

New Hartford Board of Education Meeting
October 18, 2022
Ann Antolini School/Multi-Purpose Room

Board Members Present: Interim Superintendent Dr. John Tindall-Gibson; Chairman, Karl Hermonat; Tom Buzzi; Tim Klepps; Penny Miller; Tony Persechino; Mary Stempien; Deirdre Tindall and Dana Finello, Recording Secretary

School Staff/Guests: Kelly Carroll; Amy Kennedy; Heather Mathes; Barbara McClean; Haley Pilkington; Andrea Bennett; Kim Stimson; Lisa LoPresti; Sarah Gaedeke; Elise Yost.

Not Present: Travis Bonhomme, Kelly O'Dell Longhi,

I. Chair to Open Meeting

Chairman Hermonat opened the meeting at 6:01pm. Members were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Chairman's Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

III. Board of Education Chair's Report

Chairman Hermonat stated that Supt. Judy Palmer, Region #7 and the Resident State Trooper were asked to attend tonight's meeting but they both had previous commitments. However, the Chairman is forming a School Security and Safety Subcommittee and will invite them to either attend that committee meeting or another future BOE meeting. In the meantime, those BOE members who wish to serve on this subcommittee were asked to email him.

IV. Superintendent's Report

1. Fuel Oil Purchase – Supt. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. The school purchased 35,000 gallons with East River Energy and got a locked-in contract at \$4.12/gallon. This company will ensure delivery all

winter for the schools. However, it is 50% more than was budgeted so in December, a line-item adjustment will be needed for financial report.

2. Air Conditioning at Antolini School – Supt. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. Insurance carrier CIRMA paid the claim for \$9,048.00. As soon as the parts come in, the contractor will complete the work needed to be done.
3. Teacher Negotiations – Supt. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. Negotiation meetings are going well and were held October 3rd and 10th. Both were very productive and cordial. The negotiating team is comprised of: Antonio Persechino; Penny Miller; Mary Stempien; Julie Jaquays, Shipman & Goodwin; John Tindall-Gibson; Charlie Neale, Observer from BOF.
4. Safety & Security Plan Meeting – Supt. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. The committee met 2 weeks ago on October 4th and discussed the plan and agreed to some improvements in the Safety & Security Plan Manual. Changes and suggestions were incorporated into the current manual. Dr. Tindall-Gibson also stated that in Connecticut, the local municipalities typically own their school buildings. By law, local BOEs are charged with the care, maintenance and utilization of the buildings for education of the local children. This also includes the safety and security of the children and staff within the facilities. Since it is the BOE's responsibility, each member needs to be aware of the Safety & Security Plan. Dr. Tindall-Gibson distributed a copy of the manual to all BOE members for their review under complete confidentiality and discretion for them alone and it was emphasized that this manual was not to be given to anyone else or duplicated in any way.
5. Personnel Changes – Supt. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. Barbara McClean, Director of Student Services is resigning November 12, 2022 and has accepted another position at another school district. He stated what a terrific job she has done and has earned much respect and praise from the school staff and community. This position will be difficult to fill and to date, four applications were received and one candidate has been interviewed.

Also leaving is Diane Barrett, Fiscal Services Administrative Assistant after three years of great work and service in this role. She is resigning

October 31, 2022 and has accepted a new position in region #7. Amy Norton has accepted the new position and has been shadowing Diane to learn all the special accounting requirements until her departure.

6. PD Day, October 7, 2022 – Supt. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. All staff got together and learned how to collect and utilize data for highly useful assessment of student learning outcomes. He stated that a team of educators in the New Hartford Schools would like to make a short presentation at the next BOE meeting on November 15, 2022 to help the members and staff learn more about the curriculum in our schools.

V. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Penny Miller and seconded by Mary Stempien to table the September 20, 2022 Minutes to discuss a financial correction that was inadvertently omitted. On Page 4 of the financial report, the charge in the line item of “Repairs Non-Instr. Equipment” was for bills received after last year’s fiscal year was closed.

Miller/Stempien – The Motion Passed Unanimously

1. Approval of the Minutes of September 20, 2022

A motion was made by Penny Miller and seconded by Mary Stempien to approve the minutes of September 20, 2022 with the correction that was stipulated.

Miller/Stempien – The Motion Passed Unanimously

2. Financial Report

A motion was made by Penny Miller and seconded by Mary Stempien to approve the financial budget.

Miller/Stempien – The Motion Passed Unanimously

3. Personnel – Resignation of Barbara McClean, Director of Student Services, effective November 12, 2022

A motion was made by Penny Miller and seconded by Mary Stempien to approve the resignation of Barbara McClean.

Miller/Stempien – The Motion Passed Unanimously

VI. Communications to the Board

There were no new communications to the Board.

VII. Public Comment

There were no public comments to report.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business to report.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chairman Hermonat to adjourn the meeting at 6:21pm and seconded by Penny Miller.

Hermonet/Miller – The Motion Passed Unanimously

Respectfully submitted by,
Dana A. Finello, Recording Secretary