

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – September 18, 2018

Approved

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
LOCATION OF MEETING: David R. Cawley Middle School Media
Center**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Denbow called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance - Cawley 7th Grader, Amanda McAndrew

ATTENDANCE

Phil Denbow, Chairman, Adam Gianunzio, Lindsey Laliberte, Kara Salvas, and James Sullivan.

Excused: Greg Martakos

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

PROOF OF POSTING

Proof of posting was provided by Dr. Charles P. Littlefield

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of September 18, 2018 Minutes

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes of September 18, 2018 as amended. Seconded by K. Salvas.

Correction pg. 3 should be October 16th and 18th

Vote unanimously in favor.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No comments

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

K. Lessard will update the Board on challenges facing the district to hire Para Professionals, custodians and bus drivers.

K. Lessard: Currently we are short seven (7) bus drivers. In order to fill those shortages we are required to double up on our routes. We are borrowing from Londonderry and Weare terminal for drivers. It has been a difficult start of the school year and we are having difficulty meeting the needs of the sports activities. The bus company is training now and will have some drivers ready in October. The tests for licensing are getting more restrictive. Tomorrow we will put out a blurb on the website stating how we are addressing the shortage. There is a State task force to address the issues. The other issue is if someone calls in sick or is out, the bus company sends a notice to the Principal and the notice goes out on Bright Arrow. There is also a problem in Derry at the traffic circle causing delays.

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If someone is interested in driving, the bus company will get you trained and get you a CDL license. The bus company will underwrite the cost of training and will pay you while you are being trained. Anyone interested can contact the bus company directly or the SAU office at 622-3731. A flyer will also go out with all the information. The Bus Company's direct number is 222-2248.

M. Benson: Last spring, we started paying certified teachers to give up a prep time to teach in the absence of another teacher. This way we have a certified teacher in all classrooms. It is voluntary. Each teacher can do one period a day.

Steve Harris: We are following the same format and we just started doing it this month. We have certified teacher covering during their prep time. It is a win-win. There will still be some vacancies but it will alleviate that.

Dr. Littlefield: The elementary is a little different and we just did an experiment last week.

Ben Loi: I will learn through the Memorial School experience. At the elementary school, we don't have the set periods like at the middle school. We don't have periods and it doesn't line up as nicely.

PRESENTATION-FACILITIES

Ray Gagnon gave a PowerPoint presentation on the school facilities.

REPORTS

Reports of Standing Committee

K. Salvas: Strategic Planning Committee meeting is schedule the same night as the SAU meeting.

J. Sullivan stated there is an upcoming policy meeting on Thursday based on State changes.

FINANCE

Review of Manifest and Action Relating Thereto

K. Salvas motioned to approve the September 18, 2018 manifest in the amount of \$1,050,740.10. Seconded by A. Gianunzio.

Vote unanimously in favor

Budget Adjustments*

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the budget adjustments for September 18, 2018 in the amount of \$84,673. Seconded by L. Laliberte.

Vote unanimously in favor

PERSONNEL

No action

OLD BUSINESS

Goals

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Dr. Littlefield: We had a meeting today to decide who would be responsible for specific goals. The first meeting in November you will see significant movement on the goals. In addressing one of the goals, Dan Roma has begun cleaning up the server room. Many of the goals are associated with Technology.

School Board Vacancy-Interview/Appointment

Mike Somers, 64 Auburn Road: I have lived in Hooksett since 2005. I have a child in Cawley and on at Pinkerton. I am looking to give back to the community.

J. Sullivan: What can you bring to the Board?

Mike Somers: I don't know but I willing to learn. I spend a fair amount of time in Concord and at the State House. I have been around Boards and budget processes and am willing to contribute.

J. Sullivan: The commitment is beyond 2 meetings a month with upcoming Superintendent nominations and SAU meetings?

Mike Somers: I believe with meetings in the evening I can make that work.

J. Sullivan: Are there things from your perspective as a parent that you are looking to discuss or add to our goals.

Mike Somers: I don't have any suggestions for new goals and I'm sure you have plenty. I would say my Son enjoyed his time in the Hooksett school system and my daughter is enjoying her time in the school.

P. Denbow: We spent a lot of time as a board trying to get full day kindergarten passed. What are your views on full day kindergarten?

Mike Somers: Not knowing the numbers, I am somewhat agnostic on that issue. I do know that Keno is raising funds and we would have that available to us.

P. Denbow: We do use Roberts Rules but we are a Board that works well together. We are not a polarizing board and we are very casual.

Mike Somers: I have served on boards that I have had disagreements but at the end of the day there is nothing to be gained by a contentious board. I prefer to work that way.

Jeff Myers: I teach at SNH. I have 2nd and 4th grade students in the school system and have been in Hooksett since 2010. I was head of the PTA at St. Catherine's and was an active volunteer. I coach quite a bit. I work in IT so I can bring that knowledge to the Board. Two (2) things I notices in the first 2 weeks in the school were at the "welcome" I saw buckets in the halls for rain. That is one of my first experiences. Also the sign up for the after school care came out with one day notice.

With regard to Kindergarten, my kids went to all day kindergarten; one to the Jewish Federation which was a positive experience and one at St. Catherine's which was just a glorified daycare.

I feel getting a foundation at Underhill is crucial. I do coach on some nights so I will have to juggle those schedules. There are boards that disagree and different experiences bring different ways. I feel whatever it takes to give the kids the best opportunity.

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Tonight was the last night of the semester at SNHU. Next semester will not impact my ability to attend these meetings. Each semester I have the opportunity to select the classes I want to teach. I heard about this from the PTA and I'm not one to sit on the sidelines. I'm one to get involved. I am a program manager so I deal with IT, communication, executive management, budgeting and getting people to work together.

The Board voted to Appoint Mike Somers to the Hooksett School as a member with a term to expire in 2019 by a vote of 4:1.

NEW BUSINESS

Pinkerton Academy Enrollment Requirements

Parents of 8th graders are concerned that if they choose an MOU and the minimum at Pinkerton is not met, what would be the consequences?

Dr. Littlefield: We have a limited choice program for has selection. Relative to Pinkerton, we have a state approved tuition agreement with Pinkerton. Pinkerton was concerned when we entered that contract that they needed to be able to predict their enrollment overtime. They wanted their population to be predictable so this is what we agreed upon. Each year we would calculate the percentage of our 8th grade students who chose Pinkerton as a public school. It is the 8th grade transition into 9th grade and only includes those students going to public school (excluding those choosing for example Trinity) and it's the number that attend Pinkerton divided by the total number of public school students. That number becomes the question. So we have used the official enrollment numbers which are October 1st numbers to do that calculation. This is how it works. The first set of our 8th graders selected Pinkerton in 2015. They entered HS for the 2016-17 year. On Oct. 1st 2016 we made that calculation. That percentage of 8th grade making the transition are at Pinkerton. In 2016 student chose for the 2017-18 school year and made that calculation on October 1st of 2017. That calculation was agreed upon. Griffin and I went over the data together and we agreed what the percentage was for year 1 (2016-17) and the percentage for year 2 (2017-18). A year ago in Sept of 2017 our 8th grader made choices for the 2018-19 year (this year). On Oct 1st we will calculate based on official enrollment data what percentage are attending Pinkerton. We will then take the percentage for year 1, 2, and 3 and come up with an average. I met with the new Head Master and based on what I presented he agrees on those numbers and agrees on the process we will use to calculate this new number. Becki McCarthy is working with the registrar at Pinkerton to get ready to make that calculation. I will report that number to the Board. When that provision was agreed to, I was at the table as was Gordon Graham. At that time the Board had a lot of discussion about what that means. It means that the students selecting now for 19-20 school year, we need to guarantee to Pinkerton a minimum of that average percentage. We believe that is doable but we won't know if we met it until October of 2019. When that was discussed and agreed by the School Board, it was discussed what that means. It was the Board's understanding that if we didn't meet that percentage, that there would be a financial penalty and we would have to effectively buy spots. The Board didn't feel there was a very high risk of that happening. During that discussion, my understanding was it would have no impact on the kids or their choice for High School. I believe that Matt Benson explained this process at parent's nights.

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*K. Salvas motioned to accept Dr. Littlefield's explanation from the September 18th meeting regarding the Pinkerton enrollment contract language to be the stand of the Hooksett School Board. Seconded by L. Laliberte
Vote unanimously in favor.*

Voting in Schools

K. Salvas: It was great to see so many people coming to vote but the parking lot was a disaster. There should be police officers doing that. There should also be police officers at the cafeteria as well and if we can't do that we need to have a different entrance. We need to address this before the election in November.

M. Benson: In the past I have worked with Don Riley and it dates back to the Presidential Election. We had a police officer from the town set up traffic pattern. The school resource officer is the only officer in the building. Anytime I had an issue I talked with Todd and he sensed my frustration. It is very stressful for the staff. It is a difficult situation with kids and staff in the building.

Dr. Littlefield: I think you and I should meet with Todd. We would like to see the secondary access opened which will cut down the traffic. In today's day and age, one officer is not enough and we need an officer in the building at the door as well as outside to enforce election laws and not Matt Benson which led to confrontation that the Principal should not be dealing with. It would be best not to have school but if there are 4 elections, we can't cancel 4 days of school.

J. Sullivan: Mr. Rainier did come to Council and state there were issues to be resolved.

SNHU Partnership

Dr. Littlefield: One of our goals states: Maintain the SNHU partnership and expand to meet our needs as a program. Since we are only 3-4 weeks into the school year, we haven't done a lot on that. There is no partnership agreement with SNHU. The relationship is a loosely coupled relationship with initiatives that take place throughout the school district. It makes some sense to enhance communication between the School District and SNHU. The goal is to form some sort of partnership agreement. Possibly we can have each Principal talk about the partnership initiatives with SNHU in their building.

Matt Benson, Cawley – There is a student teacher in 7th grade social studies. We are having a class of 2-3 students for methods math. Those students will be involved with 8th grade and 6th grade math. It is a benefit for us because they can individualize learning. There are also 4 students that will start observing classes.

Steve HARRIS, Memorial – We have similar experience as Mr. Benson. We have several interns working with our veteran teachers several hours a week. We have a student teacher in the building this fall which is going very well. In the spring, one of our interns will be student teaching.

Ben Loi, Underhill – There are three undergraduate courses being taught by SNHU faculty in our building. The courses are Early Literacy, Early Math and the Inclusive Classroom. They also do observation as well as participants in the learning process. The SNHU faculty are present in the building.

L. Laliberte: Undergraduate courses are taught at Underhill which includes 31 SNHU students? Where are they located?

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Ben Loi: Yes they are located at the center of building close to the classrooms as a multi-purpose space. Down the road that will change as a result of the building project.

L. Laliberte: These SNHU students, are they background checked?

Dr. Littlefield: They are like any of the interns present in our school. Anyone who is unsupervised with our kids gets a background check.

K. Salvas: Is there an opt out for teachers if they don't feel they want this in their classroom

Ben Loi: I am reviewing this and have not yet made a decision.

L. Laliberte: I am concerned that we didn't know there were 40 plus students (SNHU) in our schools. Going forward, I think it is a good idea but I am concerned about our teachers if we are doing this last minute.

A. Gianunzio: I read a few studies from review journals and the effectiveness of student teachers. There is a lot of clarification needed but there are a lot of the positives which we talked about. How often or why would teachers say no to such a program? I don't understand as a teacher why you wouldn't want another student to mentor.

K. Salvas: It is only September and teachers may have a lot of things going on and some people like to have time to prepare. The teachers should be given the time to prepare and the option to opt out. They are just getting to know their students and their needs.

P. Denbow: We need to let the Principals deal with their building and stay at our level.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No comments

ADJOURNMENT

***K. Salvas motioned to adjourn. Seconded by L. Laliberte.
Vote unanimously in favor.***

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hooksett School Board is **Tuesday, October 2, 2018.**

The Board will meet for a Budget Workshop on October 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center. The Board meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m.

There will be an SAU Board meeting at the Auburn Village School Media Center on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.