

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, November 7, 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, Amy Tremblay, Jim Sullivan, Evelyn (Lynn) Baker, Vanessa Gelinias, and Jason Hyde (6:15 p.m.). Also in attendance was 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**

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**

No participation.

Wayne Goertel started the meeting out with a slide presentation on the recent revaluation/assessment in Hooksett.

Bill asked the Board how they wanted to move forward with the capital improvement list provided by Maintenance Director, Dean Farmer.

Jim Sullivan-Have the information needed. Work needs to be done. Explain bond vs. lease. Bill Rearick explained the pros and cons to each.

Jillian Godbout-Would be more comfortable putting forward lines 1-6 for Memorial as originally proposed. Hold off on Underhill until enrollments are known. Cawley roof at end of life but not critical yet. Take care of structural needs.

Lynn Baker-Do entire project now; only going to cost more in the future.

Amy Tremblay-Agreed with Lynn Baker. Structural work needs to be done one way or another; kicking it down the road will only cost more to do the same work.

Jim Sullivan-Jillian's idea interesting, maybe wait until space needs are known. Likes a lease to lock in the quoted prices.

Vanessa Gelinias-Doesn't make sense to put off; do all at once.

Jason Hyde-Inclined to go for entire list. No need to delay. Stressed that schools are not falling apart and air quality is not bad. Board should consider putting warrant article every year to put into a building maintenance fund in order to offset future years' needs.

Wayne Goertel-Concentrate on one school, then do other schools; likes the idea of building a maintenance fund and having a 15 year lease.

Bill Rearick stated that Underhill's issues with enrollments is something that will have to be addressed. There is no more space, no extra classrooms. Would suggest working on Memorial first. This project wouldn't start immediately, and we could ask to EEI roll work at Underhill and Cawley in together. Jillian Godbout expressed her concerns with making changes to Underhill if they will have to build an addition. Dean Farmer stated that other than new boilers, none of the planned upgrades would affect a possible addition in the near future. Jason Hyde stated an Underhill expansion shouldn't cloud this project as articles he has read shows enrollment trends lowering.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to create a warrant article for a 15 year lease to be funded by a building maintenance priority plan in the amount of \$13,342,120. A roll-call vote was taken. With Jillian Godbout voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

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

Motion at 7:00 p.m. by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to enter in to a non-public session RSA91-A:3 Section II a. A roll-call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board reconvened their public session at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to seal the non-public minutes in perpetuity, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bill Rearick explained recent changes to the budget. The health and dental rates came in lower than expected for a decrease of \$226,000. The Pinkerton tuition rate has yet to be determined, so that number is still unknown. Special education transportation is underfunded. Bill said in the past, fund balance covered overages, but he would like to get the budget number as close to actual as possible. Chris Osborne, Director of Student Services, spoke to the rise in transportation costs, which she stated have changed exponentially. Kids are being transported further away adding to costs as well.

Bill Rearick suggested that the Board remove resealing at Cawley from the budget and to fund it with fund balance for a net of \$65,000, and Jillian Godbout suggested removing items from the budget such as furniture from Underhill and Memorial, FCS equipment from Cawley, volleyball equipment etc. which could be funded with fund balance. Discussion ensued on these suggestions as well as on the need for HVAC at all three schools, the request for an additional teacher at Memorial, and class size. Jillian Godbout stated she would like the Board to consider funding the Camp MiTeNa Field trip.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to reduce the proposed budget by \$84,429.00. A roll-call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Lynn Baker, to increase the field trip line in the amount of \$38,225. A roll-call vote was taken. With Jason Hyde and Jim Sullivan voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Bill Rearick asked to Board to consider adding \$84,429 that was just decreased from the budget into the special education transportation line to try to get to the actual cost.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Lynn Baker, to increase the special education transportation line in the amount of \$84,429.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to amend the motion to \$45,000. A roll call vote was taken With Jason Hyde and Lynn Baker voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Vote on the motion to increase the special education transportation line in the amended amount of \$45,000. A roll call vote was taken. With Jason Hyde voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to increase each of the assistant principals' salary lines in the amount of \$7,000. Some discussion ensued.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Jim Sullivan to amend the motion to \$3,000 for each assistant principals' salary line. Discussion continued. A roll-call vote was taken on the amendment which carried unanimously. A roll-call vote was taken on the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Jillian Godbout questioned the information access line. Bill explained the use and necessity of each.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to increase the 2190 line ('other support services') in the amount of \$9,000 for wellness. After some discussion, Wayne Goertel withdrew his motion.

Bill Rearick reviewed the changes to the budget from this meeting:

- 9,336 Underhill furniture
- 3,599 Memorial furniture
- 38,849 Cawley equipment
- 2,546 Volleyball equipment
- +Special Education transportation
- +Camp MiTeNa Field Trip
- +9,000 Assistant Principals salary and related costs

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Amy Tremblay to bring the budget to the budget committee in the amount of \$41,625,358.78. A roll-call vote was taken. With Jason Hyde voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Considerable discussion ensued relative to how fund balances work.

Bill Rearick stated that the question before the Board was how much of the fund balance the Board wants to return to the taxpayers.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to retain \$200,000 out of the unassigned fund balance and return the balance to the taxpayers. A roll-call vote was taken. With Jason Hyde voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy  
School Board Recorder

The next regularly scheduled of the Hooksett School Board will be on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.