

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-Chair, 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.
- B. Non-public Session:** *Dr. Orellana moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b), second by Ms. Whiting. Ms. Whiting, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Price, aye. Motion passes 5-0.*

The board entered non-public session at 6:32.

The board interviewed candidates for the Business Administrator position.

At 7:29 pm, Mr. Gasdia moved to exit non-public, second by Ms. LaMothe. Motion passes 5-0.

- C. Moment of Silence:** The School Board observed a moment of silence in honor of Officer Katie Thyne, Captain Ryan Phaneuf, and Mr. John Hodgkins.
- D. Public Input:** There was no public input.
- E. Presentations to the Board:**
1. African American History Month: Mrs. Rachel Scanzani from HMS presented what the history classes are doing for the month of February. Several bulletin boards have been created around the building highlighting different aspects of African Americans. She talked about what each grade is doing and how they make sure it is developmentally appropriate. She had a list of authors that are covered as well. The librarian also highlights certain authors that pertain to African American History Month. Mr. Jeff Peterson from AHS presented what they are covering and he stated that they don't just do it for one month, but all through the school year. It is embedded into the history curriculum at AHS. He talked about a field trip later this month to hear a woman portray Harriet Tubman. He also passed out an article and highlighted a paragraph within the article. He then spoke about the books read by the students and some of the movies they watch throughout the school year. Mr. Rush from AHS was present to speak about the history curriculum as well. He reiterated that they don't just focus on one month for a topic but how it is taught throughout the school year. He showed some

of the projects his students have completed. Ms. Mary Wilson presented what the elementary school students are learning during African American History Month. She reviewed what each grade level is doing in their curriculum and the different books that are available for them to read or to have them read to. She had a draft social studies standard from the State that she read aloud. This presentation was done for the community to see what is being done in the schools. The board members were very appreciative of the presentations this evening.

F. Requests of the Board:

1. Model UN New York Trip Request: Sgt. Gibson, Mr. Rush, Hannah Peterson (President of Model UN Club), Mr. Jack Gasdia, and other students are here to discuss an upcoming overnight field trip for the Alvirne Model UN Club. Hannah first discussed what the club stands for, what they do, and what they stand for as a group. The club started with about 8 students four years ago and now there are over 30 members. The trip is to New York City from March 4-7, 2020. They would get to work with other Model UN students from other States. This is the largest Model UN conference in the world and is held at the United Nations Headquarters. This trip consists mostly of seniors and would cost each student \$330 which will be lowered due to fundraising activities held by the Model UN students as well as donations from local groups. This is detailed in attachment # 3. There was discussion and concerns around the transportation of students to CT. They did explore other options for transportation but the cost for a bus was enormous. 8 students plus 2 teachers would be attending. There will be some research for possibly renting a van for the students. The best presentation the board has seen.

Dr. Orellana made a motion to approve the Model UN overnight trip to New York City, pending transportation not done by private vehicles, second by Ms. Whiting. Motion passes 5-0.

G. Old Business:

1. 2020-2021 School Calendar: Mr. Russell presented the school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year for the 2nd reading. There is one small change, on June 21, 2021, this will be an afternoon for teachers to finish grading. The professional development day has been moved to January 15, 2021. There was a request to change Civil Rights Day to read Martin Luther King Day/Civil Rights Day. It is shown in attachment # 4. Once approved, the calendar will be added to the website.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept the calendar as amended, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 5-0.

H. New Business:

1. Public School Infrastructure Fund: Ms. Burnell is requesting payment for the completion of classroom door replacement at Alvirne High school now that the project is complete. This is shown in detail in attachment # 5.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to accept this request for payment for the door replacement project at Alvirne High School, second by Dr. Orellana. Motion passes 5-0.

I. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign.

J. Reports to the Board:

1. Superintendent Report: Mr. Russell attended a law conference today. There are not a lot of things going on this year. Some bills are being followed closely, for example, the funding of full-day kindergarten bill. He made sure the Board had the Legislative Bulletin that he received. There was a fire in the construction area of the high school on Saturday morning. Some rags were too close to each other which caused a reaction. The fire did not cause a lot of damage, but the smoke and soot did get into other areas. A private company was called in and they worked all weekend to clean it up. School was held at the high school as normal today.
2. Assistant Superintendent Report: The Blizzard Bag initiative failed. The response from the teachers wasn't what they had hoped. This is something that can be thought out and possibly be brought about in the coming years. There are more logistics that need to be addressed before this is rolled out.
3. Business Administrator Report: Ms. Burnell made note that all expenses incurred by the fire at AHS were liability of the painting and construction company. Jim Wilbur was the custodian on duty and he mitigated a situation that could have been much worse. Thank you, Jim.

K. Legislative Updates:

1. 2019 Legislative Update: Mr. Russell presented the latest NHSBA Legislative update, a handout for the board members to review. This is detailed in attachment # 6.

L. Committee Reports:

1. Strategic Plan Update: The last item we had was for February 1st, which was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Russell will report on this at the next meeting.

M. Correspondence:

1. January Financial Report: Ms. Burnell presented the projected General Fund Balance of \$545,778 for fiscal year 2020. For the Board's reading, detailed in attachment # 7.
2. Technology Integration Specialist Report: For the Board's reading, shown in attachment # 8.

N. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Jack Gasdia: Glad people showed up to the deliberative session. Show up for the town's session. Very positive that the Social Studies department was here talking about African American History Month. It's important that our community is aware of what is happening in our schools. Next week is the NH Primary, so vote there as well.

Ms. Diana LaMothe: Michaela came up with our vision tag line. We need to share more positive stories. The administrative office is working on that and there is a procedure. Recognition needs to be broadcast more. February 5th, CTE open house, 5:30-7:30. Upcoming Board of

Selectmen meeting, Ms. LaMothe will attend the February 4th meeting. February 25th and March 9th. Ms. Whiting will look to see if she can attend the March 9th Selectmen's meeting.

Ms. Gretchen Whiting: The students this evening were well-spoken, well-versed, and interested in what they are doing. We have a lot of student successions in town. A few divers and swimmers who will be participating in State competition on February 14th and 15th.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: The students were great. The presentations were great. Check the school's websites for important dates. There are a lot of things going on, there is good information for the students and the community. We had a good turnout at the deliberative session, would have liked to see more. If you like what we talk about here or if you don't like what we talk about, come out, get involved. We can only represent what we hear about.

Ms. Kara Roy: Thanked everyone for showing up at the deliberative session on Saturday. She hopes to see everyone this coming Saturday for the Town Deliberative Session, so they know what they are voting for.

Dr. Darcy Orellana: Happy to see people and engaged in the deliberative session. Loved hearing the B Naturals sing. These students tonight displayed what we talk about – excellence in education. They were remarkable. We thank the students and faculty for coming out tonight. Hudson is a welcoming community. Get out and vote.

Mr. Malcolm Price: Surprised this evening with what he learned and was presented. Thank you for answering the questions. Very humbling to see students in this town are engaged in worldly good. It was genuine, not practiced.

O. Non-Public Session:

Note: At the February 17th meeting, the minutes from this non-public session were sealed until June 1, 2020.

P. Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.

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