

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, February 20, 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, Jim Sullivan, 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

John Mrozek, grade 8, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

PINKERTON/BOARD LIAISON

Alyssa Stephenson updated the Board on current events at Pinkerton which included:

- Kindness/Spirit Week
- Speech Contest
- Construction project expected to be completed in 2025
- Boys and Girls Track and Field State Champs
- School-Wide Volleyball Tournament

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Lynn Baker, to move discussion on the Washington DC Field Trip up in the agenda, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bill Rearick stated that parents have expressed concerns with having the field trip to Washington during the time of the Presidential election and asked the Board to consider approve moving the trip to April.

Some discussion ensued.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to move the Washington, DC trip for the current 7th graders to April 2025, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of January 10, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of January 22, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the Board's meeting minutes of February 3, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON MAINTENANCE and IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND and the CONTINGENCY FUND

Wayne Goertel opened the Public Hearing on the Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve and Contingency Funds.

Bill Rearick asked the Board to consider releasing up to \$200,000 from the Contingency Fund and up to \$261,221.08 from the School Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. These would be used to offset unexpected expenses.

PRESENTATION –Creator Lab and Perseverance Day

Kristin Yeaton did a brief presentation on the Creator Lab.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UDATES

Bill Rearick summarized his report and added that he has been part of a working group with the Department of Transportation regarding proposed changes to Rte. 3 from Alice Ave. to Zapora Drive. Bill reported that Bill Hinkle, Assistant Principal at Hooksett Memorial saved a student from choking by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to direct the Superintendent to send a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Hinkle on behalf of the School Board, and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Administrator Reports

Administrator's reports were in the packet for review. Some discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft 2024/2025 School Calendar

The 2024/2025 school calendar was once again in the packet for review. Two of the suggested early release days have been removed since the last review.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to accept the revised 2024/2025 school calendar, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Deliberative Session Discussion

Retrospective

Considerable discussion ensued relative to the Deliberative Session which was held on February 3 and suggestions moving forward.

- Consider separate date from Town Deliberative Session
- Consider different location within Cawley for next year
- Educate the public in the Guidebook/Voter's Guide
- Educate public on it being the School Board's meeting
- Highlight importance of training Clerk and Moderator
- Anticipate misinformation campaign
- Have clear rules read ahead of the meeting
- Board must be cohesive Need good, solid, clear explanation of budget

Amy Tremblay described the meeting as chaotic and is perplexed as to why the harassment by the public was allowed. She said it was an inexcusable staged ambush that should never have been tolerated.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to draft a formal letter to the Town Council calling out the behavior of a Councilman. With Jim Sullivan abstaining, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Jim Sullivan stated that it was a proper motion and the behavior exhibited was not becoming of an elected official. Wayne Goertel said it was unnecessary escalated behavior.

Operating Budget Reductions

Bill Rearick handed out two documents, one with suggestions on how to get the budget to the default, and one that would trim it by \$750,000, the amount voted to be reduced at the Deliberative Session. Some discussion ensued. This document will be made public tomorrow. The Board will meet again on March 5 to discuss this item further. Jillian Godbout stated that any changes to busing will make a major impact. Jim Sullivan stressed that the public needs to participate if they disagree with what the Board is doing. Amy Tremblay said there are valid reasons for folks not wanting to join Boards such as the time commitment, energy and the subjects discussed are not always comfortable to deal with. She encouraged the public to run for office.

Board Member-End of Term

Exiting Board member Jason Hyde was not in attendance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No participation.

CLOSING PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Goertel closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$200,000 out of the Contingency Fund. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Jillian Godbout stated that the district is level-funded and is now tapping into trust funds. She said they are going into the next budget cycle with very little in the 'rainy day fund'. Bill Rearick said the biggest drivers creating the need to access these funds are unexpected special education costs for grades K-12.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Lynn Baker, to expend up to \$261, 221.08 from the Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Co-Curricular Nomination

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Lynn Baker, to accept the co-curricular nomination as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICIES

Policies JKAA, JKAA-R Use of 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 in the packet for a second reading/adoption.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the second reading/adoption of the policies as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Policies IJB Class Size, JEA Compulsory Attendance Age, JFABB Foreign Exchange Students, JICE Student Publication, JICF Gang Activity, and JIE Pregnant Students were in the packet for a first reading.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jim Sullivan to accept the first reading of the policies as presented and amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to waive the second reading of the policies as amended. With Jim Sullivan voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Expenditure Report

The expenditure report was in the packet for review.

Manifest Approval

The manifests will be approved at the March 19 meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II (a-k if needed)

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to enter into RSA 91 A:3 Section II a and c at 8:10 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board resumed their public meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to seal the non-public minutes in perpetuity. With all in favor, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy
School Board Recorder

The Hooksett School Board will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.

The SAU Board will meet at the Henry W. Moore School on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.