Hooksett School Board

Chair's Report
October 2026

IX.

Pinkerton Academy Contract Renewal

Hooksett School District's contract with Pinkerton Academy (PA) has an opportunity for revision every five years, along with a five-year look-ahead should the district decide to exit the agreement - in effect a ten-year rolling agreement. 2026 marks the second 5-year renewal opportunity since Hooksett first entered a one-year agreement in 2014.

The contract currently specifies that at least 63% of eight Hooksett graders matriculate to PA, which was a threshold produced from the first years of high school selections among several options. Enrollment decisions are due in October, so that PA can have that input for cost-per-student calculations which will be provided to sending districts in late November.

Board Members and Administration met to identify opportunities for contract improvements in late spring, and these were consolidated into a request by Board Members Ciempa and Tremblay and Superintendent Rearick. The Superintendent and I recently had an opportunity to visit with the new President of Pinkerton Academy's Board of Trustees, Mark LaLiberte, and Headmaster Powers, to provide context for Hooksett's proposed updates.

It's worth noting that of the seven districts sending students to Pinkerton Academy, only Hooksett's contract features such broad high school alternatives to Pinkerton. Auburn and Chester have a 10% cap for other options, and the newest sending district, Freemont, is establishing its minimum enrollment.

Hooksett's high school documents can be found at
https://hooksetthighschoolinfo.sau15.net/agreements/

NH Public Meeting Law and Committees of the School Board

September's Board meeting discussion around the Policy Committee highlighted constraints with named committees of the governing body (the Hooksett School Board) with respect to offline collaboration.

Reviewing NH state statutes highlighted by Board Member Barker last month, named committees are subject to the same quorum requirements as the Board and must have a posted meeting with a quorum physically present. A "quorum" is the minimum number of members of a group necessary to constitute the group at a meeting, which necessitates that group membership must be specified. The Hooksett School Board typically has seven defined members, and a majority - four or more - must be physically present at the posted meeting location at the posted meeting time to hold a meeting. We sometimes have a Board Member or two attend remotely via video-conference technology.

Utilizing a specific Board committee as an example, the Policy Committee has a defined membership of five people, two of whom are Board Members and three who work for the district or School

Administrative Unit. Any three of these compose a quorum of that committee, so a Policy Committee meeting can proceed even without Board Members, as has occurred in the past per meeting minutes.

This is important context to not only to (hopefully!) explain some of last meeting's discussion, but provide some clarity into between-meeting business. Committees ultimately have no decision-making capacity, but largely exist to facilitate Board meetings by preparing materials for consideration of the Board. If two Board Members desire to collaborate on a draft online document for an upcoming Board meeting, this is non-quorum work by the Board… unless these two individuals are on a small committee, then a quorum of the committee could be collaborating.

For those extra curious readers who want to see the statues, RSA 91-A:1-a, 2, and 2-a are applicable.
https://www.gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/vi/91-a/91-a-mrg.htm

The New Hampshire Municipal Association has a handy flowchart, "Is It a Meeting?"
https://www.nhmunicipal.org/right-know-law

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https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net
Meeting agendas, minutes, policies, contracts, budget documents, and more!

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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.