

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

Draft

**CALL TO ORDER**

Wayne Goertel, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members Jillian Godbout, Amy Tremblay, Jim Sullivan, Jason Hyde, and Evelyn (Lynn) Baker; Superintendent of Schools William (Bill) Rearick.

The Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator, Principals and staff were also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Cawley Principal Matt Benson introduced Trip Hanna, Ben Ryerson, Michael Cheung, Lyla Shea, and Jaime Godbout, members of the Cawley Robotics Team who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Matt acknowledged the team's coaches as well, Susan Chow, Meghan Hanna, and DJ Lemmo.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of January 17, 2023, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the Board's Non-Public, sealed, meeting minutes of January 17, 2023, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of January 25, 2023. With Jillian Godbout abstaining, all others in favor, the motion carried.

**PINKERTON LIAISON**

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

- Quiet month/New semester
- 23 Students won Scholastic Art Awards
- Winter Dance
- Milli Vanilli Lip Sync Contest
- Winter Sending Town's Dinner-Unveiled plans for new Social Studies building
- Aiden Gravina won Derry Rotary Speech Contest

**Bill Rearick opened the Public Hearing to expend from the Special Education Capital Reserve fund and Fund Balance Set-Aside**

Bill Rearick explained the need to expend from these funds. He said the necessity for additional funds came in after the budget was approved and much of it stems from an unfunded state mandate increasing the age of obligation for students requiring special education services. Chris Osborne, Director of Student Services, presented a handout to the Board and explained how quickly things change in her department and how this year has been difficult in a number of areas that included busing and the lack of paraprofessionals on staff. Bill Rearick explained how revenue can't be used to offset expenses, so they must draw down from all available funds before going to the Department of Revenue, requesting the use of revenues. The available funds he requested was \$198,000 from the fund balance set-aside account and up to \$300,000 out of the Special Education trust Fund. Bill said he will be meeting with Chris and Business Administrator, Cory Izbicki weekly from this point on. Cory Izbicki said that there is no cash flow problem.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no participation.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Bill Rearick summarized his report that was previously emailed to the Board and updated the Board on the recent issues in transportation due to the lack of bus drivers. Considerable discussion ensued relative to a possible breach in the contract, consolidating routes and parental understanding during this difficult time. SAU staff continues to work with STA and are trying to address handling the H13 bus driver absence.

## **REPORTS**

### **Reports of Administrators**

Jim Sullivan thanked the administrators for their robust reports. Amy Tremblay thanked Ms. Ruest and Ms. Beaudoin for their efforts in the Invention Convention, and Jillian Godbout gave kudos to the ALPs and Social Studies teachers.

Lynn Baker suggested that the Board send an acknowledgement to Mikaela Gauvain and Paige Benotti for having been nominated for National History Teacher of the Year for their leadership and instruction on the National History Day program.

### **Report of Board Chair**

Wayne Goertel summarizes his report which was in the packet for review.

### **Reports of Sub-Committees**

Jillian Godbout said the mentoring committee is still in the process of gathering information. Bill Rearick said that administrators and teachers could provide significant guidance to this committee.

Jim Sullivan stated his concern for the committees to submit minutes of their meetings and cautioned that sub-committee meetings not go beyond the scope of that particular sub-committee's charge

## **FINANCIALS**

Motion by Jason Hyde seconded by Wayne Goertel, to approve the manifest dated 1/7/23-1/20/23 in the amount of \$817,737.15. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the manifest dated 1/21/23-2/23/23 in the amount of \$1,895,472.88. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the manifest dated 2/4/23-2/17-23 in the amount of \$2,723,550.71. 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**

### **Deliberative Session**

Jillian Godbout stressed that Board members make sure the public understands what is going to on the ballot and to encourage everyone to read the Voter's Guide. She said the Town has many warrant articles and that there are five School District positions up for election. They are still hoping for write-in candidates for Treasurer and Moderator.

### **Testing**

Jillian Godbout asked what is done with assessment results. Meghan Largy and Sonia Laliberte explained how testing results are used by teachers in a variety of ways to support resources and strategies. Jason Hyde said the survey showed the district is on the right path with regard to the number of tests being done during the year. Amy Tremblay felt that students may perform better if scores weren't a focus, to which Meg Largy said sharing scores with students allows for active participation and of a growth conversation. Assistant Superintendent Marge Polak made a brief presentation of the New Hampshire SAS Spring 2022 scores.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Public Hearing Closed**

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve a transfer up to \$300,000 from the Special Education Trust Fund. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve a transfer of \$198,000 from the Fund Balance Set-Aside account for the general fund. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion

carried.

### **New Morning Contract**

The New Morning contract was reviewed.

Motion by Jason Hyde to approve the New Morning contract for three years, changing the rental fees to \$2,000 for each year (2023/2024, 2024/2025, and 2025/2026). With Lynn Baker voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried. Lynn felt that child care costs are already high enough without increasing before and after school costs as well.

At 7:55 p.m. the Board took a short break.

The Board resumed their meeting at 8:05 p.m.

### **Community/Family Surveys**

Jillian Godbout reviewed the responses to the recent seven-question survey from the community and family survey. She said people felt communication was great, the bus tracking pilot program was adequate, schools are safe, an adequate amount of testing and value of assessments are being performed, and budget items such as busing, field trips, teacher pay, own high school, class size, separate SRO's and before and after school programs were mentioned. Jillian said there were many positive comments and Jason Hyde said the Board has the opportunity to correct some misconceptions.

Wayne Goertel made a comparison presentation stemming from the negotiations process.

Jason Hyde commended both sides of negotiations' teams for taking significant steps toward equalization.

### **CIP Committee**

Jillian Godbout said the Capital Improvement Committee (CIP) meets before budget season and is comprised of various town Board members who speak to big projects in their respective group. She said it is helpful for each board to know what large projects each may be bringing to the voters. Jillian suggested that after restructuring in March, the Board's budget committee member be the liaison to this committee.

### **Teacher Appreciation Planning**

Jillian Godbout said how important it is to appreciate the entire staff at the schools and to start thinking of this sooner than later. She said they will be cognizant of extra budgetary restrictions this year.

### **POLICIES**

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

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the remaining policies as a first reading, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bill Rearick said the Policy Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss draft MOU language.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **Retirement**

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to accept the resignation of Audria Gonthier with thanks and gratitude, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Athletic Nomination**

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the Athletic nomination as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

No participation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 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, March 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.