

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD REMOTE MEETING – November 9, 2020

Approved

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD REMOTE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, November 9, 2020 – 6:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

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

P. Denbow read a legal statement relative to remote meetings during COVID-19.

Pledge of Allegiance

PROOF OF POSTING

William Rearick provided proof of posting.

ATTENDANCE (ZOOM)- Roll Call

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Calendar Discussion

L. Laliberte motioned to Hooksett Schools to change to remote learning starting Monday 11/30/2020 through 1/15/2021. Seconded by G. Martakos.

L. Laliberte stated that based on what families and staff will be doing over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays it would be best to teach remotely. Families and staff will be traveling to other unapproved states as well as people visiting. People will be expanding their bubble. Families need to be with families. We can discourage it but we need to address it.

G. Martakos stated that he has seen other districts doing the same. It will get worse as we enter flu season. By making the decision now, we are giving parents a few weeks to plan.

J. Godbout requested input from the three (3) principals.

W. Rearick, Superintendent: I spoke with the union membership about their travel plans over the holidays. Out of the 65% responding 11% are traveling at Thanksgiving and 21% at Christmas. Those numbers combined with DHHS website numbers going is concerning. If those numbers hold, based on what we are looking at, it will be a struggle to keep schools open. If we do close, we need to know what to do with custodial staff and food service workers.

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Matt Benson, Cawley Principal: Staff and students have done a great over the past months and in school instruction is best. In looking at the numbers to transition back to in person learning it appears that parents want their kids in school.

Steve HARRIS, Memorial Principal: I agree but it may be a challenge with staffing. Every day is challenge now.

B. Rearick: As we get into flu season, we will have more staff out with sickness and testing which is now taking 3-5 days to get the results. If we stay the course, we might find ourselves scrambling on November 30th to cover classes.

B. Loi: From an instructional standpoint, kids have adjusted well with wearing masks and teachers have worked hard to follow protocol. Staffing is a concern. We are already very thin and have reservations with the holidays. We can't control where people go.

K. Salvas: I agree with Lindsay. our teachers are incredible pressure as well as their own health concerns. If we can eliminate that concern, it takes one variable away. Are we prepared with technology to support this remote learning change? Are we prepared to support our Special Ed kids? Can we extend winter sports?

W. Rearick: Winter sports is on the next agenda. They have requested practices starting in December for January. We can do sports even if we are teaching remotely.

C. Gialousis: We would have to bring some kids into school. Some students can do remote, some will have difficulty and need support, and some will not be able to do remote no matter how much support is provided.

W. Rearick: We have been doing ongoing training for teachers and can make the transition. We have been ready to go remote since we opened.

K. Salvas: For younger students, will there be some flexibility with remote learning for parents that need help?

B. Loi: Yes, we will work with our families. We can be flexible with families. They will need to reach out to us. The core lessons that are most essential will be recorded and all assignments will be on Seesaw.

W. Goertel: This means students are out 28 days. I'm having trouble with 18 days out after winter break. Parents who signed up for in-person learning have been happy with the protocols. Parents are now working.

J. Sullivan: Based on the numbers, there will be more staffing issues after Thanksgiving. It is a balance between remote and in-person. I lean towards remote.

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P. Denbow: I think it has gone really well so far. I was thinking more like Wayne; maybe we don't take a break after Thanksgiving and go remote after Christmas and be prepared if things are bad.

W. Rearick: My only concern is staff. We are on the edge now working day to day. We don't have enough subs. It might calm everything down if teachers know this is the plan for five (5) weeks.

L. Laliberte: Not only are we concerned with travel and quarantine, but all it takes is someone coming back with COVID. Then it could be weeks before they can return. It is more responsible to pre-plan and limit exposure. Just to bring them back because it is 28 days....not all of NH is doing great and people will be traveling.

Roll Call Vote

<i>L. Laliberte</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>W. Goertel</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>J. Sullivan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>G. Martakos</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>K. Salvas</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>J. Sullivan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>J. Godbout</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>P. Denbow</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Vote 5:2 motion carried

W. Rearick will send a letter to staff and parents and will share the draft with the Board.

W. Rearick will discuss custodial staffing with Dean Farmer and they will continue to need kitchen staff to provide some meals for students.

W. Rearick stated that they will discuss snow days at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

G. Martakos motioned to adjourn at 7:00pm. Seconded by W. Goertel.

Roll Call

<i>Chair Phil Denbow</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Jillian Godbout</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kara Salvas</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Wayne Goertel</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Lindsay Laliberte</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Greg Martakos</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Jim Sullivan</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Vote unanimously in favor

Respectfully submitted,

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Lee Ann Moynihan