

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, March 14, 2024 6:00 pm.**  
**David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center**

Approved

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE**

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, Vanessa Gelinias, Lynn Baker, Jim Sullivan; and Superintendent of Schools, William (Bill) Rearick.

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

Wayne Goertel led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

Wayne Goertel explained how the Board presented a proposed operating budget and a default budget at the deliberative session. The default budget consists of the prior year's budget plus any contractual obligations. Cuts suggested at the deliberative session were not approved by the voters, resulting in the district having to move to its default budget. The voters also approved funding three trust funds. The reason for this meeting is to discuss how to get from the proposed budget to the default budget.

Amy Tremblay thanked the residents who came out and supported the school default budget and warrant articles; it is a testament to the Hooksett community.

Jillian Godbout said tonight's meeting will be difficult and if cuts are made, it will be to positions, not individuals.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Dave Levesque-Morrill Road: Before eliminating classroom teachers, consider cuts to non-essential employees including administrators, directors, and assistant directors, forego salary increases, reduce or eliminate high school buses and house pickups/drop offs, look at co-curricular sports and redistribute the number of teachers equally throughout grade levels.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2024/2025 Budget Reductions**

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to offer a stipend for administrators who choose to opt out of the health insurance plan.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to amend the motion to add 'in the amount of \$2,500'.

Motion on the amendment carried unanimously. Vote on the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout to apply \$76,849 from the insurance savings the amount needed to meet the default. With Jason Hyde voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Jason Hyde stated that there is no need to make these motions, you don't need to reduce anything to 'get there', because the default numbers are there.

Bill Rearick said he needs guidance from the Board and decisions have to be made.

Jason Hyde said the default budget has lines. There is no need to make motions to reduce, but recommendations can be made. The default budget is now the operating budget-that's the starting point.

Discussion on procedure ensued.

Amy Tremblay spoke to eliminating \$38,000 for Camp MiTeNa as it impacts only one grade. Jillian Godbout said it is not the intent to eliminate a fun activity, but it would free up funds for parents to support the eighth grade Washington DC trip.

Jason Hyde said MiTeNa is not in the default budget so there is no need to cut it.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Lynn Baker, to offer 38,225 allocation on budget sheet for MiTeNa to be cut. With Jillian Godbout, Vanessa Gelinias and Jason Hyde opposed, the motion carried.

Discussion continued on procedure.

Jason Hyde said the Board should make allocations and free up funds for items in the default. Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Lynn Baker, to reduce \$14,046 for NWEA. With Jim Sullivan voting no, the motion carried.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to cut the Manchester high school transportation line in the amount of \$79,200. With Jim Sullivan voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Jason Hyde, seconded by Vanessa Gelinias to reconfigure Pinkerton buses and to crease two main

pick-up spots, one on the east side, one on the west.

Motion by Amy Tremblay, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to table the motion and the motion was tabled.

Vanessa Gelinias asked for clarification between electronic access and software programs. Technology Director Dan Roma explained one was for infrastructure and networking and the other is for curriculum.

Jillian Godbout warned about using the Trust Funds instead of budgeting for it.

Discussion ensued relative to Chrome books and the cost for damaged equipment.

Jillian Godbout made a motion to eliminate the Language Arts Coordinator position. There was no second.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay to retain a school psychologist at every building by using a doctoral student in the district for an expected savings of \$40,000. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Jason Hyde asked what else is needed that is not in the default budget. Bill said 7<sup>th</sup> grade science tables, Underhill furniture, and supply lines in all three schools. Jason said there will be a fund balance which can be used to pre-buy items such as furniture, supplies and most likely maintenance items. Jillian Godbout said funds are still needed to get what the administrators need.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Jim Sullivan to take the savings of \$209,285 to be added to the maintenance line. A roll call vote was taken. With Jason Hyde voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

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

Dave Levesque thanked the Board for the work they just accomplished.

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

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to enter into a non-public session c. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board reconvened their public session at 8:09 p.m.

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

Wayne Goertel stated that a motion was made and approved to accept an out of district student until the end of the current school year, contingent on the student meeting district expectations, per policy JCA.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Jason Hyde, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 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.