

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 6:00 pm.  
David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center**

Approved

**CALL TO ORDER**

Wayne Goertel, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members Jillian Godbout, Amy Tremblay, Jim Sullivan, Alexis Quinlan, Jason Hyde, and Evelyn (Lynn) Baker; Superintendent of Schools William (Bill) Rearick. The Assistant Superintendent, Principals and staff were also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Underhill Principal Ben Loi introduced second grader, Nora Whalen, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of February 21, 2023, with the following amendment: Add subheading 'Presentation about 2022-2023 Salary Chart' after 'Community/Family Surveys'. With Alexis Quinlan abstaining, all others in favor, the motion carried.

**PINKERTON LIAISON**

Aiden Gravina gave a brief update to events at Pinkerton which included:

- Spring sports tryouts
- PSATs and SATs
- Senior Palooza
- College Fair
- Pinkerton Players: Anastasia
- DECA National Event-Gold Certified

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Resident Kaitlin Santosuosso spoke to the Board regarding the 2021 Education Freedom Act and HB 282 which allows towns without a public school to fund their students to attend private or religious schools. She stated that she does not feel the need for the district to enter into an MOU with Trinity High and that the Board needs to support every family by having religious schools as part of school choice.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Bill Rearick summarized his report and added that the 603 Bright Futures Survey was disseminated to families and teachers. He also said they have started drawing down from the Special Education Trust Fund and that he and Director of Student Services, Chris Osborne meet weekly. Bill said because of the snowstorm on March 14, the town election was postponed until March 28. He said school will be in session, but that the cafeteria and gymnasium will be sealed off from the student body.

**REPORTS**

**Reports of Administrators**

Jillian Godbout thanked staff and administration for keeping kids super busy, not only with academics, but socially as well. She said the recent social studies project was outstanding.

**Report of Board Chair**

Wayne Goertel summarized his report which was in the packet for review, adding that they are drawing down the Special Education Trust Fund because of unexpected special education costs. He added that there are persistent conversations regarding the HEA contract on social media.

**Reports of Sub-Committees**

Jillian Godbout offered to sit on Pinkerton's CIP committee until the Board reorganizes and Wayne Goertel

will sit on Pinkerton's committee to study the possibility of a later start time. Jim Sullivan cautioned on how a later start time at Pinkerton could affect K-8 busses.

Amy Tremblay stated that the Transportation Committee fields concerns from parents and assured them that the Board is aware of bus issues and that a new contract was signed with a different bus company, beginning on July 1. Alexis Quinlan said Board members are parents too, and many have children on buses, so they fully understand frustrations parents are feeling. Lynn Baker asked if any incentives have been added for bus drivers, to which Alexis Quinlan responded that they now offer a retirement contribution, raised the hourly rate of pay to \$25, added sign-on bonuses and now pay for training.

## **FINANCIALS**

### **Manifest Approval**

Motion by Jason Hyde seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve the manifest 2/18/23-3/3/23 in the amount of \$1,235,234.80. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jason Hyde seconded by Alexis Quinlan, to approve the manifest 3/4/23-3/17/23 in the amount of \$957,690.01. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Expenditure Report**

The expenditure report was in the packet for review.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Expiring MOU's**

Bill Rearick stated that all MOU's expire at the end of this year. He said he has been in discussions with Londonderry and asked the Board if they wanted to renew contracts with Goffstown, Bow and Pembroke. Considerable discussion ensued. Jim Sullivan said if the Board considers adding MOUs they should consider subtracting some as well in order to keep the required percentages at Pinkerton. Jillian Godbout suggested that discussion on this subject be continued at the next meeting after Board members have a chance to get feedback and to consider options. She said they must consider the physical geography of Hooksett when doing so.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to move discussion of private/sectarian school MOUs up in the agenda, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Private/Sectarian Schools MOU**

Bill Rearick said the Board charged the Policy Committee to draft up a policy outlining requirements to enter into an MOU with private and/or sectarian schools. He said language was put in there based on the attorney's legal advice as well as criteria that the Board determined at their January 17, 2023 meeting. Bill said if the Board wished to include sectarian or private schools they should revise the draft policy, but to be cognizant of the required numbers to Pinkerton. He said if they open it up to one school, it opens the door to others. He reiterated that the Board is not required by law to enter into any agreement with private or sectarian schools. Wayne Goertel said he wanted the policy to be a guide. Amy Tremblay said there is a difference between having a school of record and having MOU's. She said the Board created MOU's as an alternative to Pinkerton and Manchester. The district is not required to use funds for private schools and it is important to have a document to guide the Board. Because the Board has determined Pinkerton to be the school of record, it is considered Hooksett's high school. The Board has a responsibility to the taxpayers and they have a contractual obligation, while allowing for other choices. Parents may still send their children elsewhere if there is deemed to be a manifest educational hardship. Jason Hyde said there are a lot of moving parts and advocated that money should follow the student. He doesn't want to exclude student from attending where they want to go and that it shouldn't matter. He said the Board needs to come up with something that is best for kids and, speaking to the draft policy, pointed out items he didn't feel should be included. Bill Rearick stated the state law is in conflict with federal law and that nothing forces the Board to enter into a contract. Amy Tremblay felt it was necessary to have a document like the draft. Legally, the Board is not required to pay for students to attend private or sectarian schools and that special education laws must be followed. Wayne Goertel said the Board must make a decision of the scope and would like the policy to provide guidance, but that the Board is not ready to make that decision tonight. Lynn Baker said that there are transportation and high school issues and that the community should be aware of the many complications involved. The Board can't give \$15,000 for every student to go everywhere as they have a financial responsibility. Jim Sullivan said the Board is jumping the gun by creating a policy when it hasn't decided whether or not that they want to consider entering into an MOU with private or sectarian schools.

### **Staff Mentoring**

Amy Tremblay said that she and Lynn Baker are on the Mentoring Committee. She asked for guidance from administration and requested a brainstorming session on how one could be established and implemented.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **K-Kids Club**

Brad Largy described the K-Kids Club and how it is in effect, the farm club to the Builder's Club at Cawley Middle School. He said it is a community service organization.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Alexis Quinlan, to approve the K-Kids Club at Hooksett Memorial School, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Total Compensation Report**

Jason Hyde suggested one way to avoid issues with salary is to offer every staff member a total compensation report which would include base salary, bonuses, the value of benefits and insurances and retirement. Bill Rearick said he hoped to be able to have this in the fall.

#### **Determine Retreat Date**

The Board decided to hold their annual retreat on June 3, at 8:30 am at the Cawley Middle School.

The Board took a brief recess.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Resident Scott Evans addressed the Board asking why they would ever consider limiting high school choices for students. He stressed that they don't eliminate MOU's and to do what's best for students.

### **POLICIES**

Policies BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings, EBCA Emergency Response Plan, EBCD School Closings, IC School Year, IHBA Programs for Pupils with Disabilities, KFA Public Conduct on School Property, and JLCE First Aid and Emergency Medical Care were in the packet for a second reading.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the policies BEDH, EBCA, EBCD, IC IHBA, KFA, and JLCE as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **Resignation**

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to accept the resignation of Tori Grassa as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Staff Nominations**

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the staff nominations as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Administrator Nominations**

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the administrator nominations as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Jim Sullivan pointed out the principals, assistant principal and media director contracts were for 3 years.

### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 Section II**

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Alexis Quinlan at 8:30 p.m., to enter into a non-public session a. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board resumed their public session at 9:15 p.m.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to seal the non-public minutes in perpetuity, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy  
School Board Recorder

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hooksett School Board is Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm.  
at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.