

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 22, 2024 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, Vanessa Gelinias, and Lynn Baker; and Superintendent of Schools, William (Bill) Rearick.

The Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Business Administrator, Principals and staff were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Nicole Startun, grade 2, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

School District Clerk Jen DeCampo was in attendance. She stated that Lee Ann Moynihan will be acting Moderator for the Deliberative Session. It was decided who would motion and second each warrant article.

#2M-Wayne Goertel S-Lynn Baker

#3M-Amy Tremblay S-Wayne Goertel

#4M-Vanessa Gelinias S-Amy Tremblay

#5M-Jim Sullivan S-Vanessa Gelinias

#6M-Lynn Baker S-Jason Hyde

#7M-Jason Hyde S-Jim Sullivan

Erin Brewitt and Jessie Palmer made a Social Studies presentation.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board meeting minutes of December 19, 2023, with the following amendment: Page 2 the motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Wayne Goertel regarding the HESPA Tentative Agreement, should read 'pending ratification by voters **and HESPA**', and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board's non-public meeting minutes of December 19, 2023, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of January 8, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRUST FUNDS

At 6:20 Wayne Goertel opened the Public Hearing on the Special Education and Technology Trust Funds.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick summarized his report.

REPORTS

Administrator Reports

Chris Osborne spoke to the benefits of having a preschool program.

Wayne Goertel spoke to how difficult it is to predict end of year fund balance and the Board decided dates on which to have coffees at the schools.

Lynn Baker asked where revenues come from to which Chris Osborne stated that as far as special education aid is concerned, aid is based on student population and is always one year behind.

Discussion ensued relative to Hooksett Memorial not having hot water last week and having no heat this morning. Jillian Godbout asked Maintenance Director, Dean Farmer how next year's budget looks knowing these items are starting to break down, to which Dean said he feels confident in his 2024-2025 budget. Bill Rearick asked the Board to consider expending funds from the Special Education and Technology Trust Funds. He explained how the district never shows 'actuals' in the past and that there are still considerable special education tuition and transportation invoices which must be accounted for. Discussion ensued.

CLOSING PUBLIC HEARING

Wayne Goertel closed the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$415,937.57 out of the Special Education Trust Fund for special education purposes. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to expend up to \$100,000 from the Technology Trust Fund. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Bill said he expects to come before the Board again in February for approval to expend from the Maintenance and Contingency Funds.

Noting there were members of the public wishing to address the Board, Wayne Goertel moved Opportunity for Public Input up in the agenda.

Resident Jeff Myer (Ridgeview Dr.) stated that there is a lot of concern among parents with the dates the 8th grade Washington DC trip is scheduled, as it coincides with the November election.

Resident Kasha Lojko echoed Mr. Myers' sentiments, and said it was a lot of money with no insurance for a refund should something arise near that date. She asked the Board to move the week.

Resident Chip Lojko asked the Board to flip the schedule, and not go in November.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft 2024/2025 School Calendar

The 2024/2025 school calendar was in the packet which had four early-release days for professional development. Some discussion ensued and the Board will review this again at their February meeting.

Policy IBJ-Class Size

Considerable discussion on Policy IBJ – Class Size, and how class size affects facility space as well as the budget. Ideally, it is beneficial to have smaller class size, but other factors must be taken into consideration as well such as the actual makeup of the class. Board members agreed that the policy should be a guideline. Vanessa Gelinis suggested that the policy contain more qualifiers and Bill Rearick said the title should be Class Size **Guidelines**. This policy will be brought before the Policy Committee for further review.

Deliberative Session Sound System

Though he covered this in his report, Bill Rearick stated that the Town did not want to split the cost of an upgrade of \$10,000 for a sound system for the Deliberative Session. With the current system, there is no way to live-stream the meeting from the gymnasium. Some discussion ensued. No action was taken by the Board.

POLICIES

Policies GCCBC FMLA, and EBCC School Threats were in the packet for a second reading/adoption.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to accept the second reading/adoption of the policies as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Policies JKAA Use of Child Restraint/Seclusion, JKAA-R Child Restraint/Seclusion-Procedures, BAAA School Board and Administrative Procedures, BIB Board Member Development Opportunities, BIE Board Member Indemnification, DGB Check Writing, IHAL Religion, IJOC-A Parent Involvement, and BEDG Minutes were reviewed as a first reading. Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the first reading of the policies as presented and amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Expenditure Report

The expenditure report was in the packet for review.

Manifest Approval

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the manifest of 12/9/23-12/22/23 in the amount of \$1,050,776.08. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the manifest of 1/6/24-1/19/24 in the amount of \$1,137,211.26. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Trust Fund Summary and Balances

Trust fund balances were in the packet for review.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Lynn Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy
School Board Recorder

The Hooksett School Board will meet on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.

The Hooksett School District's Deliberative Session #1 will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Gymnasium.