

Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
Approved Minutes

Present:

Dr. Darcy Orellana, Board Chairman
Mr. Gary Gasdia, Board Vice-Chair
Ms. Diana LaMothe
Ms. Patty Langlais
Mr. Ethan Beals
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:** Board Chair Orellana called the meeting to order. She read a prepared statement regarding our electronic meeting which included how the Town of Hudson could participate/watch this meeting. Roll call attendance was taken. Mr. Gasdia, present; Ms. LaMothe, present; Ms. Langlais, present; Mr. Beals, present; Ms. Roy, present; Mr. Russell, present; Ms. Wilson, present; Ms. Burnell, present; Mr. Jack Gasdia, present; Ms. Borge, present. Also present in the meeting are Mr. Hancock and Ms. Wolf.
- B. Public Input:** There was no public input.
- C. Presentations to the Board:** There were no presentations to the Board.
- D. Requests of the Board:** There were no requests of the Board.
- E. Old Business:**
1. Board Member Committee Assignments: The committee assignments are shown in detail in attachment # 1.
HFT Contract Negotiations: Dr. Orellana and Ms. Langlais
Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Gasdia
CTEC Building Committee: Ms. LaMothe and Mr. Gasdia
HSB Policy Committee: Dr. Orellana and Mr. Beals
Hudson Municipal Budget Committee Liaison: Ms. LaMothe and Ms. Langlais
Alvirne Trustees: Dr. Orellana, Ms. Langlais could possibly be the alternate.
Board of Selectman: Ms. LaMothe and Mr. Gasdia
Cable Utility Committee: Mr. Beals and Mr. Gasdia
There was discussion around adding The Capital Improvement/Facilities Committee to this list of board assignments. They did discuss whether a liaison from the School Board was necessary or not. The School Board came to a consensus and Mr. Beals will be the liaison for The Capital Improvement/Facilities Committee.
 2. Ms. Wilson presented the second reading of the following policies. These are shown in detail in attachment # 3.
 - a) DKC Travel Expense Reimbursements
 - b) GBCD Background Investigation and Criminal Records
 - c) GBD Board-Employee Communications

- d) GBEA Staff Ethics
- e) GBEAA & JRB Confidential Student Information
- f) GBEAB Mandatory Code of Conduct Reporting – All Employees
- g) GBEB Staff Conduct
- h) GBEB Employee Gifts and Solicitations
- i) GBEBE Employment of Relatives or Persons with Romantic Personal Involvement
- j) GBG Employee Protection

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to approve the policies in attachment # 3, second by Ms. Langlais. Mr. Gasdia, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Beals, aye; Ms. Langlais, aye; Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

F. New Business:

1. Remote Learning, Challenges & Celebrations: Mr. Russell spoke about remote learning and the huge undertaking it has been. Our district has done a great job with providing remote instruction to the students. We did have a week to prepare. A survey was sent out to the parents. There were 1,375 responses to the survey. Mr. Russell reviewed some of the questions and the responses. Overall, people feel supported and they are getting what they need from remote learning. We did institute a Take A Breath (TAB) day each week. Remote learning has been extended until May 4th. If remote learning continues beyond May 4th; we will make adjustments as needed. We have the support from the state. Ms. Wilson stated that our teachers are amazing. They are doing what they need to do. Kudos to our IT team. We could not have carried off remote learning without Kyle and his team. Thank you to all of Hudson and the teachers that make it happen for us. There was discussion on how the teachers are feeling and are they feeling supported? There are email strings at the school level of teachers helping and supporting one another. The building administrators are great in supporting and helping the teachers. Jack Gasdia asked how many students responded to the survey. 115 students responded to the survey. From the student perspective, some students are overwhelmed, and some don't have much work at all. The discussion continued around if the students have an option to give feedback to the teachers? Teachers are hearing from the students if they understand or not understand the assignments. Mr. Russell stated that some students are not comfortable giving feedback. If we don't get that feedback, then we need to improve the communication between the students and teachers. Teachers use differentiated instruction on a daily basis. There are some students who haven't checked in yet and the administrators in each of the buildings are trying to get in touch with those students. There was further discussion, if the administrators are not getting a response, are they referring these students to another authority? Yes.
Zoom is used for meetings and the teachers are using the safety protocols in place. The teacher uses their account and lets the students into the meeting and does not let unknown students in. The staff know how to use Zoom.
2. Public Infrastructure Fund Payment Requests: Ms. Burnell presented the project completion and request for payment as detailed in attachments # 4 and # 5. The School Board needs to approve the payment of the classroom door replacement at Hudson Memorial School in the amount of \$69,600 and Dr. H.O. Smith School in the amount of \$21,712.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the request for payment for the HMS and HO Smith's door replacement project in the amount of \$91,312, second by Mr. Gasdia. Dr. Orellana, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Ms. Langlais, aye; Mr. Beals, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

3. Monthly Financial Statement: Ms. Burnell presented the projected General Fund Balance of \$665,833 for fiscal year 2020. This is changing by the minute. This is detailed in attachment # 6. The CARES Act that went through, states that you continue to pay your vendors.

G. Recommended Action:

1. Manifests – Recommended action: Make necessary corrections and sign. Everything in the finance department is being completed remotely. The School Board is sent the manifests weekly and they are signed electronically.

H. Reports to the Board:

1. Superintendent Report: Mr. Russell discussed transportation and how things were kept as they were for the first two weeks of remote learning. This was to ensure the bus drivers continue to get paid as we will need them once school starts again. Now that we are onto 5 more weeks, the HSD will continue to pay on the transportation contract with a reduction of 20% off the transportation for the rest of the school year. We would pay the bus company 80%, with the bus drivers still getting paid. The CARE package states that we still pay our contractors during this time as we can. The board is in consensus with the 20% discount with the bus company. FAQ was sent out and appreciated. There were questions around April vacation and it will stay in place. Last day of school hasn't been impacted. The end of year activities are still in question. The 8th grade DC trip was canceled, and refunds are being processed. We are proud of the school's response to the parents. The middle school had spirit days, parades are happening where the teachers drive through the neighborhoods and videos have been made and sent out. There has been a lot of Facebook presence with the schools as well.
2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Ms. Wilson spoke about how proud she is of the SAU staff and the teachers. She has been curating lots of information and resources for the teachers of all grades and all subjects. Mr. Hancock has been a wonderful resource for parents and staff.
3. Business Administrator Report: Ms. Burnell wanted to remind the public that student lunches are available Mondays and Thursdays at Hudson Memorial School from 10:30-1:00. Senior citizens are also welcomed to come pick up a lunch. Thank you to Terry Wolf.
4. Special Education Report: Ms. Borge spoke about how services are being provided at this time. If parents have questions, they should reach out to the department chair in their child's school building. Face-to-face evaluations cannot happen at this time and will reconvene as soon as it's safe to do so. The outside contracts are still being used, using a variety of tools, and are still being paid. Paraeducators are using Zoom to connect to the students and professional development opportunities are being offered to them.

I. Legislative Updates: Mr. Russell stated there wasn't anything really happening right now.

J. Correspondence: No correspondence at this time.

K. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Jack Gasdia: Thank you so much to everyone with the remote learning. It's craziness for all us involved. It's important that everyone is doing their best. Continue washing your hands. Be safe. Keep your distance.

Ms. Patty Langlais: Thank you for going above and beyond. Congratulations to Jack. Kudos to Mr. Steve Beals for singing Wheels on the Bus. A lot of childcare centers are closed, if someone needs childcare, please reach out to her. Enjoyed her first Zoom meeting.

Mr. Ethan Beals: We are providing free lunch to anyone in town. We are delivering senior citizen meals as well. Anyone needing a meal should reach out to Carla Anger, food service director. We currently have a 4-day instruction week with 1 day used as a catch-up day for students and a meeting day for teachers. That may change if remote learning goes beyond May 4th. He would like a couple of names from each building at each meeting who are going above and beyond to recognize them. Thank you to Rachel for joining.

Ms. Diana LaMothe: Thank you to everyone for all your doing. What an incredible job. It is very much appreciated. Loved to hear that you're going to do whatever is possible to reschedule important events. The Chamber of Commerce was going to have its 51st annual awards. They are as follows: Citizen of the Year: Joyce Hurd. Small Business of the Year: Cookie's Café. Large Business of the Year: Granite Subaru. Outstanding Community Partner: Family Promise of Southern NH (Anne-Marie House). Junior Citizen of the Year: Jack Gasdia. Congratulations to Jack.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Thank you so much to the parents, staff, students, teachers, maintenance crew, and everyone in between. There are bumps in the road. This was not even on our radar a month ago. Thank you for your patience. Thank you to everyone on the screen.

Ms. Kara Roy: Thank you for the district's cooperation in the town's EOC. It has been a collaborative effort. Thanks to Mr. Gasdia for their weekly broadcast. Hudson has 1 to 4 confirmed cases. Everyone has done their part, wash hands, keep your distance, not congregating, wear a facemask, only 1 person going to the stores, will hopefully keep our numbers low.

Dr. Darcy Orellana: We did it. You are an amazing group of collaborators. Thank you to Kyle, Terry, HCTV, and the community at large for everything you are doing. We are all students in this experience. We can do business. We can look at our agendas in the future and explore. Things do take longer and can be stressful. I can appreciate what we are all going through.

L. Non-Public Session:

M. Ms. Langlais made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, second by Ms. LaMothe. Roll call vote, Dr. Orellana, aye; Ms. Langlais, aye; Mr. Gasdia, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Beals, aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Piper (public)