

Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
Approved Minutes

Present:

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:** Vice-Chair Orellana called the meeting to order. Ms. Whiting led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Public Input:** There was no public input.
- C. Presentations to the Board:**
1. Champions for Children Summer Program: Briana Mireault (area manager of Champions) and Storm Mathias are here to speak with the Board regarding having summer camps at one of our schools. Hudson families are asking if we can have winter break and summer camps. Champions has seen a 15% growth over last year's enrollment in the afterschool program. They accept NH subsidies, are an area licensed summer program and this would be local and convenient for Hudson families. The cost would be \$38 a day and a weekly field trip for \$15. They are flexible with how many days parents can bring their children. The hours they are proposing are 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. They also have theme weeks and parents can pick and choose which week they'd like their child to attend. Field trips can include Lego Land, Museum of Science, minor league baseball game, and in-house "staycations" where they have people come in for the students. The Hudson schools do not currently have a summer program. This would happen at one school for all grades. The Board would like Champions to come up with some more logistics and come back with a plan on what it would look like.
- D. Requests of the Board:** There were no requests of the Board.
- E. Old Business:**
1. American Humanities: Ms. Bureau, Ms. Conrad and Mr. Peterson from Alvirne High School are here to discuss further the rationale for the American Humanities class at the high school. Ms. Bureau did forward the Board a document that discussed American Humanities in great detail. Ms. Bureau presented a PowerPoint of that document. This is shown in attachment # 1. Mr. Peterson spoke about the co-teaching teams and how both teachers gain from working together. He spoke about the History curriculum of the American Humanities class. Ms. Conrad spoke about the English curriculum of the American Humanities class. There was some discussion around the size of the classes and how that class is taught. The teachers co-teach and there are usually support paras in the class as well. This discussion came about because of the AP concerns; will their schedule be impacted? The concern is this one year; can this be put off one more year? AHS is committed to the AP Humanities class. The students must take one AP test, Language or History but some students can choose to take both. There will be test prep for whichever AP test the student chooses. There was more discussion about whether student in the AP Humanities class

can opt for the honors level instead? Mrs. Bureau said they would discuss this and get back to them with an answer after that discussion. There will be communication to the parents when they have a final resolution.

F. New Business:

1. Extracurricular Nominations: Mr. Russell presented the following extracurricular nominations for spring athletics at Alvirne High school. This is shown in attachment # 2.

Varsity Baseball – Michael Lee \$3,850
Junior Varsity Baseball – Scott MacDonald \$2,700
Baseball Pitching – Adam Perkins \$2,700
Varsity Softball – Sarah Brisk \$3,850
Junior Varsity Softball – Andrew Conrad \$2,700
Boys Varsity Tennis – Mike Coulter \$ 3,150
Girls Varsity Tennis – Jen Ruigrok \$3,150
Boys Varsity Spring Track – Tom Daigle \$3,850
Girls Varsity Spring Track – Caroline Conrad \$3,850
Assistant Spring Track – Tarek Rothe \$2,700
Assistant Spring Track – Colleen Currier \$2,700
Assistant Spring Track – Melanie Packard \$2,450

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

2. Policies: Ms. Wilson presented the first reading of the following policies. These are shown in detail in attachment # 3.

- a) EEAEA Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing – Bus Drivers
- b) EEAEC Student Conduct on Buses
- c) EEAG Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students
- d) EFE Vending Machines
- e) EGAD Copyright Compliance
- f) EH Public Use of School Records
- g) EI Risk Management
- h) EIB Liability Insurance and Pooled Risk Management
- i) EID Insurance

EI-Risk Management: Is there an annual risk audit report? This is done every year through Primex.

Ms. Whiting asked permission to add one thing to new business. Would like to understand how we understand the disciplinary path of when incidents happen? The disciplinary action is listed in each of the school handbooks. They have started working to gather students and staff members together to discuss the disciplinary process – what is working and what isn't working from their perspective. Project AWARE will be bringing in training for our teachers on this as well. There are many variables when it comes to discipline. There is an investigation and a decision can be made based on the witnesses or the students themselves who were involved in the incident. The administrator needs to figure out what is right and what the correct discipline is.

G. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign.
2. Minutes – Recommended action: Review the following draft minutes and approve.
 - a) 01/15/20 Draft Minutes: The minutes from the January 15, 2020 meeting are detailed in attachment # 4.

Ms. Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes from January 15th as written, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

- b) 01/27/20 Draft Minutes: The minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting are detailed in attachment # 5.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27th as written, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

H. Reports to the Board:

1. Superintendent Report:
The Strategic Plan format will be updated and should be easier to read. It will have a table of contents in the front.

We've had 4 snow days this school year already.

Legislative update on House Bill 1691; it funds full-day kindergarten in the first year. That passed the full house 283-64. Senate Bill 625 is the same as House Bill 1691, once it passes it will go right through, there will not be a 60-day delay. This Bill goes next to the Senate Finance Committee. Senate Bill 435 with Senator Carson passed unanimously. This is to obtain the rest of the CTE funds this year. Mr. Russell presented to the Senior Center on February 11th.

He's meeting with the Republicans and Democrats this week.

On March 7th, he'll be doing a hard hat tour of the construction at AHS and show the plans for the upcoming renovations at AHS. He will also be at the Hudson-Litchfield Rotary on March 20th. Mr. Russell passed around a sample ballot to the Board members. They are considering mailing the sample school ballot home to about 10,000 households. Total cost of printing and mailing the sample school ballot would be about \$3,000. The Town is not mailing out a sample ballot; they have created posters and they are hung up around town. The sample school ballot is information only. Can this sample ballot be sent out through email, put on social media, sent home in backpacks, handed out at school events, etc. The Town isn't sending out a sample ballot, it looks like we aren't working as closely together as we say we are. Both ballots will be posted on the Town website. Can we partner with the Town and come up with one document and send it out together? Ms. Roy will speak with someone after the meeting about collaborating this venture. Ms. Whiting proposes that we go back to the Town and see what we can do together; use lighter paper; make sure it says "Sample Ballot" on the top. The Board agreed; they are in consensus on Ms. Whiting's proposal.

Kyle Hancock earned the certified Education Technology Leader designation by passing a rigorous certification exam. We are very proud of him.

Congratulations to Jack Gasdia for being named a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

Assistant Superintendent search is underway. We've interviewed 13 people, 4 were internal candidates. 5 will be sent for a second interview and that will be narrowed down to 3 candidates. They should be ready to interview with the Board on March 2nd in closed session starting at 6 pm.

The Board would like to proceed with the proposed interview schedule on March 2nd, starting at 6 pm, closed session.

There has been a request to bring back the boys' soccer team to represent their trip to England on March 2nd.

2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Ms. Wilson passed out a paper about the seal of bi-literacy report of Jess Paeplov.
3. Business Administrator Report: No report from Ms. Burnell

I. Legislative Updates: Information only shown in attachment # 6. For the Board to read.

J. Committee Reports:

1. Strategic Plan: Under the pillar of strong connections, school, family, community. Birth to 5 programs was started back in August. Created posters showing what their child should know at what age. Provided kits for the parents to help them with the readiness program. Kindergarten teachers are now providing at-home activities for those students. The middle school is currently working on remediation plans and bringing the parents in to explain to them how this is going to work. Pillar of vibrant learning system which is providing summer enrichment; the middle school is having discussions about that. The elementary schools have programs where students complete their summer work and get recognized for it. Extending some things to the 5th graders at the middle school. ELC does provide a summer boot camp. This can vary from year to year what they do. NWES has a 2nd grade reading challenge.

K. Correspondence:

1. Discipline Report: Mr. Russell presented the latest discipline reports for December and January. They are shown in detail in attachment # 7. There was discussion around ISS and the number of students being put in there. Should there be a task force to look at discipline? Are they repeat offenders? They have been working with the school counselors and having them speak to these students and looking for family support. They have been looking at various models throughout the State to see what is working and not working. Are the numbers comparable to last year at the same time?
2. Outreach Coordinator Report: Ms. Wilson presented the Outreach Coordinator's latest report for December 2019 and January 2020. This is shown in detail in attachment # 8.
3. Technology Integration Specialist Report: Ms. Wilson presented the latest technology integration report from January 2020. This is shown in detail in attachment # 9.
4. Building Committee Minutes: Ms. Burnell presented the minutes from the December 19, 2019 building committee meeting. This is shown in detail in attachment # 10.

L. Board Member Comments:

Ms. Diana LaMothe: Spread the word about 2 new scholarships in the name of Zachary Thompkins. Zachary passed away 10 years ago in his sleep. Zachary M. Thompkins Memorial academic scholarship. Zachary M. Thompkins athletic scholarship.

Ms. Gretchen Whiting: There were State championships for swimming, diving, gymnastics, wrestling at high school and state champions for wrestling at the middle school as well. Some school records were broken in

swimming. There was the DECA State competition as well this past week. Quite a few of the students will be heading to Nashville, TN for the next round. There was also a Leadership camp at the middle school this past weekend.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Leaders in Prevention at the middle school is phenomenal. Jazz All-State – 400 kids auditioned. AHS had 21 students. The music is incredible. They do it all in the gym.

Ms. Kara Roy: Thanked Mr. Peterson for bringing the students to vote. Candidate night tomorrow night at the community center. Don't forget March 10th – come out and vote.

Dr. Darcy Orellana: Thank you.

M. Non-Public Session:

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3(c) at 8:30 pm, second by Ms. LaMothe. Roll call vote, Dr. Orellana, aye, Ms. Whiting, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Mr. LaMothe, aye. Motion passes 4-0.

Ms. Whiting moved to allow a student to finish the school year in Hudson, second by Mr. Gasdia. Motion passes 4-0.

The board discussed a staff member request.

Ms. LaMothe moved to seal the non-public minutes of the February 3, 2020 meeting until June 1, 2020, second by Ms. Whiting. Motion passes 4-0.

The board discussed a student matter.

N. Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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