

**New Hartford Board of Education
Regular Meeting – November 15, 2022
Ann Antolini School – 7:00 pm**

Present: Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller, Kelly O’Dell-Longhi, Travis Bonhomme, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Mary Stempien, Deirdre Tindall and Interim Superintendent of School Dr. John Tindall-Gibson.

Also present: David Erwin, CES Consultant and Jeffrey Sousa, New Hartford Superintendent of Schools and family.

Board chair Karl Hermonat opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and asked those present to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no changes to the Order of Business.

There was no report from the BOE Chair.

Superintendent’s Report / Administrator’s Report

Dr. Tindall-Gibson reported on a letter received from CAPSS regarding recent mandates announced by the CSDE. On Sept. 29, 2022, the CSDE announced in a memorandum sweeping mandates requiring all Connecticut school district to purchase and implement certain CSDE “approved K-3 core comprehensive reading curricula/program” in the upcoming school year. CAPSS estimates the total cost of such mandates to exceed \$100 million in the upcoming school year. School districts were informed they must implement one of six programs sold by various publishers. School districts may request a delay in the implementation of approved “curricula/programs” until 2024-2025, but only based upon insufficiency of financial resources or funding. A copy of the letter is on file in the Supt. office.

The teacher negotiations went well. The agreement is being finalized. The new contract will be reviewed at the next BOE meeting in December.

CAPSS did a survey on School Resource Officers. Eighty-eight districts responded. Many of the schools that responded were either Middle or High Schools. The survey is available for viewing in the Supt. office.

The Director of Student Services, Barbara McLean last day was November 11th. Interviews are taking place now. If it takes too long to appoint someone an interim Director will be brought in. The secretary for this person is also out on an extended leave and that position will be filled with an interim secretary. Currently it is being covered by school personnel.

Chairman Hermonat said that a sub-committee has been formed to discuss the possibility of having an SRO or SO for the school district. Tim Klepps is the chair and the committee members are Penny Miller, Deirdre Tindall and Travis Bonhomme.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes from the October 18, 2022 & November 3, 2022 meeting.
Financial Report and Personnel**

Motion by Ms. Miller to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Ms. Stempien.

Unanimous

Communication to the Board of Education

A letter was received from Stephanie Audia regarding school security. That letter is on file in the Superintendent's office.

Public Comment

Dave Erwin, from CES, spoke about Dr. Tindall-Gibson's coverage of the letter from CSDE. It has been a hot topic in the state. He hasn't seen anything like this in his 47 years of teaching. He also mentioned that all the school in his district, Trumbull have security officers.

Ms. Miller thanked Dave Erwin for the great job he did in finding us our next Superintendent of Schools. She also thanked Dr. Tindall-Gibson for all the work he has done for us. Realizing that it is hard to step into a position for such a short while. She appreciated the time he has given us.

Mr. Erwin said that it was great working with the board and that New Hartford has hired a great person, Jeff Sousa.

Mr. Hermonat said that the transition from Brian Murphy to Dr. Tindall-Gibson was smooth. He also thanked Dr. Tindall-Gibson for his time here.

New Business – Meet and Great of Newly Appointed Superintendent, Jeffrey Sousa

Mr. Sousa said that he was grateful for the opportunity and happy to be working with each and every one. He said he looked forward to meeting the new faces on the board. He has been working with Dr. Tindall-Gibson to make the transition smooth. He also thanked Dave Erwin for being an exceptional recruiter for CES. He said they are amazing, professional & well-equipped to match boards with the right superintendent. He thanked the school administrators that were present. Mr. Sousa said that he would have a presence in the schools - understanding what is going on – on a weekly basis. He then introduced his greatest support system – his wife, Kristen and their 4 children.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Miller to adjourn at 7:32 pm. Second by Mr. Buzzi.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Penny Miller, Board Secretary
CAPSS letter
CAPSS Survey on School Resource Officers
Stephanie Audia's letter