

**New Hartford Board of Education
Regular Meeting October 5, 2021
Antolini School – 7 pm**

Present: Chairman Tim Goff, members: Karl Hermonat, Tim Klepps, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Penny Miller, Tony Persechino, Mary Stempien, Heather Tomala,

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, Bakerville & New Hartford Elementary Schools Principal, Curriculum Specialist Heather Mathes and Director of Student Services Barbara McLean.

Absent: Tom Buzzi

Chair to Open Meeting:

Chairman Goff opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Goff asked that everyone stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair to Select Order of Business:

Chairman Goff if anyone had any changes to the agenda. As there were none the agenda stood as presented.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Murphy presented school principals Amanda Shaw & Kelly Carroll and asked that they share their respective School Improvement Plans for 2021-2022. A copy of these reports is available on the school website – newhtfd.org. Principal Carroll did say that it speaks volumes to the expertise and dedication of the teaching staff that the scores didn't change too much. There was some learning loss because of COVID but the scores are tremendous even with those challenges comparing the 2018-2019 vs 2020-2021 scores.

When asked how many parents responded to the school survey Superintendent Murphy replied 35%. Chairman Goff asked if we are adequately prepared to handle English learners. Do we have bi-lingual staff? Principal Carroll said we do not but we utilize our speech pathologists to help us out. Many of the strategies used for English learners are ones we are already using in our schools. Mr. Klepps asked wouldn't it be better to compare, for example, the kindergartners in 2018-2019 with the 2nd graders in 2020-2021. He felt this would be a better indicator. Principal Carroll said they do that internally.

Principal Shaw presented the School Improvement Plan for Antolini School. She stated that the plan was similar to the one presented by Principal Carroll. Ms. Shaw said that the Smarter Balance Math data is varied from two years ago. The scores for grades 4 and 5 dropped quite a bit. But grades 3 and 6 are quite good. The children in grades 4 and 5 missed 3 months of learning the previous year when the school closed from March until June. The content those grades missed was significant. Last year the teachers had to make up those 3 months along with

what needed to be taught. This was not physically possible within that timeframe. The children missed instructions in fractions which is huge for 4 and 5 grade along with multiplication and division of low digit numbers. The teachers did their best to try and make that up but there was definitely an impact on Smarter Balance. We are seeing less of that right now. They are working to close those gaps in instruction.

Chairman Goff said on the subject of school climate, a lot of the goals and strategies were in place pre-Covid. He asked if the schools were getting back to a level of normalcy. Mrs. Shaw replied that the goal is to get back to normal. She said the focus is more on the social and emotional needs of students. It's hard for the students to read facial cues and to really communicate when they have to wear masks. Ms. Tomala asked if the school social worker is seeing progress. Mrs. Shaw replied she was hired during the Covid year and is doing a great job. She doesn't feel that things have died down as yet for her. There are a lot of students that need support. She is seeing students in small groups and individually.

Chairman Goff asked if the school was planning on having events again where the parents and the public could attend. Mrs. Shaw replied the aim is to have things like Bingo night, curriculum nights and in-person Open House. Mr. Goff said he would challenge the school to do more of these in-person events along with board members getting out there in the public eye. Mrs. Shaw said that community events such as Girl Scouts and CCD classes are back in the school again. Also, volunteers are once again being allowed back into school.

Public Comment/Communication to the Board:

None

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Ms. Miller to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Persechino.

Discussion followed. Chairman Goff asked that changes made to the minutes at the previous meeting be reflected on the school website and in the actual meeting minutes.

Mr. Klepps asked if the public comments made at the meetings were addressed and responded to. Specifically, the comments included updating the website with Covid protocols & guidelines and the lack of discussing the 9-11 anniversary in schools. Supt. Murphy said the website has been updated but that he didn't respond specifically to that individual. He believes that the principal did talk to that individual. Mr. Klepps said that last year the board asked for updates on responses to public comment and he asked that this be done again.

Unanimous

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Seconded by Ms. O'Dell-Longhi.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, *Penny Miller, Board Secretary*

