

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, April 2, 2024 5:30 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 5:33 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members Jillian Godbout, Jonah Schulte, Amy Tremblay, Lynn Baker, Jim Sullivan, and Vanessa Gelinias (5:34 p.m.).

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

Wayne Goertel led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Proof of posting was provided.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No participation.

Motion by Jim Sullivan seconded by Amy Tremblay, to table staff and administration nominations.

Wayne Goertel said he attended a recent Auburn School Board meeting where an Auburn resident asked about Hooksett's financial status. Wayne introduced Karen Lessard, Interim Business Administrator, who spoke to the budget.

Karen summarized the 2023/2024 budget memo and said they were over budget by \$620,000. She said the concentrated lines are for:

- Contracted paraprofessionals. She said 28 para positions were in the budget, hoping to find employees to fill them, but the positions were unable to be filled, and contracted paras were hired.
- Special Education Transportation. She said that special education buses have been unable to provide all the necessary needs. So other providers are necessary. In addition, there has been an uptick in homeless transportation in the amount of \$200,000. She said, however, that we should be getting ½ of that amount back as homeless transportation is a shared cost with the district where the child is currently housed
- How psych services were provided to the district contributed to the overage.

Added to this, revenues are short. \$280,000 was in the budget as expected revenue for impact fees, but because the bond was paid off, we are no longer eligible for impact fees. Special Ed aid and Medicaid were over budgeted, resulting in a \$193,000 shortage in revenues. We received all special ed aid we were entitled to. Karen said much of the overage can be covered by using the Contingency Fund carried over from the fund balance, and Construction Capital Reserve Funds (for maintenance) and that ERate reimbursements can help with technology purchases. In addition, the district expects credits and reimbursements in the amount of \$109,000. She said that as of today, they need to find \$7,594 to cover the overage.

Jillian Godbout asked if this takes into consideration any lines that were underspent, to which Karen said it does.

Asked by Lynn Baker if we are receiving any credits for regular transportation, Karen said there have been 79,000 worth of credits so far.

Jonah Schulte the rate of expense seems to have increased beyond what was anticipated, to which Karen explained that known expenditures are in the form of a purchase order and those expenses are covered. Jim Sullivan what is the plan so this does not happen again. Karen said the most important thing is to get a purchase order in so it can be monitored properly.

Karen said nearly every district is finding themselves with overages in special education services and demands are costing more to provide.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Lynn Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy
School Board Recorder

The Hooksett School Board will meet on Tuesday, March 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.

The SAU Board will be meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.