

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
MONDAY, December 22, 2025 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, Jim Sullivan, Amy Tremblay, Mike Dullen, Bob Barker, John Ciempa and Principals and staff and SAU Business Administrator were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Second grader Stephen Hanson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

Wayne Goertel opened the public hearing on the bond.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by, Mike Dullen, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the Board meeting minutes of November 18, 2025, and the motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick stated that its been a busy month and that the budget committee has approved the school districts proposed operating budget. John Ciempa stated that the budget committee commended town departments for increased dialog and welcomed the collaboration. Jillian Godbout asked if there had been any interest in the open Assistant Superintendent position, to which Bill Rearick replied that there have been two applicants. John Ciempa asked what process was followed for notifying staff of Kim Sarfde's resignation, to which Bill Rearick stated that up to the morning she submitted her resignation, she had been on sick leave. After receiving the resignation, he notified administrators, then all staff, via email.

REPORTS

Administrator Reports

Administrator reports were in the packet for review.

Jim Sullivan asked how the Parent Portal is going, to which Matt Benson said it has been seamless. Jim then asked principals how the Anxious Generation presentations went. Brad Largy said they were well attended by parents from all three schools, and that they will be offered again in the spring. State funding for catastrophic aid was discussed. The district is guaranteed 80%, but that may increase to 90%. This will be determined in January 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

2026/2027 Budget Review

Bill Rearick said the budget committee didn't make any cuts.

Approval of Warrant Articles

Bill Rearick summarized the warrant articles and said the budget committee received an older version than the one handed out tonight. He said voters need to understand that \$181,250 is only the first year's payment and will look to provide a list of estimated bond payments to be put in the voters guide.

John Ciempa recused himself from discussion and went to sit in the public gallery.

Bill Rearick asked the board what funding method they wished to use for funding the Special Education and Technology trust funds.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to recommend Article #2 as presented in the packet.

Mike Dullen asked for language to be added to the warrant article in order to be less restrictive, such as adding 'and other items'. Bill Rearick said that language could be added. A roll call vote was taken. With John Ciempa recusing himself, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Ciempa rejoined the Board.

Discussion on modifying Article #6 ensued. Jillian Godbout said it made sense to raise special education funds through taxation and technology through fund balance.

Motion by Jillian Godbout, seconded by Jim Sullivan to change the language in Article #2 for the Special Education Trust Fund to be raised by taxation instead of using fund balance. A roll-call vote was taken. With Bob Barker and John Ciempa voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by John Ciempa, to recommend the new warrant article #6. A roll call vote was taken. With Mike Dullen, Bob Barker and John Ciempa voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Discussion on modifying Article #7 ensued.

Motion by Mike Dullen, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to change the verbiage of Article #7 to fund the Technology Trust Fund using fund balance with zero tax impact.

A roll-call vote was taken. With John Ciempa and Bob Barker voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by John Ciempa, to recommend the new warrant article #7. A roll call vote was taken. With Mike Dullen and John Ciempa voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Article #8 was discussed.

Motion by Mike Dullen, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve appropriating \$150,000 for the Curriculum Capital Reserve Fund to be funded by any remaining fund balance. A roll-call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Pinkerton Start Time Update

Bill Rearick stated that at a recent meeting at Pinkerton the subject of an earlier start time was reintroduced, but it was the consensus of the board to not consider changing start times. Wayne Goertel spoke of discussions on a bus consortium to look into multi-district busing.

NEW BUSINESS

Crayon Donation

Bill Rearick stated that Walmart has offered to donate \$4,500 worth of Crayola crayons to the Hooksett School District. Because it is worth over \$500, the Board must take action to approve it.

Motion by Mike Dullen, seconded by Bob Barker, to accept a crayon donation, and the motion carried unanimously.

Separate Legal Council

Bob Barker asked the Board if there was any interest in considering a Hooksett-only attorney, separate from the firm used by the SAU office, in the event there is a conflict. Jim Sullivan said the Hooksett board could always use their weighted vote to resolve any major conflicts. Bill Rearick said the district currently uses Soule, Leslie for their school attorneys and Drummond, Woodsum as their Special Education attorneys. NHSBA also provides attorney services for policies. Some discussion ensued. Bob Barker will draft a policy for the board to consider.

Suggested Topics for Pinkerton's Sending Town's Meeting

Mike Dullen requested hearing what Pinkerton's policies are regarding internal investigations and accountability to sending towns. Other items for consideration are communication to sending school boards and how Hooksett students rank. John Ciempa said some items to consider when reviewing the Pinkerton contract would be safety and reporting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT

David Hutchinson of Elmer Ave said he was in attendance to support the facility construction project. Being a 30 year veteran of commercial construction, Mr. Hutchinson said he was pleased with the selection process and happy with the approach the board has taken to fix and stabilize school maintenance.

PERSONNEL

Co-Curricular Nomination

Motion by Mike Dullen, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the co-curricular nomination as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICIES

Policies JLCD Administering Medication to Students, EBBB Accident Reports, IJO/KA Community Resources-School, Community and Home Relations, IMAH Daily Physical Activity and DAF Administration of Federal Funds were in the packet for a second reading.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to approve the second reading/adoption of the policies as presented. With Amy Tremblay voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Policies IHBBA Limited English Proficiency Instruction, JFABD Admission of Homeless Students, JFAA Admission of Resident Students, DBI Budget Implementation and BCA School Board Ethics were in the packet for a first reading.

Discussion ensued relative to policies DBI and BCA. The board wants to ensure policy language doesn't contradict one another and considered adding recusal requirement language to policy BCA. Considerable discussion on policy DBI and how over-expenditures to budget lines should be handled.

Motion by Jim Sullivan, seconded by John Ciempa, to approve the first reading of policies IHBBA, JFABD and JFAA as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL

Manifest Approval

Motion by Mike Dullen, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to approve the 11/8-25/25 manifest in the amount of \$815,201.45, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mike Dullen, seconded by Amy Tremblay, to approve the 11/26/25-12/5/25/25 manifest in the amount of \$1,342,671.73, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mike Dullen, seconded by Wayne Goertel, to approve the 12/6-19/25 manifest in the amount of \$1,189,138.51, and the motion carried unanimously.

Expenditure Report and Summary

The expenditure report and summary were before the board for review.

John Ciempa asked Business Administrator Cindy Bourgeault to provide trending increases (budget vs. actuals).

Wayne Goertel closed the public hearing.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 Section II (I)

At 8:15 p.m., motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jillian Godbout, to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 Section II (I). A roll-call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The board resumed their public session at 8:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Wayne Goertel, seconded by Jim Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy
Acting School Board Recorder

The Hooksett School Board hopes to meet next on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center to approve the HEA agreement.

The regularly scheduled business meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.