

**Town of New Hartford
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
MPR Room – Antolini School**

PRESENT Chairman Tim Goff, Members: Tom Buzzi, Karl Hermonat, Tim Klepps, Penny Miller, Kelly O'Dell Longhi and Pat Spaziani

Others Present Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, School Psychologist Jen Harris, Director of Student Services Barbara McLean, and Kathryn Boughton (Republican American reporter, members of the public: Mary Stempien and Tony Persechino (both running for the local BOE).

Absent Jenn Benaitis and Stacie Cull

Chairman Tim Goff opened the meeting at 7:00 pm asking those in attendance to stand and join the board reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair to Select Order of Business No changes

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Murphy reported that the schools are ready to go with their scheduled opening on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. Policies and Procedures will be reviewed during the 3 professional training days held on August 23, 26 & 27, 2019. Three certified staff members have been hired. Three tutors have also been hired and there are more interviews scheduled. New Teacher orientation will be held on Thursday from 9 – 12 pm. Mrs. McLean will have orientation on that same day for the new tutors. Mr. Murphy said that the custodians have done a great job with the schools and they have never looked better.

Capital Plan Updates – Mr. Murphy reported that the Security Technology project at Antolini School should be completed during the 1st week of school. This project was \$700.00 over budget. The Chromebooks will be delivered before the start of school for the 5th graders. The Promethean Boards will be delivered by the 1st week of school. This equipment came in under budget by \$600.00. The School Furniture for Bakerville and New Hartford Elementary Schools will be delivered September 11th. The stairs were replaced and acoustic panels have been installed at Bakerville School. Finally, New Hartford Elementary School has a new mower.

Kindergarten Update – the current enrollment is 58 students with the breakdown as follows. At New Hartford Elementary School there will be 18 students. At Bakerville School both Kindergarten sections will be 20 students each. Mr. Murphy said the number of Kindergarten students and which school they attend is ever-changing as we approach the start of school. Mr. Hermonat asked for the enrollment figures for Pre-K. Mr. Murphy said there are 16 students in that section. There is no waiting list for that section.

Internship Update – Mr. Murphy contacted the University of Bridgeport for a candidate to be a long-term sub for this coming school year at the primary schools. Currently that school has no one

available. Neither the University of Hartford nor Central Connecticut State University offers a year-long internship to school districts. Mr. Murphy did ask the board to approve expenditure this in the event that the University of Bridgeport does contact him with a suitable candidate. Central Connecticut does offer an internship where the intern goes with a teacher for 3 months. Ms. Miller asked if we could wait to approve this and then either call a special meeting or discuss it at a regular meeting. Mr. Murphy didn't recommend that. The cost for an intern for a year is \$16,000 with no benefits. Ms. Miller asked if they weren't needed as a substitute what they would be doing. Mr. Murphy said that person could then work with students that needed additional help. Ms. Spaziani asked why they wouldn't be used at Antolini School. Mr. Murphy said usually they are only used at one school and three schools would be too much for one intern. Ms. Miller asked if we need a substitute every day at the primary schools. Mr. Murphy said not every day but many days we do. Ms. O'Dell Longhi asked if you were to hire someone at our daily rate how much would it be. Mr. Murphy said at \$80.00/day for 180 days the cost is \$14,400. He said by using an intern it is more formalized, they have had more education courses and they are going for their certification. Mr. Buzzi asked if the contract amount of \$16,000 will go down with each month that we don't have someone. Mr. Murphy said he will check. Mr. Goff asked if this position would fall under the union contract for tutors. Mr. Murphy felt that it wouldn't.

MOTION: by Buzzi to authorize Superintendent Murphy to negotiate on behalf of the Board a contract with the University of Bridgeport for a year-long intern cost to be negotiated per the starting date. Seconded by O'Dell Longhi.

Unanimous

Public Comment None

Consent Agenda

Mr. Murphy said Allison Melillo is returning back to Antolini School. Jacklyn Tobin is the new Spanish Teacher and Jessica Foskitt is the new music teacher for the district. Elizabeth Nicoletti is the new Speech and Language Teacher at Antolini and Bakerville Schools. Tutors Janet Bristow and Lisa Spoering have resigned from the school system. Cheyenne Golding resigned as tutor at the New Hartford Elementary School. Erica Figueiral, Kelly Cravanzola and Amy Ouelette have been hired as tutors for the district. He said that 3 more tutors will be hired for the district. Mr. Hermonat asked if these 3 positions will be easy to fill. Mr. Murphy said that 2 are near completion and if the 3rd person isn't filled then a substitute will be in place for the start of school.

MOTION: by Buzzi to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Hermonat.

*Aye: Goff, Buzzi, Miller, Hermonat, O'Dell Longhi; Abstained: Klepps and Spaziani.
Motion passes.*

Communication to the Board None

Old Business

Mr. Goff said following what was done in previous years, he combined all the comments made regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation into one document and scored them. The Superintendent's Evaluation was shared with the board.

MOTION: by Buzzi to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation conducted on Tuesday, June 18th, 2019. Seconded by Klepps.

Unanimous

Reports

Community Relations and Outreach Sub-Committee

Mr. Goff put forth as member of this committee: Tom Buzzi as Chair with members Tim Klepps and Kelly O'Dell Longhi. The charge of this committee is to improve community involvement and to better solicit community input for the operation of the New Hartford Public Schools. They will seek input from all the BOE members. The members of this and other committee members may change following the November elections.

Mr. Goff commended Mr. Murphy and his staff with getting all 3 schools ready for opening day, August 28th.

MOTION: by Miller to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Seconded by Spaziani.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller
Secretary
New Hartford Board of Education