

**New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Antolini School
Multi-Purpose Room
March 21, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfq

PRESENT: Superintendent, Jeff Sousa; Chairman Karl Hermonat; Tim Klepps; Tom Buzzi; Penny Miller; Deirdre Tindall; Travis Bonhomme; Kelly O'Dell Longhi; and Colleen Wipperman, Recording Secretary

A. Chair to Open Meeting: 7:01

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Chair to Select Order of Business:

Karl Hermonat moved routine business to start the meeting as D. No other changes.

D. Routine Business

1. Approval of Minutes - March 7, 2023 and March 16, 2023 (Minutes to follow)

MOTION by Penny Miller to amend the minutes of March 16th with the following: Under new business-discussion, change 49 to 60 kindergarteners registered, and the next line, change 54 to 34 births in 2018. The next page-discussion, how the vote went on special paraeducator. The aye's were Travis Bonhomme, Tony Persechino, Tim Klepps, and Kelly O'Dell Longhi. The nay's were Deirdre Tindall, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller, Tom Buzzi, and Mary Stempien. Second by Dierdre Tindall.

**UNANIMOUS
MOTION PASSED**

MOTION by Penny Miller to approve the minutes of March 16, 2023 as amended. Second by Tom Buzzi.

**UNANIMOUS
MOTION PASSED**

MOTION by Tim Klepps to approve March 7, 2023 minutes. Second by Karl Hermonat.

**UNANIMOUS
MOTION PASSED**

2. Expenditure Report

MOTION by Karl Hermonat to approve the expenditure report as presented. Second by Kelly O'Dell Longhi.

**UNANIMOUS
MOTION PASSED**

E. Communications to the Board of Education/Public Comment

Karl Hermonat thanks the staff for the emails the board members received for their commitment and volunteerism.

Kristen Kosiba - 40 Windsor Lane - She is disappointed that additional funds will not be added

for a special ed teacher. Due to multiple reasons, she would like the board to re-evaluate their decision.

F. Board of Education Chair's Report

Karl Hermonat, Superintendent Jeff Sousa, and Penny Miller attended the budget workshop with the Board of Finance. It was received well and they will have a follow up tomorrow, March 22, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Jeff Sousa would like the board to take a look at which Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) NHPS would like to affiliate with moving forward. Superintendent, Jeff Sousa is recommending we transition/transfer from CREC to EdAdvance due to the following: NHPS educational needs and aligning with Regional 7, our partner district. EdAdvance is structured to collaborate and serve smaller rural districts. They advocate at the state legislature for laws that address and respond to our specific educational needs. Take advantage of EdAdvance's regional efficiency efforts (Spec Ed., van transportation, IT and business solutions). Tuition discounts for our special education students. Consideration will be given for inclusion in the EdAdvanced School-Based Mental Health grant benefits.

Guest, Dr. Jeff Kitching, Executive Director for EdAdvance, is here to answer any questions. He reiterated what Superintendent, Jeff Sousa mentioned regarding what EdAdvance could do for NHPS. They recently received a \$8,700,000 grant to help affiliated schools with their needs. If we want to change affiliations then the motion would have to be made at a board meeting stating we would like to affiliate with EdAdvance.

MOTION by Tim Klepps to affiliate with EdAdvance and terminate membership with CREC. Second by Tom Buzzi.

DISCUSSION

We would pay a fee per student like we do with CREC now. NHPS currently uses EdAdvance for our after school program (BASES). Nothing will change for the students that attend CREC schools now or moving forward. Tuition stays the same. EdAdvance has a grants department that will help our district with writing and obtaining grants. It would be a financial savings to transition to EdAdvance.

UNANIMOUS

MOTION PASSED

H. New Business: None

I. Old Business: None

J. Reports: None

K. Adjournment

MOTION by Karl Hermonat to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. Second Penny Miller.

UNANIMOUS

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted by:
Colleen Wipperman
Recording Secretary