. The School Board agreed on January 15th, 6:30 pm.

I. Legislative Updates:

1. 2019 Legislative Summary: Legislatures are not in session at this time. Mr. Russell will be attending training on February 3rd to do a recap of all the proposed legislative coming up this year. He will present a report after he returns from that meeting.

J. Committee Reports:

1. Strategic Plan Update: Thursday of this week, the Strategic Plan Committee is getting back together. The agenda has been set. Mr. Russell and Ms. Wilson have been doing audits in the school, so they have data for the committee. There are some items coming up.

K. Correspondence:

1. Building Committee Minutes: Ms. Burnell presented the minutes from the Building Committee meeting that was held on November 7, 2019. She will present the December minutes at the next board meeting. This is for informational purposes only and is detailed in attachment # 10.

L. Board Member Comments:

Ms. Whiting: Happy New Year. Starting off 2020 on the right foot.

Ms. LaMothe: Commend Mr. Russell and the office about getting information out there and putting this schedule together for these public meetings. Looking for a large turnout to these public meetings. Sad to see the HLN will no longer be there.

Mr. Gasdia: Tomorrow night at HMS, 7pm, Ryan's Story will be presented about suicide and bullying. I encourage as many parents to attend as possible. He's a national speaker. Unsung things that go on in

Hudson School Board
January 6, 2020

Hills Memorial Library
Public Session 6:30

the schools, the Music honor society, Tri-M, wanted to raise money for a "Senior" Prom, not for the students but for the seniors in the community. The students put on a music practice-a-thon, started at 8pm and continued until 6am the next morning. Mr. Scagnelli was there to oversee the students and they raised \$3,000.

Ms. Roy: No comment

Dr. Orellana: The power of education and the schools giving back to the community. Echo to get out and vote, it's important. It's critical to building this beautiful community. We don't always agree but we strive to collaborate within the district, outside of the district, in between bodies. That's what is beautiful about this town.

Mr. Price: Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone has a great year. Sad to see the HLN go. I made it 8 years in town's politics without a "Thumbs Up" or "Thumbs Down." Hope to see Len around, he's a great guy. He's done a great thing for this town.

M. Non-Public Session:

1. Staff Nomination:

N. Mr. Gasdia made a motion to enter non-public session according to RAS 91-A:3(c) at 7:45 pm, second by Dr. Orellana. Roll call vote, Mr. Price, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. Whiting, aye, Mr. LaMothe, aye.

Dr. Orellana moved to elect Ashley Pimentel to the position of Interim School Counselor at a salary of \$41,752, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 5-0.

Mr. Gasdia moved to exit non-public session and adjourn, second by Ms. Whiting. Motion passes 5-0.

O. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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