

# Hooksett School Board

Chair's Report  
September, 2022



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## Welcome back to school!

The 2022-23 school year is underway, and it is exciting to have students back in classes. To student families and Hooksett School District staff, both new and returning, welcome!

Hooksett Schools' meet your teacher and open house events on Wednesday, August 31 were heartwarming and informative, and were well attended. Thank you, school district staff, for hosting these positive and well-executed events.

Returning staff and families hopefully noticed some of the security upgrades and other site improvements approved by the Hooksett School Board at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Many of these were implemented this summer, and a few more will be rolling in this fall given delays from staffing and supply chain shortages.

## Substitute Teaching

You may recall that it was a challenge to find substitute teachers last year. The Hooksett School Board eliminated the 20-day yearly service requirement for substitute teachers to receive a higher "longevity" rate of pay. The higher rates for certified and non-certified teachers are now in effect on day one.

We could utilize more subs! If your schedule permits it, substitute teaching can provide a rewarding way to contribute to our school community, and a flexible schedule. Please find employment opportunities at <https://hooksett.sau15.net/> under Our District >> Employment.

## Parent Survey

The Hooksett School Board continued its outreach efforts this fall with a survey sent out to parents, as part of a sequence of surveys and in-person opportunities to better understand the needs of our school community stakeholders.

Our parent survey is open until Friday, Sept 16, and will be discussed at our Sept 20 Board meeting. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MMR9KBT>

## Bus staffing challenges

The nationwide school bus driver shortage continues to present challenges to scheduling school buses in Hooksett. Our routes, run by our busing provider, Student Transport of America (STA), are short-staffed. Regrettably, our route serving Manchester high schools will only be run in the morning, not the afternoon. On a positive note, routes were recalculated this year with input from school administration and bus routing software, so the routes we are running are more effective than last year. Hooksett school administration continues to work with STA to improve this unfortunate situation.

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## Bus tracking progress

You may have received a new bus route number this year. That's part of an effort by the Hooksett School Board, school administration, and STA to improve routes overall, and to improve successful tracking with bus monitoring software we piloted last spring. As of this report, a dozen of our buses have tracking devices installed on them, and the thirty routes we have uploaded and tweaked are running with great accuracy. About two dozen pilot users have patiently worked through revisions and provided helpful feedback. We anticipate expanding our pilot program in upcoming weeks to have several families on all our routes using the software. Details on a school-wide roll-out are still being worked out.

Pictured: School Board Members Amy Tremblay, Alexis Quinlan, and Wayne Goertel at STA installing trackers on Hooksett Schools' buses.



## Annual Reports

The Hooksett 2021-22 Annual Town & Schools Report was recently published. You can find it online at <https://www.hooksett.org/administration> (look for "Town Report 2021-22"), or pick up a physical copy at town hall. The back section includes reports from the Hooksett School Board, the superintendent, all building principals, directors, deliberative sessions, and contains budget and enrollment data.

Early copies of the Town report didn't include the School Board 2021-22 Annual Report, which you can find here: <https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net/documents-reports/>

## Stay in Touch Online

You can find the School Board online at:

<https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net>

<https://facebook.com/hooksett.school.board/>

Respectfully submitted,

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

Wayne Goertel  
Hooksett School Board Chair

*The mission of the Hooksett School District is to develop a community of learners who are intellectually curious, resourceful, and respectful of self and others. Academic achievement, through constantly improving standards, is the District's highest priority.*