



School Tours

Since our March meeting, five of the Hooksett School Board members were able to tour two or three of Hooksett's schools, guided by administration. Although some Board Members get to the schools for student pick-up or drop-off, visiting with their children's teachers, or even after-hours for events like Cub Scouts, it was an incredibly useful experience to walk the buildings and grounds with class in session. We appreciate everyone who took us on a tour, let us in their classroom, and engaged us in conversation.

I was impressed with the level of detail provided on my tours, providing additional context to many of the topics we discuss at Board meetings. It was good to visit some classes, look at playgrounds and structures, and talk about instruction, technology, staffing, supplies, and budgets.

Here are some comments that colleagues shared after the tours.

Jillian Godbout: I was impressed with the cleanliness of the three schools. I found each room I visited, students were engaged and learning. Loved to see a lot of small group instruction happening. A number of teachers were out, but on the days I visited the classroom appeared to be well covered. I was able to witness the 8th grade students putting the last final touches on their Addam's Family musical which was a joy to watch.

Amy Tremblay: The buildings look great. Student work is prominently displayed, and each grade shows their celebration of student achievement. In classes, students and staff were focused, welcoming and eager to show their learning to visitors.

Jason Hyde: I was happy to see the kindergarten plan coming together at Underhill. I also enjoyed seeing the woodshop and home economics classrooms working on the Addams Family musical which was a great time.

Alexis Quinlan: I was so happy to see the kids working together in small groups and helping each other in their schoolwork. Seeing students utilizing things like wobble chairs in the classroom to help them stay focused on their lesson was really nice, we're extremely fortunate in the resources we have available in Hooksett so to see classrooms all over the school with those resources being utilized was great! The staff was extremely friendly and helpful with questions.

There are some opportunities for improvements, too. Underhill's playground needs some work, and could use more age-appropriate play equipment. There are staffing challenges. Lunch lines are sometimes long. All Board Members had ideas for budgeting and supplies allocation.

To the Hooksett School District employees and supporters, thank you for your commitment to our students.



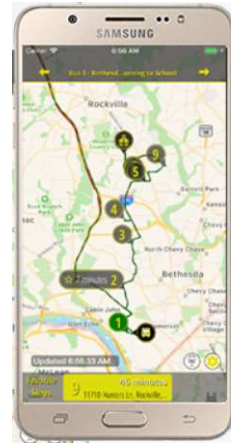
BusWhere School Bus Software Pilot

As many families know, school bus scheduling has been a challenge this school year. Like many industries, busing has been impacted by a shortage of qualified, interested employees. Tight staffing complicates routing when bus drivers call out sick. School administration has revised bus routing, though we're waiting for those new routes to come online. My son's bus is one of the most frequently delayed routes, having had over thirty delays so far just in 2022.

In 2022, it seems a reasonable expectation that school administrators and parents know where the bus is, especially when it's not on schedule. Coincidentally, my current vocation is developing software for the transportation industry, providing telematics support for trucking fleets across the country. I researched solutions in the busing industry, and narrowed these down to two candidates who gave sales demos to our Principals, Superintendent, and myself.

We were most impressed with BusWhere, which tracks buses in real-time via GPS, provides exact location to administrators, and provides a smartphone application allowing parents to see their bus routes and notifies them of route status and the anticipated arrival time to their stop.

We're partnering with our bus provider, Student Transportation of America, for a BusWhere pilot on three of our most beleaguered routes in May. Once we setup the routes and verify a few days of operation, we expect we'll be able to invite parents to sign up with the smartphone application. If the BusWhere pilot is as successful as we hope it will be, there may be an opportunity to extend the service to more routes for 2022-23.



Looking long term, the SAU15 School Board (Hooksett, Auburn, Candia) has added a bus monitoring requirement to its upcoming bus contract RFP for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Goertel'.

Wayne Goertel
Hooksett School Board Chair