

# Hooksett School Board

Chair's Report  
September 2023



## Welcome back to school!

Classes for the 2023-24 school year started on September 5, after Labor Day, and it is exciting to have students back in classes. To student families and Hooksett School District staff, both new and returning, welcome back!

Hooksett Schools' "meet your teacher" and open house events were held the week prior to school starting, and schools were packed with student families! Thank you, school district staff, for hosting these positive and well-executed events.

The Hooksett School Board adopted a post-Labor Day start two years ago, supported by a school community survey with about 70% of respondents asking for this start date. It's worth mentioning that three years ago, when Hooksett School District started classes before Labor Day, we experienced considerable challenges with Friday traffic after school. Extensive Friday tourist traffic heading North through Hooksett contributed to afternoon bus delays of an hour in some cases! The exponential impact here is due to Hooksett's location along a toll highway with local roads serving as a toll highway bypass, and inadequate state funding to develop proper roadway infrastructure to deal with toll highway overflow. NH DOT project 29611 will improve US 3 / NH 28 from Alice Ave to Whitehall Rd, but northern Hooksett traffic remains a challenge.

## Hooksett Old Home Day: Saturday, September 16

Hooksett's Old Home Day is planned for Saturday, September 16, and we hope to see you there – rain or shine! The Hooksett School Board will be making its second appearance at OHD. It's a chance to visit with School Board Members and discuss school topics (or whatever!) in a casual environment. Children - or adults - can sit and color a picture of the Fred C. Underhill bear mascot. We'll have some information about the school district and some upcoming projects. We'll also be soliciting volunteers for focus groups for our long-term planning initiative. Last year we had great conversations and heard many good ideas. We appreciate everyone coming to talk to us.



*Hooksett School Board booth from OHD 2022*

## Welcome New Staff!

Please welcome these new members of the Hooksett school community!

David R. Cawley Middle School

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Robert Anderson  | Grade 8 Math Teacher      |
| 2. Sofia Barassi    | Grade 7 Science Teacher   |
| 3. Jennifer Brenner | Special Education Teacher |
| 4. Kathryn Dwyer    | ELL (ESOL) Teacher        |

# Hooksett School Board

## Chair's Report

p. 2



- 
- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5. Kendall Frizzell | Social Studies Teacher        |
| 6. Sandra Moore     | Reading Specialist Teacher    |
| 7. Ryan Quinlan     | Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher |

### Hooksett Memorial School

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8. Justina Austin               | Art Teacher                |
| 9. Emily Breton                 | Elementary Teacher         |
| 10. Emily Favaloro              | Special Education Teacher  |
| 11. Kari (Madi) Gischel         | Elementary Teacher         |
| 12. Margaret Lemay              | Physical Education Teacher |
| 13. Cassondra Mello             | Special Education Teacher  |
| 14. Jennifer Nadeau-Abdul Kadir | Elementary Teacher         |
| 15. Tayla Timpe                 | Elementary Teacher         |
| 16. Crystal Way                 | Elementary Teacher         |

### Fred C. Underhill School

- |                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 17. Lucie Baillargeon | Special Education Teacher          |
| 18. Sara Brown        | Special Education Paraprofessional |
| 19. Rhonda Gamache    | Literary Support Aide              |
| 20. Lee Peet          | Special Education Paraprofessional |
| 21. Judith Penland    | Kindergarten Aide                  |

The Hooksett School Board will host a welcome event ahead of the September 19 Board meeting for staff joining us this year.

## Annual Reports

The Hooksett 2022-23 Annual Town & Schools Report was recently published. You can find it online at <https://www.hooksett.org/home/news/2022-2023-annual-town-report> or pick up a physical copy at town hall. The back section includes reports from the Hooksett School Board, the Superintendent, Building Principals, and Directors. It has Deliberative Session details and contains the school budget, audit, and enrollment data.

You can also find the School Board Annual Report online alongside the monthly reports:

<https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net/documents-reports/>

## Hooksett School Board Goals for 2023-24, and Beyond

At the Hooksett School Board's June 2023 retreat, four goals were defined for the upcoming school year.

1. Develop a strategic plan, utilizing external consulting services
2. Address facilities needs
3. Improve school safety, wellness and communication
4. Enhance staff mentoring programs

# Hooksett School Board

## Chair's Report

p. 3



The “strategic planning initiative” was inspired by recent work in the Auburn School District, working to establish a philosophy and set of goals for upcoming years. The process will utilize several mechanisms to obtain community input to develop a plan meeting the interests and constraints of our community stakeholders.

“Facilities needs” intends to best execute some projects needed by the school district in the future, on short- and medium-term horizons.

“School safety, wellness, and communication” is admittedly a large category. Successful education requires a safe environment as prerequisite, and is facilitated when the school community is supported.

“Staff mentoring” continues an initiative from last year. The Board is keenly interested in making it easier for new staff to get established in our school district, and supporting programs for staff collaboration.

### School Board Member Changes

School Board Member Alexis Quinlan resigned from the Board at the end of July. Thank you, Alexis, for your dedicated service to the school district. At our August meeting, the Board had the opportunity to meet two exceptional candidates for the open position, and Vanessa Gelinas was appointed to serve until the March, 2024 election. At that time, two three-year terms will be up for consideration per normal schedule, plus a one-year term for the remainder of the 2022-25 term vacated by Ms. Quinlan. Vanessa, welcome to the Board!



*Ms. Gelinas taking the oath of office*

### Stay in Touch Online

You can find the School Board online at:

<https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net>

<https://facebook.com/hooksett.school.board/>

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Goertel  
Hooksett School Board Chair

*The mission of the Hooksett School District is to develop a community of learners who are intellectually curious, resourceful, and respectful of self and others. Academic achievement, through constantly improving standards, is the District's highest priority.*