

New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
October 15, 2019
7:00 p.m./Multipurpose Room
Antolini School

Present: Chairman Tim Goff, Penny Miller, Thomas Buzzi, Karl Hermonat, Stacie Cull (out at 8:27, in at 8:28), Tim Klepps, Pat Spaziani, Jenn Benaitis (out at 8:01), Kelly O'Dell Longhi (in at 7:05), and Superintendent Brian Murphy

Absent:

A. Chair to Open Meeting- Chairman Tim Goff called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance-

C. Chair Select Order of Business-

D. Superintendent's Report-

a. Advanced Manufacturing Program/Goodwin College Partnership-

Superintendent Brian Murphy introduced Craig Drezek from Goodwin College to provide information regarding the partnership between Goodwin College and New Hartford Public Schools. Mr. Drezek explained the key components of the program that will be implemented for 6th grade students in New Hartford during the 2019-2020 school year.

b. District Strategic Plan- Brian Murphy presented the district's 5 year strategic plan to enhance student achievement.

c. Substitute Teacher Update- Due to the deficit of substitute teachers in the district, Brian Murphy recommended that the district partner with Kelly Services to provide substitutes for the district. He noted that Kelly services could not start until the last week of January/first week of February. Due to the delay in Kelly Services availability to start, recommended that the stipend currently being paid for fulfilling that duty continue to be paid for the 2019-2020 school year to ensure a smooth transition into Kelly Services. He also recommended that substitute pay increase from \$80 to \$85 a day. At that increase, Kelly Services would charge the district \$122.40 to fill substitute teacher positions, and \$15.84 an hour for tutors. Tutors would receive \$11.00 an hour from the charges paid to Kelly Services. Kelly Services would provide a fill rate of approximately 85%. **Motion** by Tim Goff to authorize Superintendent Murphy to contract with Kelly Services to provide substitutes to the New Hartford Public Schools, second by Pat Spaziani. Those in favor: Tim Goff, Thomas Buzzi, Karl Hermonat, Stacie Cull, Tim Klepps, Pat Spaziani, Jenn Benaitis, Kelly O'Dell Longhi. Opposed: Penny Miller. **Motion passes.** (Jenn Benaitis out at 8:01) **Motion** by Penny Miller, second by Kelly O'Dell Longhi to raise the substitute pay to \$90 a day. Those in favor: Penny

Miller, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Tim Goff, Stacie Cull. Opposed: Karl Hermonat, Thomas Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Pat Spaziani. **Motion fails.** **Motion** by Penny Miller to increase the substitute pay to \$85 a day for non certified teachers and \$90 a day for certified, second by Karl Hermonat. Those in favor: Tim Goff, Penny Miller, Thomas Buzzi, Karl Hermonat, Stacie Cull, Tim Klepps, Kelly O'Dell Longhi. Opposed: Pat Spaziani. **Motion passes.** **Motion** by Thomas Buzzi, second by Karl Hermonat, to increase substitute tutor and paraprofessional pay to \$11.50 an hour. All in favor, none opposed. **Motion approved.**

E. Public Comment-

- i. **Jessica Chicoski (207 Stub Hollow)-** Asked a question regarding Kelly Services about how substitutes have access to available openings. The board could not answer at that time.
- ii. **Laura Pollako (195 Cedar Lane)-** As a former teacher and current substitute teacher for New Hartford Public Schools, she provided perspective on the hourly pay breakdown of substitute teachers and the impact Kelly Services may have on providing substitute teachers to the district.
- iii. **Tricia Brett (450 Town Hill Rd)-** As current substitute teacher, she expressed details to her person experience as a substitute and the length of time that it has taken to increase the amount of pay offered to individuals who serve as substitutes for New Hartford Public Schools. She also expressed her concern with the lack of control in regards to who fills these positions when outsourcing this

F. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Minutes-September 17, 2019 Motion** by Penny Miller, second by Karl Hermonat, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All in favor, none opposed. **Motion approved.**
- b. **Expenditure Report-**
- c. **Personnel-** Brian Murphy announced that Debbie Kelly, the Fiscal Services Administrative Assistant to New Hartford Public School, will be retiring on November 22, 2019 after serving the New Hartford Public Schools for a total of 28 years.

- G. Communication to the Board of Education-** The board received an email from Brian Murphy with his response to a question received in late September from a town resident. The resident inquired as to what would be provided for curriculum for Constitution Day.

H. New Business

- a. Fiscal Assistant Position-** Tim Goff discussed an opportunity presented by First Selectmen Dan Jerram to hire and share a CPA or an accountant in replace the fiscal assistant position. There will be further discussion surrounding this topic.

- I. Adjournment- Motion** by Penny Miller, second by Pat Spaziani, to adjourn at 8:48. All in favor, none opposed. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Alexis Calder
Recording Secretary
10/18/2019