

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, December 20, 2022 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, Jason Hyde, Alexis Quinlan, and Evelyn (Lynn) Baker. Also in attendance was Superintendent of Schools, William (Bill) Rearick. The Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator, Principals and staff were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Underhill Principal Ben Loi introduced 2nd grader Bodi Gosselin who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of November 15, 2022 with the following amendment. Page 2 under Reports of Board Chair should state that fourteen buses are using the pilot so far, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of November 15, 2022, and the motion carried unanimously.

PINKERTON LIAISON

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

- Annual Day of Giving
- \$14,000 Board of Trustees matching donation
- Grant funds received for Video Production CTE class
- Mid-Terms are coming up
- Holiday Spirit Week
- Winter Clothing Drive
- Boys varsity record is 2-0
- Boys and Girls Indoor Track Meets

PUBLIC INPUT

Former resident and current substitute Maryann Boucher spoke to the Board about bus stops on main thoroughfares. She felt students shouldn't be crossing busy streets to get to their bus stops, especially in the dark.

Food service employee, Carol Kowak, said that the food service department worked through the pandemic and that there are fewer food service workers now. She said all staff should be appreciated.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick stated he will be doing a walk-through at Underhill on Wednesday.

REPORTS

Reports of Administrators

Reports of the administrators were in the packet for review.

Jason Hyde commended Dean Farmer on getting the Underhill playground installed. Amy Tremblay thanked Principal Loi, the UA team and Ms. Briggs for their wonderful grade 2 holiday concert. Jillian Godbout commended all administrators on their reports and said the Hooksett students are offered so much. Jim Sullivan thanked members of the chorus and band for their participation in the Hooksett Heritage Commission's tree lighting ceremony. Amy Tremblay thanked all Hooksett staff for providing for a

fun and educational week before the holiday break. Jillian Godbout commended Kris McGovern for the endless hours she puts in with the maintenance department.

Report of Board Chair

The Board Chair's report was in the packet for review.

Reports of Sub-Committees

Amy Tremblay stated that the committee fielded three complaints of which one was withdrawn. She expressed frustration in the lack of communication with STA, the district's bus contracted bus company. Wayne Goertel stated that the Pinkerton Construction Committee met where demolition to a social studies building was discussed.

Mr. Goertel asked the Board if they wished to amend the agenda to allow discussion on a donation request.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to amend the agenda to allow discussion on a donation request. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Jason Hyde, to accept a \$2,000 donation from Duncan's European Automotive, LLC toward the 8th grade Washington, DC trip, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board was also aware of a donation of a Cricut machine to Cawley Middle School, but no motion was necessary as its value is under \$500.

FINANCIALS

Motion by Lynn Baker seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve the manifest dated 11/12-11/28 in the amount of \$947,124.29. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve the manifest dated 11/29-12/09 in the amount of \$937,643.47. 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

2023/2024 Budget Update

Bill Rearick stated that the Board needs to approve the revised amount for the warrant.

Jillian Godbout stated that the budget committee is not in favor of adding another grade 3 teacher and was unclear as to the soundness of the cost for transportation. Discussion ensued and questions were clarified. Wayne Goertel spoke to the school board web page which outlined how fund balance was spent.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Hooksett School District's 2023/2024 default operating budget in the amount of \$37,787,587. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Hooksett School District's 2023/2024 operating budget in the amount of \$38,442,000. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Administration Surveys

This will be on the January 17 agenda.

Trinity MOU

Bill Rearick said the Board wanted the policy committee to draft a policy, but that this was a larger scope than a policy committee should attempt to create and for its specifics should be outlined by the full Board. Wayne Goertel stated that the Board must decide what schools should be candidates for entering into Memorandum's of Understanding (MOUs) with. Jillian Godbout stated that this isn't as easy as it sounds and stressed that the Board do considerable research before doing so. She said they run the risk of having to open it up to a number of schools whose admissions timelines are different as well as for some schools who won't have necessary programming available, making special education services unavailable in-house. Jim Sullivan said adding additional school MOUs will affect the required percentage necessary and will dilute the pool going to Pinkerton. Amy Tremblay said she is for school choice, but as a tax payer expressed her concern with tax dollars being paid to the Diocese of Manchester who is under no obligation to provide financial disclosure. Jason Hyde asked for a legal opinion to clarify exactly what the law requires. Bill Rearick said he had received a legal opinion from the district's attorney. Regarding concerns with those not wanting tax dollars to go to a private school, Jason reminded the Board that Pinkerton Academy is not a public school. Wayne Goertel stated that MOU schools should be based on

location, date of acceptance, accreditation, fiscal transparency, and if the Board wanted to pay for private school(s). Bill Rearick said he will get a second legal opinion to clarify the Board's questions. Jason Hyde said an MOU could be crafted to waive registration fees. Cawley Principal Matt Benson reminded the Board of other private and parochial schools that Hooksett students currently attend which include Central Catholic, Phillips Exeter, Bishop Guertin, Bishop Brady, and the Derryfield School.

Draft Calendar

Bill Rearick stated that the Presidential primary date is still to be determined. He said the HEA requested that school begin before Labor Day. The calendar will be on the January 17 agenda for further review.

Churchill Road Bus Stop

Considerable discussion ensued relative to the lack of a bus stop at Churchill Road. Bill Rearick stated that it is the policy of the Board to not allow buses to access unapproved roads. Jim Sullivan said this particular road is expected to be approved at the January 5 town council meeting. Jason Hyde suggested that the Board waive the policy until the road is approved by the town. Concerns regarding poor weather conditions at that stop were discussed as well.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to approve allowing a bus stop on Churchill Road, as long as there is no snow or other unfavorable road conditions, and the motion carried unanimously.

Improve Testing Board Goal

Wayne Goertel stated that testing was discussed at the Board's ad hoc meeting. Jason Hyde said the Board is questioning how often tests are conducted, why they are conducted, what is done with test results, and what tests are required. Considerable discussion ensued and the Board discussed the role of the Board with regard to testing and curriculum. Jason Hyde said the conversation began with questions from the public. Bill Rearick asked the committee to provide him with specific questions of which he and his professional staff will provide answers.

Policy Master Index

Another items from the ad hoc meeting was the indexing of policies. Jason Hyde provided an example and Bill Rearick stated his staff would work on creating a policy index.

HESPA Contract

At the November 15 meeting, the Board voted to increase HESPA salaries. Because this needs to be a warrant article, the Board needed to make the language for the ballot.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve the HESPA contract for 2023/2024 school year as a warrant article for a wage adjustment in the amount of \$345,481.51. Board Clerk Amy Tremblay took a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

At 8:10 p.m., the Board took a 10 minutes break.

The Board resumed at 8:20 p.m.

Wayne Goertel stated that the Greater Manchester YMCA recognized their partnership with the Hooksett School District and Marge Polak and Hooksett Memorial School's Principal Brad Largy attended a recent ceremony. A statue presented to Ms. Polak and Mr. Largy will be placed at the town hall.

POLICIES

Policies EEA Student Transportation Services, DAF Administration of Federal Grant Funds, ADB/GBEC Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Schools, and JCB-R High School Requests, IJB Class Size, BGB Policy Adoption, and IHBG/IHBG-R Home Education were reviewed for a first reading.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Alexis Quinlan to approve policy EEA as presented for a first reading, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Alexis Quinlan to approve policy DAF as a first reading, adding page numbers, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Alexis Quinlan to approve policy ADB/ GBEC (GBEC/ADB) as a first reading, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jason Hyde, to approve the remaining policies as a first reading, and the motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

Co-Curricular Nomination

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jason Hyde to approve the co-curricular nomination as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Aiden Gravina asked what processes are in place for calling off school due to bad weather, to which Bill Rearick stated that he:

- follows the forecasts from the National Weather Service
- wakes at 4:00 a.m. and watches Boston channels
- contacts Auburn, Candia and Hooksett road agents for their input
- contacts Dr. Powers (Pinkerton), Chester and Timberlane
- makes decision

He said this past storm was rain until after the buses started running. He said he likes to call off the night before when possible.

Resident Dave Levesque thanked the Board and wished them a Merry Christmas. He said he was happy to hear that the Board reviewed the policy on class size and said he would prefer adding two more teachers. He said that he felt that distribution of teachers is currently unfair and that the district needs to support allocating resources at the younger grades. He also questioned if there was a wage pool and asked when and if the public has a say in bonuses or administrators salaries. Bill Rearick stated there is no wage pool.

Resident Gerald Hyde read two letters that were recently sent to Cawley parents regarding an incident that was under investigation. He said he heard the student involved would be returning to school tomorrow. Bill Rearick stated that the student is not coming back tomorrow.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II (if necessary)

At 9:05 p.m., motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 Section II i and l. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board resumed their public meeting at 10:15 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Alexis Quinlan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 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, January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.