

Approved

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, November 17, 2020 6:00 p.m.
David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center**

CALL TO ORDER

Phil Denbow, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

Chair Phil Denbow, Jillian Godbout, Wayne Goertel, Greg Martakos, Lindsay Laliberte, and Kara Salvas

Staff: William Rearick, Superintendent, Marge Polak, Assistant Superintendent, Principals Ben Loi, Matt Benson, Steve HARRISES, Christine GIALOUSIS, and Dean Farmer.

PROOF OF POSTING

William Rearick, Superintendent of Schools provided proof of posting

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Phil Denbow opened the public hearing to accept funds for Supplemental Public School Response Funds at 6:05 pm.

MINUTES

Approval of October 20, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

K. Salvas motioned to approve the minutes of October 20,2020 as presented. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

Approval of Non-Public (Sealed) Minutes on October 20, 2020

K. Salvas motioned to approve the Non-Public minutes of October 20,2020 as presented. Seconded by J. Godbout.

Vote unanimously in favor

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Cindy Woodward, 8 Saw Hill Road spoke of her concerns regarding the change to remote learning over the holidays. She agreed that there should be remote for a period of time but felt that from Thanksgiving to the 15th of January is too long a period. She was concerned with parents just getting back to work and particularly single parents that have to work. She also mentioned that some students are concerned with their grades. She also stated that it would have been helpful if the Board had taken public input prior to making the decision and asked that the Board reconsider their decision.

Melissa Auger, 5 Crawford Lane stated that she doesn't know when the survey went out. She works at Dartmouth and has changes in schedules because they are essential workers. Teachers do not want to go remote and the consequences of traveling over the holidays would impact that. Studies have been done which show .13% infection rate in schools. Schools are the safest places for students. They wear masks, social distance and they have been doing it. To ask them to go remote is not fair. My daughter is in Kindergarten and she scored below average on all tasks. All these venues are open and schools should not be the first to close. We had a couple of cases at Underhill with no long-term effects. Take this into consideration and stay open until Christmas.

Amy Mercier, 35 Goffstown Road: Because this is emotional, it is difficult. She read a statement urging the School Board to reconsider their decision to go remote after Thanksgiving.

Michael Dullon, 6 Prescott Heights spoke in favor of going remote during the holidays. He stated that people will continue to travel, and cases will continue to rise.

G. Martakos motioned to reconsider the vote of November 9th to go remote from November 30th to January 15, 2021. Seconded by Wayne Goertel.

P. Denbow read a statement submitted by School Board member Jim Sullivan which states that based on new information he would be in favor of a shorter remote period. If there is no change in the current decision to go remote, he would recommend restricting sports as well.

W. Rearick stated that for clarification, travel outside of New England requires a 7-day quarantine and a test. That test can take up to 3-5 days to get results which is close to 2 weeks.

W. Rearick stated that he reached out to the Union President for data from the teacher's survey on 11/3 and asked for information regarding travel by teachers. Knowing which schools would be impacted could limit closures. It would be anonymous. He was told that the information was confidential therefore they have no way of knowing where the numbers will be.

K. Salvas read a message from Facebook from Ashley Liabis. She asked for reconsideration of the remote learning.

K. Salvas: I support remote learning. We don't know the conditions or level of concern. We were trying to be proactive so parents would have time to plan. This is a year for contingency plan and we all knew a shutdown could happen at any point.

W. Goertel: I opposed the 28-day remote learning change. I think 10 days after Christmas with 8 days of Christmas break is too long. People can be cautious with Thanksgiving break. I think the decision went too far. More people want to transition from remote to in-person learning now.

L. Laliberte stated that she supports switching to remote learning. Parent concerns for instructional time and learning are valid. Last Spring, it was difficult. This time it will be planned out and will be a full day of instruction.

J. Godbout stated that she stands by her vote of last week against remote learning. Kids need live instruction, and many will be home alone. Parents can't quit their jobs and we have a lot of foster kids and single parents. If parents can afford it, they can put their kids in daycare but many

cannot afford it. It isn't practical. Understanding staffing may be difficult, would prefer to see a compromise for only half the time.

P. Denbow: We did tell everyone to be ready for any scenario. We tried our best to keep kids in school. In the Spring, we were ahead of other districts. We had a teacher come back positive for COVID-19 today and we will decide what we will do tomorrow. Last week I was on the fence and my big thing is I was worried about what would happen on the Monday after Thanksgiving. If people accept that the Monday after Thanksgiving could be a nightmare, I am in favor of staying in school until Christmas break.

W. Rearick: We all know that in-person instruction is best. Operationally, the Monday after Thanksgiving is the issue. Ideally, we've been planning since last March to make this work. From the outside, it may look easy, but we are scrambling to make it work. The numbers are going up and we already have teachers out remotely. We are not at full staff. We need to look at the trends. If we don't do anything, we will have a mess. The best way is to be remote is the 2 weeks after Thanksgiving and 2 weeks after Christmas break.

G. Martakos: We have done a great job in the district. We have had nine (9) cases. We are choosing to take 27 days off which is 7 weeks. That is a lot of time. We need to consider the mental health of parents and students during the holidays which are already stressful for many and now they will be teaching at home.

P. Denbow recommending doing one (1) week after Thanksgiving and two (2) weeks after Christmas.

L. Laliberte: If we say one (1) week it will roll into two (2) weeks with testing sites being so busy. I don't think it will matter.

J. Godbout: This issue was brought to the Auburn Board and they voted it down. Are they in a better position than we are?

W. Rearick: They will only have three (3) teachers traveling and left the decision to me to shut down if necessary and will revisit the issue at Christmas.

G. Martakos: We are talking about shutting the whole district down because of 11 teachers. I personally sent an email to the teacher's union and it was not a reflection on the teachers.

Vote to rescind motion.

5:1 motion carried

G. Martakos motion that the Hooksett School District switch to remote learning from November 30, 2020 to December 4, 2020. Seconded by W. Goertel

Vote 4:2 motion carried

G. Martakos motion that the Hooksett School District switch to remote learning from January 1, 2021 to January 15, 2021. Seconded by W. Goertel

Vote 6:0 motion carried unanimously

Snow Days

W. Rearick: Will students be taught remotely on snow days or will we follow the current procedure.

J. Godbout questioned what would happen if there were a power outage and teachers don't have internet.

W. Rearick stated in that case there would be a snow day.

K. Salvas stated that it should be kept as snow days for 5 days.

P. Denbow stated the Board supports continuing with traditional snow days for 5 days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES*- Bill Rearick

The Superintendents met with Pinkerton in October and November. They will be remote until Christmas.

There was a meeting with the Principals today where they discussed COVID. The State is doing less contact tracing but they will do contact tracing for kids.

HESPA negotiations are ongoing.

Working on MOU for distance learning and snow days.

REPORTS

Reports of Administrators

Provided to the Board in their packet.

Reports of Sub-Committees

FINANCE

Approval of Supplemental Public School Response Fund

The School District received \$380,200- COVID

Reimbursing the district for the following:

Cleaning Services

LNAs

Substitute for employees/ADA compliance

Additional technology

PPE Supplies

Other maintenance supplies

Food Service supplies

This money needs to be spent by December 30th, 2020.

Amy Ransom read a letter from the Food Service Director regarding Free Meals.

BUDGET

Amy Ransom stated that the Health Care rates have increased 6.2% and 0 for dental. This information was provided to the Budget Committee. The budget was estimated at 10% resulting in a decrease of \$118,464.

Pinkerton rates will not be available until December.

K. Salvas motioned to approve the revised Hooksett School District Budget for 2021-2022 in the amount of \$35,898,352. Seconded by L. Laliberte.

Vote 6:0 motion carried unanimously

L. Laliberte stated for clarification, any questions regarding the availability of chrome books at Memorial should be directed to the Principal.

L. Laliberte motioned to accept the Supplemental Public School Response Funds in the amount of \$380,200. Seconded by K. Salvas.

Vote 6:0 motion carried unanimously

Manifest Approval

W. Goertel motioned to approve the November 17th, 2020 manifest in the amount of \$2,753,303.28. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote 6:0 motion carried unanimously

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

P. Denbow declared the public hearing closed.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Use

PTA - request

The PTA requested the use of the Cawley School for a “Drive-by” Christmas Event on December 5th, 2020 from 5pm to 7 pm.

W. Goertel motioned to approve the request from the PTA for the use of the Cawley School for a Holiday event. Seconded by L. Laliberte.

Vote 6:0 carried unanimously in favor

Scott Evans – request

Scott Evans, 69 Main Street asked the Board to consider allowing the use of gym on Saturdays for basketball for student that currently attend Cawley. Students that do not attend Cawley cannot attend. This will be for 2 hours and no parents will be allowed in the building. Children will be checked at the door for temperature and will be required to wear masks at all times except while playing. This does not involve many students and with remote learning it is important that kids exercise. Approval from the Board is being sought before all the leg work is done.

P. Denbow asked Mr. Farmer how this would affect cleaning.

D. Farmer: I think we can work with Scott and get someone in on Saturday to clean. I’m not opposed to Saturday. It would be difficult if this were at night.

W. Rearick reminded the Board that HYAA may make similar requests in the future.

Scott Evans stated that the HYAA basketball program will begin on January 8th, 2021 at which time this use would stop. The insurance binder will go through HYAA.

This isn’t a travel program. This will just be Cawley kids. The same kids that are here now.

Mr. Evans was directed to submit his request though the SAU office.

Substitute Pay

The Board discussed the benefit of increasing the substitute teacher pay \$10 without the requirement of 20 days of service.

G. Martakos motioned to eliminate the 20 days for \$10 increase and increase the substitute pay rate to \$90 for non-certified and \$100 for certified teachers effective November 23, 2020. Seconded by W. Goertel.

K. Salvas stated that the incentive is important and would like to decrease the days from 20 to 10.

J. Godbout was concerned with the equity for Para Professionals who also often substitute in classrooms.

Vote 3:3 motion fails.

NEW BUSINESS

Goals

M. Polak reported that there were two (2) changes

1. Budget is available in electronic format - complete
2. Full Day Pilot Kindergarten- complete

W. Goertel asked that the Budget be placed on the school's website. A. Ransom to follow up.

M. Polak stated that is currently on the website under documents.

New Hire Coversheet –Discussion (W. Goertel)

W. Rearick: Back-up on new hires is not provided because it contains private information.

Winter Sports –Discussion

M. Benson along with the athletic director congratulated students, coaches, and referees involved in fall sports. There were 90 participating athletes of which all had nearly perfect attendance. There were two (2) championships; Cross-country and Boys Soccer and two (2) runner ups; Field Hockey and Girl's Soccer.

Tri-County has approved Winter Sports practice to begin December 14th with games to begin January 11th. Protocol will be followed for Basketball with access limited to players, coaches, officials and 2 adults per player. No fans will be allowed.

Cheer would be for competition only and not during games.

K. Salvas motioned to approve winter sports at Cawley as presented. Seconded by G. Martakos. Vote 6:0 motion carried unanimously

Superintendent's Nomination

G. Martakos motioned to approve the Superintendent's nomination of Melissa Tanquay as 6th grade math teacher. Seconded by L. Laliberte.

Vote 6:0 motion carried unanimously

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No comments

ADJOURNMENT

*K. Salvas motioned to adjourn. Seconded by G. Martakos.
Vote 6:0 motion carried unanimously in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hooksett School Board is Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.