

New Hartford Board of Education
Regular Meeting – December 7, 2021
Ann Antolini School @ 7 pm

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg

Present: Vice Chair Karl Hermonat, Secretary Penny Miller, Members: Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Mary Stempien, Tony Persechino, Tim Klepps and Tom Buzzi. Also attending via ZOOM Deirdre Tindall

Also Present: Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, Director of Student Services Barbara McLean, Curriculum Coordinator Heather Mathes, School Psychologist Jen Harris, Members of the Public Aulay Carlson, Linda Goff and others.

Interim Chair Karl Hermonat opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no changes to the Order of Business.

New Business

Board of Education / Election of Board Officers

Interim Chair said as the previous BOE Chairman Tim Goff did not seek re-election a new Board Chair needed to be elected.

The following nominations were made for that position. Mr. Buzzi nominated Tim Klepps. Ms. O'Dell Longhi nominated Karl Hermonat. As no other nominations were made, the vote was as follows:

For Karl Hermonat as Chairman:

Aye: Miller, O'Dell Longhi, Persechino, Stempien & Hermonat.

For Tim Klepps as Chairman:

Aye: Buzzi, Tindall & Klepps.

Mr. Karl Hermonat was elected as Chairman.

For the position of Vice Chairman, the following nominations were made. Ms. Tindall nominated Tim Klepps, Mr. Klepps nominated Tom Buzzi and Mr. Persechino nominated Ms. O'Dell Longhi.

Mr. Buzzi said if elected he would not accept the position of Vice Chairman. As no other nominations were made, the vote was as follows:

For Ms. O'Dell Longhi as Vice Chairman:

Aye: Hermonat, Miller, Persechino, Stempien and O'Dell Longhi.

For Tim Klepps as Vice Chairman:

Aye: Buzzi, Klepps & Tindall.

Ms. Kelly O'Dell Longhi was elected as Vice Chairman.

For the position of Secretary Ms. O'Dell Longhi nominated Penny Miller. The vote was as follows:

Aye: Hermonat, O'Dell Longhi, Stempien, Tindall, Persechino, Miller & Klepps. No Vote: Buzzi.

Ms. Penny Miller was elected as Secretary.

Discussion and possible action regarding process to fill Board of Education vacancy. Chairman Hermonat said that Board Member Heather Tomala has submitted her resignation to the Board and to the Town Clerk. He continued by saying that per our by-laws the announcement of a board vacancy will occur at the same meeting that the resignation is accepted. Mr. Hermonat said per our By-Law 9221 the procedure is as follows: *The Board will accept a Board member's resignation at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.*

The announcement of a Board vacancy will occur at the same meeting that the resignation is accepted. This resignation is not official until it is received by the Town Clerk. The Board Chairperson will announce that all interested persons should submit resumes to the Board Chairperson. A press release regarding a Board vacancy will be made and a deadline established for receipt of resumes. All submitted resumes will be mailed to Board members prior to a special meeting.

A special meeting of the Board will be held no earlier than seven (7) days and no later than twenty-one (21) days after the resume deadline. Candidates will be invited to speak and answer questions at this special meeting. After all candidates have had the opportunity to address the Board and Board members have questioned the candidates, a vote will be taken to elect a new Board member at that special meeting.

Mr. Buzzi countered that when Mr. Hermonat was elected to fill a vacant position that the same guidelines were not followed. He said that the board had Mr. Hermonat's endorsement by the DTC and it was never announced to the town. The board accepted your endorsement from the DTC and we accepted you. Mr. Buzzi said that in the minutes from that meeting it wasn't mentioned that there would be a public announcement so that others could apply for the vacancy. He continued that the RTC spent several hours interviewing potential candidates and had submitted their recommendation.

Chairman Hermonat also said that it is the board's decision as to who is elected to fill the vacancy. Just because an endorsement has come from the Republican Town Committee, does not mean that the endorsed person is automatically placed on the board.

Editor's Note: After consulting with former Chairman Goff, the procedure outlined in our By-Law 9221 was followed when Mr. Hermonat was chosen to fill the vacancy left by Josh Adams' resignation.

A special BOE meeting will be held on December 16th at 6 pm to interview possible candidates and then appoint and vote on a replacement for Ms. Tomala.

A notice will be placed on the school website and in the Waterbury Republican Newspaper inviting candidates, Republicans and Independents, to submit their application to Chairman Hermonat on December 9th by 5 pm.

Board of Education Meeting Calendar – 2022

The Board calendar for 2022 was submitted for approval. A copy can be found on the school website. A paper copy can be obtained at the Supt. of Schools office and with the New Hartford Town Clerk.

MOTION: by Ms. Miller to approve the New Hartford Board of Education meeting calendar for 2022. The meetings will be held at 7 pm in the Ann Antolini School. Seconded by Mr. Persechino.

Aye: Hermonat, O'Dell Longhi, Miller, Stempien, Persechino, Klepps; Opposed: Buzzi, Tindall.

Superintendent's Report

Supt. Murphy said he was pleased to introduce Curriculum Coordinator Heather Mathes. Ms. Mathes presented the *District Plan For Continuous Improvement of Teaching and Learning*. A copy is available at the Board of Education Office and for viewing at the Town Clerk's Office.

Public Comment

Linda Goff, 291 Maple Hollow Road, said she was one of the RTC committee that interviewed candidates to fill the board's vacancy. They put a lot of time and effort into this and they feel strongly about Tim Russell and that is why he was endorsed.

Aulay Carlson, 455 West Hill Rd, spoke about management. A copy of his letter is available at the Board of Education office and for viewing at the Town Clerk's office.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Ms. Miller to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Persechino.

Aye: Persechino, Buzzi, Klepps, Hermonat, O'Dell Longhi, Miller, Tindall; Abstained: Stempien

Editor's Note: As Ms. Tindall was not a board member at the November 16, 2021 meeting, she was not eligible to vote on the minutes from that meeting.

Reports

Ms. O'Dell Longhi said this was the second read of the following policies:

1. Policy 0200(Mission-Goals-Objectives)
2. Policy 5144(Students/Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students)
3. Policy 3542.43 (Food Service)

MOTION: by Ms. O'Dell Longhi to approve Policies 0200, 5144 and 3542.43. Seconded by Ms. Stempien.

Aye: Buzzi, Persechino, Klepps, Stempien, Hermonat, O'Dell Longhi, Miller; Abstained: Tindall

Ms. O'Dell Longhi went through the first reading of the following policies:

1. Policy 5113.2(Students/Attendance/Excused Absences/Truancy)
2. Policy 5144.2(Students/Exclusionary Time Out Settings)
3. Policy 3542.41(Business/Non-Instructional Operations/Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel)
4. Policy 1110.1(Community Relations/Parent Involvement)

In Policy 5113.2 the following was added by CABE: *Mental Health Wellness Day – A student, in order to attend to his/her emotional and psychological well-being, is permitted to take a "mental health wellness day" in lieu of attending school. Such days must be nonconsecutive. Two such days are permitted per school year.*

Mr. Buzzi feels the additional of *Mental Health Wellness Days* isn't the greatest idea in order to have our children educated. Supt. Murphy said this has been quite controversial with many educators in the state. But the state legislature and the CSDE felt over the last couple of years what transpired with

COVID-19 that students need this. He said that Mr. Buzzi was correct that the goal is to have our children in school as much as possible.

Adjourn

MOTION: by Ms. Miller to adjourn at 8:21 pm, seconded by Mr. Persechino.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted
Penny Miller, Board Secretary