

**New Hartford Public Schools Special
Board of Education Meeting
Ann Antolini School/MPR
May 18, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
[youtube.com/channel/UCX-
_ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg)**

Present- Tim Goff, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Heather Tomala, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Mary Stempien

Absent- Tony Persechino

- A. Chair to Open Meeting** - Tim Goff opened the in person meeting at 7:00pm. The meeting was live streamed and available to view on YouTube.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance** - The board joined in the pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Chair to select order of Business-** No change
- D. Superintendent's Report**
 - 1. Superintendent's Awards.**

Mr. Murphy introduced Patrick Brett and Jillian Quinto as the 6th grade Superintendent Award winners for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Murphy explained that this is a prestigious award which represents academic excellence, leadership and community spirit. In lieu of the annual Litchfield Superintendent's banquet which was unfortunately cancelled this year due to the pandemic, award winners were presented with a certificate and their pictures were taken to be featured in the Republican American.

2. District Newsletter.

The latest district newsletter has been completed by the Administrative team and has been shared to staff and parents and also published on the district website. Goff asked Mr. Murphy if copies could also be shared with the town to which Mr. Murphy agreed.

3. Oak Hill Lease.

Mr. Murphy proposed to the board, the extension of the Oak Hill School lease which includes the use of three classrooms at Ann Antolini School. Mr. Murphy explained to the board that in doing so, Oak Hill would increase their lease payment from \$132,000 to \$137,000 in the first

year. Buzzi asked if a member of the Oak Hill program could present information to the board regarding the program that might help board members and others understand the programs purpose? Mr. Murphy said he would look into making that happen. Tomala asked Mr. Murphy if the money from the lease was included in the recently approved budget? Mr. Murphy responded no because the money goes to the town directly and is not part of the operating budget.

Motion: by Miller to approve the extension of the Oak Hill School lease by three years with a \$5000 increase. Klepps seconded.

Unanimous

4. Project Playground Committee Update

Jessica Chicoski updated the board on the status of the new playgrounds. She informed the board that the fundraising has now been completed and the committee has exceeded its goal of \$100,000. This means that sunshades and picnic tables will also be installed at the schools when the playgrounds begin. Chicoski did let the board know that there was a recent fire at the manufacturing building which is providing the playground materials which has set back the installation date. Chicoski stated that she is working with the vendor regularly to try and get a date for materials to arrive but is still hopeful installation will be completed before the beginning of the school year.

Finally, Chicoski reminded the board and parents that the last day to purchase a “paw” for the playgroup fences would be May 20th. The cost is \$100 and would be displayed at the sponsor’s school of choice.

E. Public Comment/Communications to the board.

6th grade students of Ann Antolini School Julia Goff and Ryane O’Dell thanked Mr. Murphy, the board and staff for their time at the New Hartford public schools as they will begin their transition to Northwestern Region 7 Middle school in the 2021-2022 school year. The girls also spoke highly of 6th grade superintendent award winner, Jillian Quinto congratulating her on her achievement.

Kerry Guilfoyle, 251 Cedar Lane, New Hartford, requested removing masks from the school children effective 5/20/2021 based on new recommendations published by the CDC. The board and Mr. Murphy made no further comment to this request at the meeting.

F. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of minutes April 20, 2021

Mary Stempien requested a change to the minutes from the April 20, 2021 minutes to show the following changes:

Present- Tim Goff, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller (virtual), Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Tony Persechino, Heather Tomala, Kelly O’Dell Longhi, ~~Mary Stempien~~

Absent- Mary Stempien

Motion: by Miller, to approve the minutes from April 20, 2021 meeting with said changes. Buzzi seconded. Aye: Tomala, Klepps, Buzzi, Hermonat, Goff, O'Dell Longi, Miller. Abstained: Stempien.

Motion Passes.

- 2. Expenditure Report**
- 3. Personnel**

Mr. Murphy notified the board that Betsy Lavelle, special education at New Hartford Elementary will be retiring at the end of the school year. Cindy Johnson, Interventionist at Ann Antonini will be retiring at the end of the school year. Jessica Foskitt, music teacher has accepted an increased 0.9 teaching position at the Granby Pubic schools. The board thanked the retirees for their years of service.

Motion: by Miller to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Buzzi.

Unanimous.

G. Reports

- 1. Plant Facility and Transportation Committee**
- a. Bus Contract Bid Proposal**

Mr. Murphy sent out the RFP to potential new contractors as a result of the Dattco bus lease expiring this year. The committee in turn, received one bid from Dattco itself for the new contract. They presented two proposals of five years and four. The five-year contract offered the district a significant saving of \$125,882.00 and the four-year plan offered an alignment with the Regional 7 bus contract. The five-year plan also restricted the boards buying power for a new contract in the next bidding cycle. The transportation committee recommended to the board approving the four-year plan despite the 5.2% saving the five-year plan would guarantee. The committee is confident that they can make this saving back with a more competitive bidding market at the next renewal. The cost of the four year is \$2,424,135.

Motion: by Buzzi, to approve the new proposed four-year bus contract with Dattco. This motion was moved for further discussion and then withdrawn by Buzzi.

Motion: by Buzzi, to allow Superintendent Murphy, to enter a four-year contract with Dattco bus company at \$2,424,135. Seconded by Klepps.

Aye: Tomala, Stempien, Klepps, Buzzi, Hermonat, O'Dell Longi.
Abstained: Goff, Miller.

Motion Passes.

- 2. School Community Relations and Policy**
- a. Review Policy 1331 (Use of School Facilities) Second Read.**

Motion: By Klepps, to approve proposed changes to Policy 1331 (Use of School Facilities) Stempien Seconded.

Unanimous.

b. Review Policy 5114 (Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process) Second Read.

Motion: by Stempien, to approve proposed changes to Policy 5114 (Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process) Tomala Seconded.

Unanimous.

c. Review Policy 4118.112 (Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Second Read))

Motion: by Stempien, to approve proposed changes to Policy 4118.112 (Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment. Seconded by Tomala.

Unanimous.

d. Review Policy 5131.911 (Bullying Prevention and Intervention) (1st read)

The board agreed to table the proposed changes for the next meeting on June 1, 2021 with no motion.

H. Adjournment

The board invited Superintendent Murphy into Executive session 7:50pm to complete the Superintendents Evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year.

Respectfully Submitted

Laura Fritch,
Recording Secretary