

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – October 20, 2020

Approved

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, October 20, 2020 David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROOF OF POSTING

William Rearick, Superintendent of Schools provided proof of posting.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: William Rearick, Superintendent, Marge Polak, Assistant Superintendent, Amy Ransom, Business Administrator, Principals Ben Loi, Matt Benson, and Steve HARRISES, and Dean Farmer, Maintenance Director Dean Farmer.

MINUTES

Approval of September 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

W. Goertel motioned to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020 as amended. Seconded by J. Godbout.

Vote unanimously in favor

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATES- Bill Rearick

Re-entry to School Update – Discussion

They have been very busy with COVID tracking and following DHHS guidelines. Teachers have done an outstanding job dealing with students that have been quarantined. The Principals have been outstanding as well. We planned for these changes over the summer and we have become more efficient with contact tracing. In the summer when we approved a re-entry plan we said if we have a case we will close from 2-5 days. That was our best estimate. We now believe we can do it much faster. Depending on when we receive notification it is possible we will need a day in order to have time to do the contact tracing. I am asking the Board to change the language on the re-entry plan to reflect what we are able to do now. Change the language “In the event of a confirmed case, we may have to close the school”.

Update on Health and Safety Protocols

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, school buildings and/or a portion thereof may be closed for a period determined by the Superintendent working with DHHS.

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K. Salvas motioned to change the wording to read “If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, school buildings and/or a portion thereof may be closed for a period determined by the Superintendent working with DHHS.” Seconded by L. Laliberte. Vote unanimously in favor

G. Martakos: These delays and procedures are dictated by the State.

W. Rearick: In the summer we surveyed our parents to see if they wanted in person or remote, we also said we would re-survey our parents not only to see how the process went but also to see if they would like to shift their learning. In talking to the Principals in the whole SAU, we are concerned if we do that again and allow for open enrollment and result in significant movement, we are concerned we will not have the necessary teachers. What I would like to do is an “Interest Survey” to gauge their interest to see if they would like to move.

L. Laliberte stated that she likes the idea of a survey even if it is not for open enrollment.

K.. Salvas stated the parents made a selection with the understanding that at the end of the trimester they could make a different choice. It would be disingenuous of us to not follow through on what we said we were going to do. However, it doesn't necessarily have to be an open enrollment. It could be an opt in or opt out on the part of the parents. So instead of the district soliciting the information, if we made one blanket statement; if by this deadline date, if you were looking to make a switch, you notify the principal and we will do our best. I don't think we can do nothing.

W. Rearick: We have been taking them on a case by case and they have been valid reasons and we have been accommodating.

J. Sullivan: When does the first trimester end?

W. Rearick: December 1st.

J. Sullivan: I think we should leave it the way it is now. If someone is remotely learning, they can come back after December 1st?

W. Rearick: If you would like to make a change, and if there is space we will accommodate the change.

J. Godbout: In the media, there has been a lot of discussion about the fact that we will be asking. I think we need to send a survey and I think we should do it ahead of time so if it is a large shift, we have time. People think we are asking.

G. Martakos: If there is a large number that shift, possibly we would have to do what we do for high school and do a lottery.

W. Rearick: I just want to make it clear that this is not a guarantee.

K. Salvas: At Cawley they are doing a live stream? Why can't we do that at the other schools.

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If there is a child in a classroom and wants to be remote and there are not additional remote teachers, why can't they remote into their classroom.

W. Rearick: We are working on that but our K-5 teachers are not as seasoned in doing that. A lot of teachers are having a lot of anxiety in doing this. Teachers are being asked to do a lot. It takes time and we are looking at it. We are doing it now for quarantine.

J. Godbout: As the holidays approach, teachers are going to want to see their families. Many are out of state. Have we thought of any flexibility with regard to this?

W. Rearick: Some districts are talking about adding 2 weeks of remote learning after the holidays. It may not be a bad thing during cold and flu season. We can't tell people they can't go see their family. However if you go out of state, according to the State, you must quarantine.

L. Laliberte: If we consider this for Christmas we should consider this for Thanksgiving which is the biggest travel holiday. Also, we need to look at this as a business and if other businesses are requiring you to not travel or to quarantine, we should do the same.

The Board will consider the 2 week break and discuss at the next meeting.

REPORTS

Reports of Administrators

Reports of Sub-Committees

Budget Committee – K. Salvias reported that the Budget Committee has been meeting to review the Municipal Budget. The School District budget will be submitted by November 6th or earlier if possible. If anyone is interested in attending, the meetings are at the Hooksett Town Offices. Town Hall protocols are not required to have masks or social distancing but strongly encouraged. That is not happening at the Budget Committee meetings. I am zooming in along with the majority of the members. People are attending and presenting. They have been notified that the School will be presenting virtually. If you would like to go, you certainly can go but if you are looking for us to be there, we will be on zoom. You can watch live stream but the issue is public input which they are looking to address. The zoom links are only to the committee members. You can email me and I can read it into the record.

FINANCE

Manifest Approval/Financial Report

W. Goertel motioned to approve the October 20, 2020 manifest in the amount of \$758,647.11. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

G. Martakos motioned to approve the October 1, 2020 manifest in the amount of \$1,560,608.70. Seconded by J. Godbout.

Vote unanimously in favor

OLD BUSINESS

Bus Passes-Discussion

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W. Rearick: At our last meeting, we kicked this back to the policy subcommittee. Our attorneys said our liability will increase if we let other people on the bus that were not our kids. I reported that back to the committee.

M. Polak stated that because we knew the bus pass would come up tonight, we decided to look at getting our own bus pass. The whole process from entering the information to getting the card in an email took less than 10 minutes. It does not look like it is a difficult process.

W. Rearick suggested sending a letter home to 8th grade parents explaining the bus pass process and we will create a link from the website.

K. Salvas suggested moving from My School Bus to the Transportation tab.

W. Rearick: We can send another reminder to students in August.

K. Salvas: I think the only option should be to have on your phone so there will be no losing the pass.

Use of Facilities-Discussion

W. Rearick: For athletics, basketball won't start until December. HYAA president reached out and stated they would not be looking at starting until January.

We have our own athletic teams and the procedures we will require. And then there is the town side.

J. Godbout asked the Board to make a decision on use of facilities so organizations and people can plan.

J. Sullivan: If cleaning can be addressed to insure the school is clean for school, then we can look at it. Possibly we could limit use to one school and what is the impact on the regular school day.

W. Rearick: There are laws. If you open your school for activities, you cannot pick and choose who you allow. We now have New Mornings and they are the only organization allowed.

What is our philosophy as a district, to do everything possibly to minimize risk or do we want to allow use.

G. Martakos motioned to approve the use of outside organizations beyond New Mornings. Seconded by W. Goertel.

W. Goertel: I feel like we are treating sports different than other uses. I think Scouts is a poster child for this. We've got kids in an age based that group that should remain at Underhill. If we pick and choose a few nights to impact and allow a specific number of spots. I think we should try to do something.

L. Laliberte: We have school sports and school groups still meeting. This is specifically for outside groups

D. Farmer: We do have the cleaning company in now. They come in between 5 and 7:30 to clean in the morning. They have some flexibility. From 7:30 on we can do the sanitizing and

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disinfecting and all three buildings are being done during this time. We can certainly clean some rooms first. It wouldn't be easier to just one building. I would have to shift personnel around if we do that. The buildings do get used a lot.

Vote unanimously opposed. Motion failed

G. Martakos motioned to allow outside activities on a case by case scenario that is approved by the Business Administrator for the outdoors of the schools. Seconded by W. Goertel.

Vote unanimously in favor

Ratification of Poll Vote (PTA Halloween)

K. Salvas to ratify the four (4) poll votes which occurred via email on for the PTA event that occurred last Saturday, October 17th. Seconded by J. Godbout.

Vote unanimously in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Goals

W. Rearick stated a change to online and remote learning.

Unified Arts-Cawley -Discussion

W. Rearick: We cannot offer this online because we don't have enough teachers.

W. Goertel: I was curious if there was a chance we can tweak that?

W. Rearick: We would have to have a significant shift from in person to remote learning.

J. Godbout: Have we looked at any resources in the community. This is a huge part of educations. Is there any partnerships we could do. How do we ensure when they come back there isn't a major gap in these areas?

W. Rearick: With regard to the PE component, we already have teachers planning for in-person. We can't ask them to do another remote class. I don't know if there are outside partnerships.

Pinkerton Academy Deadlines

W. Rearick: When the contract with Pinkerton open up, Hooksett is with regard to the three (3) communities. You have until June 30th of this year if you want to engage with them and ask for any changes in the contract.

K. Salvas: We may want to designate a couple School Board members to negotiate and represent Hooksett.

W. Goertel volunteered to represent the Board.

J. Sullivan suggested when we get the tuition rates should be negotiated.

G. Martakos requested a copy of the contract for the Board.

PERSONNEL

Notification of Retirements

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J. Sullivan motioned to accept with appreciation and gratitude for the their service the retirement of Carla Gallivan and Jonathan Frazier. Seconded by **G. Martakos**.
Vote unanimously in favor.

Resignation

J. Sullivan motioned to accept the resignation of Laura Piccolo. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

Superintendent's Nomination

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the nomination of Jennifer Malone as a 6th grade Language Arts teacher. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No comments.

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

G. Martakos motioned to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:E Section II (c) Seconded by K. Salvas.

Roll Call

J. Sullivan	Yes
K. Salvas	Yes
G. Martakos	Yes
J. Godbout	Yes
W. Goertel	Yes
L. Laliberte	Yes
P. Denbow	Yes

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hooksett School Board is Tuesday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.

The SAU #15 Board will meet on Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 6:30 pm. This meeting will be remote via Zoom.