

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-Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Mr. Larry Russell, Superintendent
Ms. Mary Wilson, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Karen Burnell, Business Administrator
Mr. Jack Gasdia, Student Representative

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Price called the meeting to order. Mr. Gasdia led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Public Input:** Matthew Rogers, 11 Gabrielle Drive, is here to speak about the AP US History course and to find out why it is now changing. He read a statement he prepared. Mr. Rogers has an 8th grader and a 10th grader in the Hudson schools. His son signed up for the 2-year AP US History class last year, which will be taken sophomore and junior years but is now changing to AP American Humanities. He states the students were not informed of this change. His wife attended parent teacher conference, nothing was said to her about the change at that time. He asked for a syllabus, but there isn't one in place yet. A question was asked: why not change it for the incoming freshman and keep in place for the current students? Mrs. Bureau will be here later to explain the change. Mr. Rogers also wanted to speak about the sports programs, as he's a big sports advocate. He read a statement he prepared about things he's witnessed at the middle school girls' basketball games. The students didn't improve their skills, substitutions that resulted in a loss, etc. He did email the AD, he read the collective bargaining agreement on hiring of coaches, the AD did reply to his email with an explanation about why the coaches were chosen.

Paul Inderbitzen, School District Moderator, 2 Timothy Lane, is here to speak about the deliberative session on Saturday. He has the list of warrant articles and who is going to speak on them. He can set up the Alvirne renovation plans in the back of the room. Any PowerPoint presentations need to be given by Friday at noon. He will introduce each member and the article they are representing and then they will say a few words on it. The district Attorney will be present and available to answer any questions as well. He will check the setup the evening before. He will have 200 seats but can add more. It starts promptly at 9 am. He asked the board members arrive early.

- C. Presentations to the Board:** No presentations to the board.
- D. Requests of the Board:**
1. Munis Conference Attendance Request. Ms. Burnell presented a request to the board for Cynthia McNickle and a staff member from HR to attend a Munis conference in Orlando, Florida from April 26-29. The two staff members would be given the

opportunity to learn new ways to boost productivity and learn directly from Tyler Technologies as well as meet with others who use this program to exchange ideas, insights, and solutions to common technology issues. The total cost of this trip for two would be \$6,150. They will look for the best price on airfare. This trip is outlined in detail in attachment # 1.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the Munis conference in Orlando, Florida not to exceed \$6,150, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Model UN New York Trip Request: This will be presented next Monday.

E. Old Business:

1. Policies: Ms. Wilson presented the 2nd reading of the following policies as shown in detail in attachment # 3.
 - a) EBCF Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies
 - b) EB Joint Loss 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) EEA Student Transportation
 - k) EBBC Emergency Care & First Aid

There was some discussion regarding policy EEA, there was a resolution conflict sentence that was redundant. It will be removed.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the policies in attachment # 3 as amended in the second reading, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Deliberative Session: Mr. Russell spoke about the handout of responsibilities. Talking points would be handed out. He will be speaking about Alvirne 2020. How should we proceed after Mr. Inderbitzen reads the warrant articles? Mr. Russell will present the slides and the information. Then the budget committee will speak on the 2nd warrant article.

F. New Business:

1. 2020-2021 School Calendar: Mr. Russell presented the most recent revision of the school calendar for the school year 2020-2021 and asked that this gets tabled until next meeting. The HFT union president and Mr. Russell will meet to review the 2020-2021 school calendar before the board approves it. The first day for teachers will be August 24th. August 27th would be the first day of school for students. There is a late Labor Day. Staff development day in October has been moved to November 3rd for voting, which may take place in one of the schools. Mr. Russell pointed out the days off each month and what they were for. The calendar is detailed in attachment # 4. A question was asked if there is anything planned district-wide for African American History Month?

There will be various activities in each school. Each school shall report to Ms. Wilson what is going on during February and she will present it to the Board at the next meeting.

2. Public Infrastructure Fund: Ms. Burnell presented that the project completion and request for payment as detailed in attachment # 5. The School Board needs to approve the request for payment of the classroom door replacement at Hills Garrison Elementary.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the request for payment for the Hills Garrison door replacement project in the amount of \$52,000, second by Dr. Orellana. Motion passes 4-0.

3. NH Charitable Foundation Grant Acceptance: Mr. Russell presented a \$500 grant from the NH Charitable Foundation. This grant is to support Alvirne High School Athletics. This is detailed in attachment # 6. There was a question on how the grant would be used. Ms. Burnell was reviewing the terms and will check with Alvirne High School. This will be tabled until next Monday.
4. End-of-Year Spending: Mr. Russell presented a list of end-of-year surplus expenditures for School Board consideration. Every Principal was asked for a list. The list is shown in attachment # 7.

G. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign.
2. Minutes – Recommended action: Review the following minutes and approve.
 - a) 01/06/2020 Draft Minutes: The minutes from the January 6, 2020 meeting are detailed in attachment # 8.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the minutes in attachment # 8, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

H. Reports to the Board:

1. English/Social Studies Curriculum: Mrs. Susan Bureau, Dean of Academics, Alvirne High School is here to discuss the American Humanities class at Alvirne High School. She explained that American Humanities is an interdisciplinary class which consists of ELA and US History. American Humanities has been offered for the past 20 years and it has been a goal to offer interdisciplinary focus. They have been working for several years to get more students signed up for the program. Currently, over half of the junior class is enrolled in American Humanities. This is a college prep offering but has an honors option. There was discussion around an AP offering in this course and an AP American Humanities class will be offered next school year. Students would be able to choose which AP test they would take, ELA or History. What about the current 2-year AP US History class? The students who have taken year 1 of AP US History will be enrolled in the AP American Humanities the second year. The class is the same amount of time as the current class and they will learn the same material in the AP Humanities as they

would have in the AP US History class. There was a question about what if a student is good at US History but not in English, will there be a penalty for the student? Most students who do well in History, also do well in English because the 2 courses complement each other. The communication with parents could have been better. They did speak with students in US History and English 10 to make sure they were prepared for the Humanities class next school year. Could this class change be put off one more year? Anything is possible, but they are looking to implement this next school year.

2. Superintendent Report: Mr. Russell had coffee and conversations with four schools. He has two more this week, on the 30th he will be at Hill Garrison and on the 31st, Nottingham West. He will do more of these in the future. First View, a bus software is being looked at. It doesn't track the bus but will inform about when the bus will arrive. Mr. Russell and Ms. Burnell went to First Student to speak with them. He would like to test the software himself first. Litchfield School District is currently viewing this and helped answer questions about the fears the Hudson School District might have. Mr. Russell went to the State House last week and spoke about first year full-day funding for kindergarten. There was an error in the bill and this new bill will fix that error. This would address 5 districts, Hudson included. He also testified for school bill 435 that is put forth by Senator Carson. This bill moves \$2.5 million back in if there is money available. Community meeting with the Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday; about 25 people showed up. The jazz band played. Eight to ten CTE ambassadors were there to show the people around. There were great conversations with the local businesses and representatives after the presentations. Mr. Beals is speaking to the Lions Club in Checker's this evening about Alvirne 2020 and the other warrant articles. On January 29th, there is a Community Forum at HMS at 6:30 pm in the library. Deliberative session is this Saturday, everyone should attend and be heard. CTE open house is February 5th, 5:30-7:30 pm.
3. Assistant Superintendent's Report: Ms. Wilson corrected the Polar Night for the ELC is January 28. Last Thursday there was a Title I and Title III meeting for families. They presented many items, including a seal of multilingual achievement. Our ESOL coordinator will be presenting at the Board of Education on February 13th to go through the state to get that seal. Today a committee met about the blizzard bags. They will try a pilot day and have at least one lesson ready to go, if we need it this school year. 80% of students need to turn in the assignment for it to count as a school day. The students will have at least 2 days to get the assignment in and the teachers will be available during a 4-hour window. If there is a power outage, it will not be a blizzard bag day.
4. Business Administrator's Report: Ms. Burnell's replacement is currently being interviewed for. She hopes to have some candidates for the Board at the next meeting.

I. Legislative Updates:

1. 2019 Legislative Summary: For the Board's viewing. These come out bi-weekly.

J. Committee Reports:

1. Strategic Plan Update: The original committee met on January 9th and reviewed the plan. There was discussion around the successes, the struggles, and where they may

have been a bit aggressive. One struggle was keeping the plan on the forefront. They will meet again on June 3rd or 6th as a full committee. The plan is making a difference even if it's not being spoken about daily. Some teachers knew the plan and others were not as well-versed in it. Vibrant learning system, every student participates in a CTE course.

K. Correspondence:

1. 2020 Graduation Day: The Alvirne High School graduation ceremony is set for Thursday, June 11, 2020 at the SNHU Arena in Manchester. The ceremony will begin at 7 pm. There will also be a smaller in-house graduation ceremony on that same day in Checker's restaurant beginning with lunch at 11:30 am. A question was posed about what is the role of the Board members during graduation? The chairman does speak. Mr. Russell will investigate this.

L. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Jack Gasdia: This Saturday is the Penguin Plunge that Alvirne is participating in. It is an annual event. Good luck to all who are involved in that. It supports Special Olympics. New Facebook pages for AHS and HMS. They have low followers, go follow as they will be posting new information.

Ms. Diana LaMothe: Penguin Plunge this Saturday. A group of high school students who go into the ocean. All for fundraiser, I applaud them in their bravery. Hope there will be a good turnout at the deliberative session. Supports the schools. Schedule a liaison for the Selectmen meeting? After the deliberative session, we can schedule that.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Deliberative session is so important. This is the opportunity to set the vision and talk about what we are doing. Know what is going on, know what you are voting on. Katie Thyne, Police Officer in Virginia lost her life last week. She was a graduate of AHS. Seems like a great person; it's a terrible tragedy.

Ms. Kara Roy: Thanked Mr. Russell for working together about what is coming up on the ballot. Ms. Thyne lost her life tragically in the line of duty in Newport News, VA. Suggestion to dedicate the annual report to her.

Town attorney and school attorney did speak about electioneering, if it's a get-out-to-vote campaign and not promoting a view. Can there be a collaboration between the School Board and the Board of Selectmen to have a get-out-to-vote campaign? Posters, signage at the schools, email, Facebook to get the word out about voting.

Dr. Darcy Orellana: Join us on the School Board. You have until January 31st at 5 pm to sign up. Families and students think about taking more rigorous courses. We've had the discussion about curriculum, content and critical thinking. Take the risk, take the plunge in the AP courses. Less students taking AP classes is sad. We have talented students and teachers. Suggest collaboration around issues of diversity and inclusion. Set up an environment where we are an inclusive town.

Mr. Malcolm Price: If you are looking to run for office, you have until the 31st. Run to sign up. Thank you to everyone who came out tonight. Hope to see everyone at the deliberative session. May we have a nice, calm, easy productive day. It's a learning experience.

M. Non-Public Session:

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3(c) at 8:18 pm, second by Dr. Orellana. Roll call vote, Mr. Price, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. LaMothe, aye. Motion passes 4-0. The board entered non-public session at 8:17 pm.

Mr. Gasdia moved to elect Deirdre Wise to the position of Grade 1 Teacher (long-term sub) at a prorated salary of \$47,705, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 4-0.

The board discussed the upcoming Business Administrator and Assistant Superintendent openings. No action taken.

Mr. Gasdia moved to exit non-public session and adjourn, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 4-0.

N. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Piper (public)
Mary Wilson (non-public)