

Hooksett School Board

Chair's Report

December, 2022



School Board Back in School

On November 29, the Hookset School Board hosted informal social events at all three of our local schools to have a chance to visit directly with school staff, to get better acquainted and to receive any feedback they wished to share with us. Amy Tremblay, Lynn Baker, Jillian Godbout, and Wayne Goertel attended the before-school coffee events at Cawley and Underhill and the after-school snack event at Memorial. We appreciate everyone who attended visiting with us.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for a staff mentoring program, which the Board has discussed, and for which it is developing a working group. Several teachers discussed how they build relationships with student families, noting how critical it is for education success that the home environment supports the efforts in the classroom. Other topics included staffing challenges, professional development, science-based reading, chess, and student transitions between grades.

Committee Night, Round Two

Several ad-hoc Board committees met on Dec 6 to make progress on some existing Board goals and other concerns, for review by the full Board this month.

Work on Teacher Mentoring

Amy Tremblay and Jillian Godbout met this month to further establish objectives and considerations for a teacher mentoring program, hoping to involve many stakeholders and leverage existing mentoring practices established by several staff and administration members.

Policy Review Process

Jason Hyde and Wayne Goertel discussed a policy management model presented at the NHSBA Delegate Assembly this fall. Using online tools to manage a master policy index, the Board can implement a more structured approach for reviewing policies.

Improve Testing

Jason Hyde, Jillian Godbout, and Wayne Goertel discussed the original Board goal about improving testing. Given personal experiences of student testing by committee members, and some community feedback, the committee felt it would be good consider a more holistic approach to the subject of testing. Some concerns were highlighted regarding testing of very young students. The committee also discussed more granular evaluation approaches for class and grade-specific feedback to support instruction. A working group was proposed to develop a testing philosophy policy.

Bus Software Pilot

The BusWhere bus tracking pilot was rolled out to a large portion of school district parents last month. We appreciate HSD administration working through the process and sending invitations to over 1,500 parents/guardians. It's important to note that our BusWhere implementation is still in a pilot phase.

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STA, our bus provider, sometimes adjusts which buses cover which routes, or when, due to driver shortages. Bus routes are sometimes covered by drivers from other districts with buses not tracked by BusWhere devices. Thus, there are days where a route is entirely not tracked, or the software tries to track an incorrect route. Unfortunately, we've not been able to expand the pilot for some routes which we've not been seen consistently good tracking. We'll continue to improve the tracking accuracy in unexpected circumstances, and appreciate pilot families' patience as we complete that work.

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', written in a cursive style.

Wayne Goertel

Hooksett School Board Chair