

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, August 15, 2023 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, Jason Hyde, Amy Tremblay, Jim Sullivan, and Evelyn (Lynn) Baker. Also in attendance was Superintendent of Schools, William (Bill) Rearick. The Director of Curriculum, Principals and staff were also attending.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Wayne Goertel led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Resident Kate Griffin read a statement encouraging the Board to consider building a high school for Hooksett's students.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the Board's Retreat minutes of June 3, 2023, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by, Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board meeting minutes of June 18, 2023, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board's non-public meeting minutes of June 18, 2023, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the Board meeting minutes of July 11, amending the minutes to state that the Board thanked Alexis Quinlan for her time on the Board, 2023. With Jason Hyde and Jillian Godbout abstaining, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the Board's non-public meeting minutes of July 11, 2023. With Jason Hyde and Jillian Godbout abstaining, all others in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Lynn Baker, to approve the Board meeting minutes of July 25, 2023. With Jason Hyde abstaining, all others in favor, the motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Bill Rearick stated that he met with First Student representatives last week. All bus driver positions have been filled and there are a number of spare drivers. Bill said the bus routes have been posted and, because they are a new company, they have no history and that routes are subject to change. He encouraged parents to be patient and to contact the SAU office if they have an issue with a bus stop. Bill also met with the Hooksett police chief. He said due to a shortage of officers, Angela Bergeron, the district's School Resource Officer may have to fill in elsewhere for the force. Bill also said they are working to discontinue NWEA testing but assured the Board that there are still plenty of assessments in place. Jason Hyde asked Bill how the bus terminal was coming along, to which Bill said the bus company has met with some resident issues with the planned terminal by Granite Hills. He said until they can work those issues out with the Town, they will work out of a location in Candia. Jillian Godbout stated that STA ran out of Candia in the past, but that it made sense to try to locate in Hooksett as Hooksett uses the majority of SAU 15 busses.

**BOARD CHAIR'S UPDATES**

Wayne Goertel stated that a robust report of the Chair will be in the Town Report which is expected to be available soon. He said the Board met for their retreat and went over goals which included strategic

planning, facilities and enhancing the staff mentoring program.

Some discussion ensued relative to the town's Capital Improvement Plan. Jillian Godbout stated that town departments are trying to work together, and each are aware that the school district has facility needs. Bill Rearick stated that there will be a meeting next week to discuss work on the Donati Bridge which will be under construction in 2024.

Dean Farmer updated the Board on work being done on the schools' facilities over the summer which included four HVAC units at Underhill, work on the Cawley Road, re-pouring the front pad at Cawley, carpet installation in the Memorial library and the energy audit that will be done next month.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Ballot Referendum**

Discussion ensued relative to a possible ballot referendum to gauge public opinion on entering into an MOU for private/secular high schools. Amy Tremblay stated that she would be against such a referendum and that there is no point having a non-binding item on a ballot. Jillian Godbout stated that the Board voted no, but that it is important to get commentary from the public. The Strategic Plan could include community input. Jim Sullivan said having it on the ballot would gauge public opinion, but said he was amenable to having it as part of the Strategic Plan instead. Lynn Baker said there are so many facets to the budget and, in preparation of long-term planning, they should consider having an Open House.

### **Staff Benefits Summary**

Bill Rearick met with Human Resources Director, Katie Sang, and Business Administrator, Cory Izbicki regarding creating a staff benefits sheet for all employees showing their costs for healthcare as well as what each costs the district.

### **Dog Signage**

Considerable discussion ensued relative to signage regarding dogs on school property.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Amy Tremblay for signs to be posted saying 'No dogs allowed on school grounds when school is in session or during school events'. With Lynn Baker opposed, all others in favor, the motion carried.

### **Long-Term Planning Facilitator**

Bill Rearick stated that he needs Board approval for expending funds if they want to hire a Strategic Plan consultant.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$25,000 for a Strategic Plan consultant. A roll call vote was taken, and with all in favor, the motion carried.

### **Standing Committees**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Instructional Time Schedules**

The Board reviewed each instructional time schedule which were in the packet for Board review.

### **Washington DC Field Trip Request**

Discussion ensued relative to funding field trips. Jim Sullivan suggested finding new ways to support participation in field trips for those who cannot afford them.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Washington DC field trip as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Board's June Survey Results**

Some discussion ensued relative to Board surveys. Jason Hyde said that items such as issues with transitioning from Cawley to high school (note-taking/homework, teacher pay, and requests for high school we consistently mentioned in surveys. Summaries of the surveys will be available on the website.

### **Old Home Day Board Booth**

After some discussion Jillian Godbout suggested that this item as well as facilities needs and concerns would be best discussed during a sub-committee meeting. No action was taken.

### **Backpack Donation Request**

Brad Largy stated that Amazon wants to donate 100 filled backpacks to the district, and, being worth over \$500, he needs Board approval.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jason Hyde, to accept a donation of backpacks, with thanks, from Amazon, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Superintendent's Nominations**

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to accept the resignation of Heather Roberts, and the

motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to accept the superintendent's nomination of Sofia Barassi, Kendall Frizzell, Kathryn Dwyer, Tayla Timpe, Crystal Way, and Ryan Quinlan as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board took a short break.

## **POLICIES**

Revisions to policies referencing 'Assistant Superintendent'-AC Non-Discrimination, GBAA Sexual Harassment Violence-Employee, GBEAB Code of Conduct Reporting, GBJA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability ACT (HIPPA), IJOA-R Request for Educational Field Trip, JBAA Sexual Harassment Violence-Students, and JICI-R Modification of a Weapons Expulsion were before the full Board for 'housekeeping' purposes with the change in the SAU title from Assistant Superintendent to Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Lynn Baker, to accept the changes to the 'housekeeping' policies (X.A.) as presented. With Jillian Godbout voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Policies BF Work Sessions, BEDC Quorum, BEDA Public Notification of Board Meetings, BEAA Board Meeting Preparation, BDB Board Officers, HP Employee Job Actions, HPA Employee Job Actions, IGD Curriculum Adoption, IHBCA Pregnant Students, DA Fiscal Management Plan, GBD-BHC/BHC-GBD Board/Employee Communications, JCA Change of School Assignment Best Interest and Manifest Educational Hardship, JEC Manifest Educational Hardship, and JJE Student Fundraising Activities were reviewed as a second reading.

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

## **FINANCIALS**

Bill Rearick said special education funds are still fluid, but is more favorable than last year at this time.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

No participation.

## **BOARD VACANCY**

Vanessa Gelinis and Christopher Gagnon each spoke to the Board as to why they wanted to fill in for the School Board vacancy. Dawn Desruisseaux withdrew her intent. Jim Sullivan stated that it is nice to see a couple people with different perspectives before the Board. He said, regardless of how he votes, it would be a pleasure to work with either.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to nominate both Vanessa Gelinis and Christopher Gagnon as a Hooksett School Board Member through March 2024.

Jim Sullivan-Mr. Gagnon

Amy Tremblay-Ms. Gelinis

Jillian Godbout-Ms. Gelinis

Lynn Baker-Mr. Gagnon

Jason Hyde-abstain

Wayne Goetel-Ms. Gelinis

## **NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 Section II a & I**

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Jason Hyde at 8:20 p.m., to enter into a non-public session (a & I). A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board resumed their public session at 8:55 p.m.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to seal the non-public minutes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to accept the resignation of Jackelyn Robarge. With all opposed, the motion did not carry.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

2023/2024 Board Meeting Dates were in the packet for review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Lynn Baker, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy  
School Board Recorder

The Hooksett School Board will meet on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.

The SAU Board will meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Cafeteria.