

**New Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Antolini School  
Multi-Purpose Room  
May 16, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Google Meet joining info  
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fqp-fuai-hcv>**

**PRESENT:** Superintendent, Jeff Sousa; Chairman Karl Hermonat; Tim Klepps; Tom Buzzi; Penny Miller; Deirdre Tindall; Travis Bonhomme; Tony Persechino; Kelly O'Dell Longhi; Mary Stempien; 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 said there was an oversight and communication to the board/public comment was not on the original agenda. It has been added and officially submitted.

**D. Communication to the Board/Public Comment**

Karl Hermonat received correspondence regarding the board's decision to remove a section in grade 2. (see attached)

Aulay Carlson of 455 West Hill Road- Expressed his concerns with the new instructional programming that he believes is being implemented. (see attached)

**E. Board of Education Chair's Report - None**

**F. Superintendent's Report**

Thanking all staff (administrative assistants, school nurses and teacher appreciation days) we honored this week and are indebted to the work they do with our children every day. Lots happening with our students between White Memorial, School Play, etc. Superintendent Jeff Sousa presented Declan Murphy and Allie Cravanzola with the Litchfield County Superintendents Award. He also provided the BOE and viewers with the SPED historical budget ranges from the 2017-2018 to 2023-2024 school year (attached and online).

**Student performance presentation**

Amy Kennedy, Dr. Kelly Carroll & Heather Mathes presented an assessment of where our scores are currently, the historical impact or growth of our students, places where we can improve, and next steps that will be integrated into the 5 year engagement plan. (presentation attached and online)

Superintendent Jeff Sousa said the STAR assessment is something we want to utilize. We will use STAR for our Grade 1-6 Math as well as STAR for Grade 3-6 reading. We will maintain Dibels K-3. New ELA program curriculum based assessments to give our

educators real time, in the moment student performance and how we can support them. Illustrative Math assessment calibration will be part of our professional development efforts. Another piece is our progress report alignment, looking at our assessments making sure they line up with our progress reports.

## **G. Routine Business**

**1. Line item transfer** - Superintendent Jeff Sousa presented several line item transfers. **MOTION** by Penny Miller to accept 2022-2023 budget transfers as requested. Second by Mary Stempien.

Discussion:

Karl Hermonat asked about the grant that was supposed to cover the cost of the CT Junior Republic. Superintendent Sousa said the state dropped the ball and the money never came to fruition. Finding value in that program, Michael Lynch is applying for a \$170,000 grant for next year and will be applying for an additional grant as a back up.

**Aye:** UNANIMOUS

**MOTION PASSES**

## **2. Approval of Minutes - March 31, 2023**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to approve the March 31, 2023 minutes. Second by Travis Bonhomme.

**Aye:** Penny Miller, Karl Hermonat, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Deirdre Tindall, Tim Klepps, Tom Buzzi, Travis Bonhomme.

**Abstained:** Tony Persechino & Mary Stempien

**MOTION PASSES**

## **3. Expenditure Report**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to approve the Expenditure Report. Second by Travis Bonhomme.

**Aye:** UNANIMOUS

**MOTION PASSES**

## **H. New Business**

Policy Updates (First Reading by Mary Stempien)

**P4113.12**, a new policy on Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Periods for Teachers. Compliant with CAFE minimum 30 lunch period uninterrupted lunch. We do this now but should be one of our board policies.

**Proposed Class Size Policy** : The Board agree that unless it experiences serious constraints of budget, instructional time and/or space, school organization, teacher qualifications, and individual student needs the following pupil/teacher ratio guidelines will apply in determining the number of regular classroom teacher

positions: 18:1 for pre-kindergarten; 20:1 for grades K through 2; 25:1 for grades 3 through 6; and for special instruction, State guidelines.

**P5144.4(a)Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students** An update to remove language crossed out and replaced with writing in red. Superintendent Sousa explained that this is our current practice but needs to be put in our policies.

**P5113.2(a)**, an update to policy on **Student Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy** -Nothing Is changing, we strongly believe students need to come to school. Number 10 has been added to inform parents or caregivers that may be having a hard time getting children to school and providing them resources with information concerning 211 etc.

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to add Second Grade session discussion to the agenda. Second by Travis Bonhomme.

Karl Hermonat said they only need  $\frac{2}{3}$  to vote aye.

**Aye:** Travis Bonhomme, Tim Klepps, Tony Persechino, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Penny Miller, Mary Stempien.

**Nay:** not recorded

### ***MOTION PASSES***

Discussion:

It was discussed that 20 students in one of the Grade 2 sessions is too high. There has been concerns with the needs, academically and behaviorally. It was suggested to give Superintendent Sousa some time to evaluate the concerns of removing a grade 2 session and it would be added to the June 6th board meeting for discussion.

## **I. Old Business**

### **RESC Alliance Updates**

Dr. Jeff Kitching, CEO of EdAdvance and Dr. Greg Forio, CEO of CREC, and their Boards agreed we can move. As soon as Superintendent Jeff Sousa receives the letter, he will share it with the board and will send it out to the State of CT.

## **J. Reports: None**

## **K. Executive Session**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to move to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.. Second by Travis Bonhomme.

**Aye:** UNANIMOUS

### **New Hartford Board of Education Self Assessment**

The board asked Superintendent Jeff Sousa to join them for the Executive Session.

***MOTION*** by Penny Miller to leave Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. Second by Tom Buzzi  
***Aye:*** UNANIMOUS

**L. Adjournment**

***MOTION*** by Tom Buzzi to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.. Second by Penny Miller  
***Aye:*** UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Wipperman  
Recording Secretary

**Recorded meetings will be posted to:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc\\_QM3rfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg)