

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING–November 15, 2016

approved

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

**LOCATION OF MEETING: David R. Cawley Middle School Media
Center**

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Berry, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance –Yusuf Durgutovic, David R. Cawley Middle School

ATTENDANCE

Mike Berry, Chair, Amy Boilard, Lindsey Laliberte, and Kara Salvas.

G. Martakos arrived late.

Staff: Dr. Phil Littlefield, Superintendent, Marge Polak, Assistant Superintendent, and Karen Lessard, Business Administrator.

PROOF OF POSTING

Dr. Littlefield provided proof of posting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Lindsey Laliberte, seconded by Mike Berry to approve the Board minutes of October 4, 2016, and the motion carried in the affirmative.

Motion by Amy Boilard, seconded by Lindsey Laliberte, to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of October 4, 2016, and the motion carried in the affirmative.

Motion by Amy Boilard, seconded by Lindsey Laliberte to approve the Board minutes of November 1, 2016, and the motion carried in the affirmative.

Motion by Amy Boilard, seconded by Kara Salvas to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of November 1, 2016, and the motion carried in the affirmative.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

REPORTS

Report of the Superintendent

UPDATES FROM DR. CHARLES P. LITTLEFIELD, Superintendent of Schools

The bus strike does not affect our district however it may affect Pinkerton and we are monitoring the situation. Through Homeland Security we learned that it is the School Districts' responsibility to transport students K through 8th.

There is an SAU Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th at the Cawley School to vote on the budget.

PRESENTATION(S) – Smarter Balanced

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Matt Benson and Steve HARRIS together with Marge Polak gave a Power Point presentation on the Smarter Balance test results.

M. Polak: The test results were verified on November 1st and released publicly.

Language Arts -There were some changes, a few grades went up by one or two and a few went down. They were not dramatic.

This was done in the last 12 weeks of school for grades 3, 6, and 8. This test was different in looking for the depth of understanding, more writing and problem solving. We look at this test for State accountability as well as program and achievement.

Language Art – all grade levels except for grade 4 were above the State level. In June, all levels were above the State.

We are looking at our instructional strategies and we should be making improvements.

L. Laliberte: Can we see how we compare to other districts and although 2nd graders are not tested, how we are preparing our 2nd grade students for testing in 3rd grade.

Underhill Principal: We have been looking at the strategies at our Staff Development and we are looking at the NEWA scores and DIBLS.

A. Boilard: Can you give us the report by levels?

M. Polak: We can provide that in a future report.

Math -Grades 3, 4 and 5 were below the State average and 6, 7, and 8 were above the State average. If you look at last year to this year, same grade level different students, you see 3, 4, 6 and 7 have a nice increment upward, grade 5 went up considerably and grade 8 made no movement toward program growth.

G. Martakos arrived at the meeting.

S. HARRIS: This data is below our expectations especially in Grade 5. We looked at the data, teacher's specific data and trends. We looked at our analysis and saw a weakness in concepts and procedures. The categories that Marge mentioned are Concepts, Problem Solving, Research and Data and Reasoning. We looked at pacing and understand problems. For 5th Grade, we have brought back a math lab model. We are looking at the NEWA data and what is happening in the Math instruction. We are increasing the walk-throughs in the classrooms and using the instructional lens and seeing what should we be saying and what is in the lesson plan. We are making certain that if a teacher is not keeping up with the pace; we are talking to them and looking at how we can help. We are looking at the Smarter Balance questions and what do they look like to design lessons that support students in the assessment.

M. Berry: Is there a trend in the State that they can speak to.

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M. Polak: I don't think being in year 2 that the State is ready to report on that. Pace is the reason we have a huge focus on pacing and we think it contributes particularly at Memorial to being below State average. The teachers are not able to get through the whole grade level. We need to get through the whole program so all standards are taught well. In some areas, the whole curriculum has not been taught. Only 37 percent of the 5th graders were proficient in Math and those students are now in 6th grade.

K. Salvas: When we talked in June, you said that Becky would do more individualized teacher instruction rather than group instruction. Is that being done?

S. Harrises: Yes.

A. Boilard asked if there was a male/female breakdown.

M. Polak: No but we can provide that.

K. Salvas: Other type of assessments besides smarter balance, are they showing the same results.

M. Benson: They measure two different things; Smarter Balance measures the instructional program and NEWA measures the students' individual growth.

M. Polak: We see some consistency and some differences. It is testing different things. Smarter Balance is much more rigorous; it is taking things and applying things at a higher level.

M. Polak: Overall, we are disappointed anytime we are not at least at the State average. We have had some pockets of progress but we have a lot of work to do. Anything above 4 to 5 percent is a significant gain. We have to be mindful of where we are going.

(See PowerPoint presentation)

FINANCE

Review of Manifest and Action Relating Thereto

A. Boilard motioned to approve the November 15th, 2016 manifest in the amount of \$841,772.75. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor.

Budget Adjustments

A. Boilard motioned to approve the Budget Adjustments for November 15, 2016 in the amount of \$37,464.89. Seconded by G. Martakos

Vote unanimously in favor.

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OLD BUSINESS

L. Laliberte motioned to reconsider the motion (of the 1st) to reduce a teacher at Memorial School based on the enrollment projections. Seconded by K. Salvas.

L. Laliberte: It made sense based on the enrollments, but when we looked at how that would be done, last one in is the first one out and the test scores and the work of planning, I don't think it is worth the \$80,000 in savings when we are struggling to pull up our scores.

A. Boilard: I think at some point the taxpayer does deserve the benefit of low enrollments. It doesn't make sense to maintain staff when enrollment is decreasing 60, 70, and 80 students a year in the district. I understand the argument but you will have 30 less kids. Regarding the selection of the person, that is up to the Administration. You just don't have the kids, do you want 16, 17 or 18 kids in a class and it will be worse next year and the year after that. You would need 8 kids to move to town to put in another teacher and if we had 8 more kids in 5th grade that would be one more in each grade which is still under our policy of 25.

K. Salvas: I wasn't at the meeting where this was decided but I was under the impression that being a bottom line budget that if a retirement occurred, it would not be filled but it wasn't just from Memorial, any position in the district could be transferred. It could be a budget line adjustment.

K. Lessard: The problem is Cawley is subject specific so you would have to fill that position at Cawley. The deadline is October 15th for notice from teachers.

Vote 2:3 motion fail

Hooksett School Board Goals

M. Berry asked Mr. Benson if he would like to report on his research regarding High School students.

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M. Benson: I will provide the information on my December Principals report. I've met with students at a variety of high schools regarding their courses as well as the homework load. I ask questions like "What is one thing that prepared you from Cawley". We talked about time management for example. I will give an update in the December report. I spoke to students that the 8th grade teachers recommended. If anyone has other students they would like me to speak to I would be happy to meet with them. My plan is to hear directly from students and not depend on "hear say". Then I will meet with M. Polak and discuss the results. I've met with some very articulate students and heard their philosophy on Middle School, High School and College as well as their expectations.

Dr. Littlefield: The Assistant Principals are exploring current Bullying Programs (ACE). We are going to tackle the bullying issue again.

A. Boilard: I ran into a former School Board member who said we were offered money for a bullying program and we didn't take it.

Dr. Littlefield: That was before I was here.

A. Boilard: It was only a few months ago.

M. Benson: That was an informal suggestion at a function. We are first reviewing what we have in place.

A. Boilard: Apparently that is a real program.

Dr. Littlefield: The 8th grade trip became green.

K. Salvas: Can we get a report on this and get a quote on the cost.

M. Benson: Typically 22 students do not attend.

Dr. Littlefield: Determine the roll of the School Board Communication Committee and the Teacher Evaluation Committee has gone to yellow.

NEW BUSINESS

NISBA Delegate Assembly Presentation

A. Boilard: On January 21st I will give a 45 minute report which will include our goal list from last year and talk about our high school selection for comments. We will also vote for resolutions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No comments from the public

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NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II (if needed)

M. Berry motioned to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 Section II (c) at 7:50 pm. Seconded by A. Boilard.

Roll Call Vote

L. Laliberte Yes

K. Salvas Yes

G. Martakos Yes

A. Boilard Yes

M. Berry Yes

The Board reconvened into a public session at 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Ay Boilard, seconded by Greg Martakos, to seal the non-public minutes, and the motion carried in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Amy Boilard, seconded by Kara Salvas, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., and the motion carried in the affirmative.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hooksett School Board is **Tuesday, December 6, 2016** at 6:00 p.m. at David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center

Leanne Moynihan