

**New Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Antolini School  
Multi-Purpose Room  
March 7, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc\\_QM3rfq](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfq)

**PRESENT:** Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Sousa; Chairman Mr. Karl Hermonat; Mr. Tim Klepps; Mr. Tom Buzzi; Ms. Penny Miller; Mr. Tony Persechino; Ms. Deirdre Tindall; Mr. Travis Bonhomme; Mrs. Kelly O'Dell Longhi; Mrs. Mary Stempien (Zoom); and Mrs Colleen Wipperman, Recording Secretary

**A. CHAIR TO OPEN MEETING: 7:02**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. CHAIR TO SELECT ORDER OF BUSINESS:** None

**D. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Email from Stefanie Audia available for viewing at the Superintendent's office. No public comment.

**E. BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR'S REPORT:** None

**F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Sousa, thanked the BOE members for their commitment to the staff and students of NHPS. He also shared a special message from Secretary Cardona, thanking Connecticut BOE members for their hard work and commitment to the children. Superintendent Sousa gave a shout out to all the volunteers that came to our schools for Read Across America including State Representative Mark Anderson.

**2023-2024 BUDGET**

Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Sousa made minor changes to the budget to bring the increase down to 3.63%. We are at a threshold for kindergarten enrollment, which is at 60 students. Kelly O'Dell Longhi explained that 20 kindergarten students per class was too high and that they should consider another kindergarten teacher. Board inquired about several lines on the budget which was answered by Superintendent, Jeff Sousa.

**MOTION** by Kelly O'Dell Longhi to add 4th kindergarten section. Second by Tony Persechino.

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION PASSES**

**MOTION** by Tony Persechino to pass the 2023-2024 budget with the revised amount for the additional kindergarten section. Second by Penny Miller.

**DISCUSSION**

Deirdre Tindal mentioned adding the security guard to the budget pending the survey results. Superintendent Sousa informed the board that we have approximately 244 responses to date and the deadline for the survey submission is March 10, 2023. Travis Bonhomme asked if they could also add a line for the special education needs. Board discussed a motion to rescind until they are provided the cost for an additional teacher and paraprofessional before approving the 2023-2024 school budget. Superintendent Jeff Sousa said that he could provide those costs along with the costs for special education para support. The board discussed scheduling a special meeting for next week before approving the 2023-2024 school budget.

**MOTION TO RESCIND** the motion by Tony Persechino to pass the 2023-2024 budget with the revised amount for the additional kindergarten section by Tony Persechino. Pull back second by Penny Miller.

**Special meeting** date set for Thursday, March 16, 6pm at Antolini - with option for virtual.

#### **G. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

##### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 21, 2023**

Karl Hermonat would like to amend the minutes under Section F - *Superintendent's Report - Pupil Services* -\$13,618 (offset by IDA & ESSER Grants) - typo IDA to IDEA.

**MOTION** by Karl Hermonat to approve February 21, 2023 minutes with amendment.

Second by Penny Miller.

**UNANIMOUS**

##### **2. EXPENDITURE REPORT: None**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to approve expenditure report. Second by Kelly O'Dell Longhi.

**UNANIMOUS**

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Healthy Food Nutrition Certification**

Superintendent, Jeff Sousa explained that this will be submitted no later than July 1, 2023 to the State of Connecticut along with the votes very clear and the motion read exactly as is below.

The New Hartford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to approve the Healthy Food Nutrition Certification. Second by Tony Persechino.

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION PASSES**

#### **I. OLD BUSINESS**

**2nd reading of 2023-2024 school year calendar** - Karl Hermonat reminded everyone we voted on the calendar already.

#### **J. REPORTS: None**

#### **K. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Karl Hermonat to adjourn 8:14. Second by Tony Persechino.

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Wipperman  
Recording Secretary