

Hudson School District
Hudson School Board Meeting
Draft 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
Ms. Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services
Mr. Jack Gasdia, Student Representative

- A. Call to Order:** Board Chair Orellana called the meeting to order. Due to the Governor's say-at-home order, the board meeting will be held remotely via Zoom. 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. Dr. Orellana, present; 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 is Mr. Hancock and Mr. Bagnell. Ms. Orellana thanked the entire Hudson community for all they've done and continue to do during these challenging times. Your commitment is deeply appreciated.
- B. Public Input:** An email address was provided for the Hudson community to supply public input for these remote meetings. There were about 23 emails from the public input about doing away with April vacation and just pushing through to keep the momentum going. There were 7 emails regarding keeping April vacation. Their rationale was needing a break from all this and time to decompress. There were 3 emails that were neutral but need additional support, such as more access to the school counselors, ability to make social connections, tutoring and access to academic support. There were questions about summer work and how do we keep the learning going. Another proposal was maybe having 2 long weekends and not do away with April break completely.
- C. Presentations to the Board:**
1. Remote Learning Lesson: Ms. Wilson attempted to play a musical presentation from the music students at Alvirne High School. Mr. Gallagan recorded students voices and paired it with Garage Band. This was done all through remote learning. The recording will be posted on the SAU website for all to view.
- D. Requests of the Board:** There were no requests of the Board.
- E. Old Business:**
1. End-of-Year-Spending: Ms. Burnell presented the list of expenditures submitted for school board consideration with the end-of-year surplus. This is outlined in detail in attachment # 1. This list is for the School Board to look over, review and Ms. Burnell will present this again at the next meeting. She suggested that we make decisions soon to get things ordered or projects started. Mr. Beals would like to speak with the head custodians and the facilities

department and see what some of these projects entail. After that, he will meet with John Pratte and Ms. Burnell to review his findings and report on that at the next meeting. There was discussion, now that we have the fund balance retention possibility; could that factor into the discussion about year-end expenditures? Should we run through different scenarios and consider putting this off a little while because some tax payers who may be losing their jobs and see about giving some of the funds back to the tax payers or to have on hand in case of an emergency? This can be taken in stages and not all spent and agreed upon in one meeting. The Board would like to have the Principals at the next board meeting to go over their list of items needed for their school building. The facilities director will also be invited to weigh in on the list of expenditures.

F. New Business:

1. Remote Learning, Challenges & Celebrations: Mr. Russell spoke about the remote learning survey. Most of the feedback was positive and supportive. We discovered some of the struggles out there. The input was helpful, as we added in the TAB day. The feedback on how much work the students are getting was that it's just the right amount of work. Some high schoolers are feeling a little overwhelmed. The survey shows the strengths and weaknesses in remote learning. We received input from parents and students. 97% of students at the ELC are participating and about 75% are participating in Zoom calls. Almost 100% of the students in grades 2-5 are participating. 99.9% of the students at HMS are participating and 100% are communicating. An amazing number of students at AHS are participating. They have a spreadsheet of students that they are following through on and encouraging to do a little bit more. The director of counseling has spoken with those students to keep them engaged and moving forward. There was further discussion about remote learning with the School Board Members. They appreciate the support from the public and the Board. There was discussion about getting teachers some support and more instructions on using Zoom and other online resources. Mrs. Lavoie, teacher at AHS spoke about her experience with using Zoom and remote learning. She spoke about some of the issues she and other teachers are experiencing with office hours and Zoom. They are using a variety of things to engage students and make what they are teaching relevant for all students. There has been an issue with cheating as well at the high school.
2. Alvirne Trustees' Budget: Ms. Burnell presented the Alvirne Trustees' Budget to the School Board members. Alvirne has benefited from the Trustees' in years past. The list goes to the Trustees' and they decide from the list what they pay for. The Trustees' did just purchase the greenhouse for the CTE department. There was further discussion around the funds that may or may not be available because of what we are currently going through. This is shown in detail in attachment # 2.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to present the Principal Priority Proposal to the Alvirne Trustees', second by Mr. Gasdia. Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Mr. Beals, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

3. Vendor Contract Award – Art Supplies: Ms. Burnell presented the art supply bid to the school board members for fiscal year 2021. Various quotes and pricing were reviewed from several vendors and she is looking for Board approval to award W.B. Mason as the vendor to provide art supplies to the HSD for the fiscal year 2021. The anticipated expenditure amount with W.B. Mason is \$17,000.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to approve the art supply bid to W.B. Mason, second by Ms. Langlais. Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Mr. Beals, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

4. Vendor Contract Award – School Supplies: Ms. Burnell presented the school supply bid to the school board members for fiscal year 2021. Various quotes and pricing were reviewed from several vendors and she is looking for Board approval to award W.B. Mason and Quill as the vendors to provide school supplies to the HSD for the fiscal year 2021. Ms. Burnell is recommending the following action:
 - a) The HSD awards Quill a contract to provide school supplies for the fiscal year 2021 in accordance with policy 6.1(w). The anticipated expenditure amount with Quill is \$20,500.
 - b) The HSB awards W.B. Mason a contract to provide school supplies for the fiscal year 2020 in accordance with policy 6.1(w). The anticipated expenditure amount with W.B. Mason is \$44,600.

Mr. Beals made a motion to approve the school supply bid to Quill in the amount of \$20,500 and W.B. Mason in the amount of \$44,600, second by Ms. Langlais. Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Mr. Beals, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

5. 2020-2021 Nomination List: Mr. Russell presented the staff nomination list for the school year 2020-2021. This is detailed in attachment # 5.

Ms. Langlais made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 nomination list, second by Ms. LaMothe. Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Mr. Beals, abstained. Motion passes 4-0-1 with Mr. Beals abstaining.

6. Coaching Positions: How should we proceed with the Spring coaching positions? Are the coaches following some sort of format, so the Board is aware of what the coaches are doing? Ms. Bonney spoke about what the coaches do before the season even starts, which included pre-season meetings and off-season training. Some coaches work outside of our buildings and had to rearrange their schedules to be available for the upcoming spring season and kept those arrangements in place prior to the decision to cancel the season. Some coaches are continuing to coach via Zoom meetings even though the season has been canceled. A question was posed about paying some of the coaches or all of them? It might have to be based on hours worked and what have they performed on an individual basis. Mr. Steve Beals spoke and is in support of paying coaches for what they have performed. The Board would like to see what the coaches have been doing with the students and have it presented at the next meeting before paying them. There was also discussion about coaches working before they have been nominated by the school board for their coaching position. The contracts were in the process of being signed and sent to Mr. Russell but then the pandemic happened, and the contracts didn't make it to the Superintendent's desk.
7. Calendar Discussion: Since the CoVid 19 pandemic happened, this has impacted our school calendar and April break. 990 instructional hours can be deemed sufficient instead of 180 school days. There are some requirements that we must go through to be counted as a school year. We have used hours in years past when we had numerous snow days. The Board discussed different options for April break. Some thought a hybrid week would be a good compromise. A few days off and a few days of teaching. There was further discussion about

when the last day for teachers would be as well. Mrs. Lavoie referred to the teachers' contract on this topic.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to go to 990 hours instead of 180 days to end student instruction, second by Mr. Beals.

If we go to hours, the last day of school would be June 10th. The senior class would have the same opportunity to have an earlier last day of school as in years past.

Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

Ms. LaMothe made a motion to take April 27th and 28th as vacation days with the 29th being a TAB day and then resume remote learning the rest of the week, second by Mr. Gasdia.

This would make the last day of school June 5th.

Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Beals, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

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.
2. Minutes – Recommended action: Review the following draft minutes and approve:
 - a) 03/02/2020 Draft Minutes: These minutes are shown in detail in attachment # 6. These minutes were not able to be reviewed because the sound didn't work properly on HCTV. Edit the word in Dr. Orellana comments from subtlest to subtleties.
 - b) 03/16/2020 Draft Minutes: These minutes are shown in detail in attachment # 7.
 - c) 04/06/2020 Draft Minutes: These minutes are shown in detail in attachment # 8.

There was discussion around when the minutes should be posted and sealed according the RSA. Mr. Russell explained that the School Board Association would go over this with the whole board and would review these questions and RSA's.

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to approve the all the minutes as amended to 3/2/2020 minutes, second by Ms. LaMothe. Dr. Orellana, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Mr. Beals, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

H. Reports to the Board:

1. Superintendent Report: Mr. Russell wanted to share there have been some interesting comments on Facebook. One parent called a delayed opening and one parent asked for a substitute teacher for the day. He appreciates the humor in all this. He spoke about his coffee chats with him last week, there was about 28 people at each session. There were good questions asked. He provided an overview of what's going on and then took questions. A FAQ sheet is being created and it will be shared with teachers. He will invite parents to a Zoom session as well.
2. Assistant Superintendent Report: Ms. Wilson did a poll about what people are offering during remote learning. Some elementary teachers are reading to the students and some students are reading back to the teachers. At the middle school they are doing an SEL game with the whole Team. At Alvirne, they are connecting to true human stories for Social Studies. There is an AHS student who won 2nd place in an open competition in Biology for NH State Science and

Engineering Expo on magnetism. Biology is doing a project on cancer. Also, Mr. Paiva is doing webinars on Wednesdays with professionals for enrichment, including Kevin Skarupa from WMUR.

3. Business Administrator Report: Ms. Burnell would like to thank the custodians, the SAU staff, and especially the food service staff. I really appreciate all they do. We are currently serving about 100 students a day. There was discussion around feeding the students during the summer, and we would need a waiver to do this. Board of Selectmen Chairman Morin did have something in place last summer and Ms. Roy will look to see if this is something he plans to continue this summer.

I. Legislative Updates: Mr. Russell stated the Legislature is not currently in session.

J. Correspondence: Dr. Orellana spoke about the letter received from Len Lathrop and how he appreciated our recognition of him in our Annual Report. We are very grateful for all he's done for the Hudson community.

K. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Jack Gasdia: He is excited to see what the rest of the year brings and hopes things continue to go well. Enjoy your time off next week. As the weather gets warmer, get outside.

Ms. Patty Langlais: Keep doing what we are doing. Thank you to everyone.

Mr. Ethan Beals: Encourages the teachers to continue to reach out. In the future, could we have a report from Ms. Borge? Yes, she will be added to the agenda for next meeting. I appreciate everyone's effort through this.

Ms. Diana LaMothe: It's great to see the communication channel working. Please continue to reach out to our Community Engagement Coordinator, Terry Wolf, instead of posting on Facebook. Use the email info@sau81.org. The decisions that have been made are great. Continue reaching out to the school district. Mr. Russell has the large picture of all that is going on.

Mr. Gary Gasdia: Thank you to all the teachers, staff, and parents for all that your doing. We received more public input this week than we ever have before. His perspective changed as he read each email. Please keep your public input coming.

Ms. Kara Roy: Thank you folks, the town and the community for what you are doing and for being flexible. I appreciate that.

Dr. Darcy Orellana: Thank you.

L. Non-Public Session:

Mr. Gasdia made a motion to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3(c) at 9:06 pm, second by Ms. Langlais. Roll call vote, Dr. Orellana, aye, Ms. Langlais, aye, Mr. Gasdia, aye, Ms. LaMothe, aye, Mr. Beals, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

Hudson School Board
April 20, 2020

Remote via Zoom
Public Session 6:30

The board discussed: personnel matters; whether workshops should still be in public; sealing of minutes. Mr. Russell will share summary of culture survey. Dr. Orellana will send school board training webinar link to rest of board. No action taken.

Motion to exit non-public at 9:32 pm by Ms. Langlais, second by Ms. LaMothe. Roll call: Mr. Gasdia, aye; Ms. LaMothe; aye; Mr. Beals; aye; Ms. Langlais, aye, Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

M. Motion to adjourn by Ms. Lamothe at 9:33 pm, second by Ms. Langlais. Roll call: Gary Gasdia, aye; Ms. LaMothe, aye; Mr. Beals, aye; Ms. Langlais, aye; Dr. Orellana, aye. Motion passes 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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