

**New Hartford Public Schools
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Antolini School-Multi-Purpose Room
30 Antolini Road, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Josh Adams, Jen Benaitis, Staci Cull, Cindy Duval, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller, Mary Misorski, Pat Spaziani and Jen Zenuh; Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy.

(Jen Zenuh left meeting at 8:37PM)

ABSENT: None

1. CHAIR TO OPEN MEETING:

Chairman Jen Benaitis called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

2. CHAIR SELECT ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. Benaitis clarified information presented at the last meeting i.e. the "area superintendent: referenced last meeting as retiring is not; and the BOE will nominate a representative to the building committee.

MOTION: Jen Zenuh, Karl Hermonat second, to appoint Penny Miller to the SBC.

MOTION: Cindy Duval, Mary Misorski second, to appoint Pat Spaziani to the SBC.

Paper ballot results:

- Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller and Jen Zenuh voted in favor of Penny Miller.
- Josh Adams, Jen Benaitis, Staci Cull, Cindy Duval, Mary Misorski and Pat Spaziani voted in favor of Pat Spaziani.

Pat Spaziani will attend the next Town Meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

None

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

A. Presentation on Pre-K Program.

Ms. Morabito gave an overview of the 27 three and four year old pre-school students. Mrs. Gallant presented data on the 7 full day students. Mr. Murphy shared a cost analysis of the program. Discussion followed on the possibility of a self-sustaining program. Administration feels the program needs to be competitive with CREC in an effort to keep students in town.

28 students will be screened next week for the 2017-18 school year. Next steps will include tracking student performance of the children moving on to kindergarten. The overall impression was that the pre-school has thus far been a success.

B. Inclement Weather Decisions.

We have had 8 days off (7 due to snow, 1 burst pipe.) NHPS has traditionally followed the decision made by Region 7 Superintendent to close school. The Policy Committee will explore the possibility of moving students from one building to another in the event of a building "mishap."

C. Safety Plan

Schools conduct monthly drills following the district plan. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, February 28 of the District Safety Committee.

D. Capital Plan Update

Changes were made to the Capital Plan:

- Move \$6,000 for painting at Bakerville from Cap to Maintenance.
- Move from 2019 \$10,500 designated for a mower at Antolini to 2018. Both mowers will be deleted from the 2017-18 Maint. budget. NHES mower will be purchased in 2019.

MOTION: Jen Zenuh, Penny Miller second, to accept the Capital Plan as amended; unanimously approved.

E. Budget:

Budget discussion included conversation on the following:

- The cost of fingerprinting volunteers and who monitors the process. The policy committee will look into whether or not the process is mandatory etc.
- The number of sessions for the 2017-18 kindergarten. Presently 53 students are registered with at least 5 more possibilities.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Jen Zenuh second, to add a section to the budget for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year; passed with Josh Adams, Staci Cull, Cindy Duval, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller and Jen Zenuh voting aye while Jen Benaitis, Mary Misiorski and Pat Spaziani were opposed.

- The BOE would like to define a number at the next meeting of students for 3 K classes vs. 4.
- The BOE discussed the merits of 4 grade 6 classes vs. 5. It is presently in the budget for 5 classes.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Mary Misiorski second, to reduce the number of sessions in grade 6 from 5 to 4 for the 2017-18 school year; failed with Jen Benaitis, Cindy

Duval, Karl Hermonat and Pat Spaziani voting aye while Josh Adams, Staci Cull, Penny Miller, Mary Misiorski and Jen Zenuh were opposed.

- Questions were aimed at the Talented and Gifted program as it is at a standstill.

MOTION: Pat Spaziani, Mary Misiorski second, to remove the \$6,000 allocated to the Talented and Gifted program and supplies from the 2017-18 budget; failed with Jen Benaitis, Staci Cull, Cindy Duval, Pat Spaziani voting aye while Josh Adams, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller and Mary Misiorski were opposed.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Mary Misiorski second, to ask the Superintendent to identify areas for reduction in the budget of \$200,000.00 in order of least impact to student education. **Amended** by Mr. Adams, Mary Misiorski second, to ask the Superintendent to identify areas for reduction in the budget of \$200,000.00 in order of least impact to student education and solely for understanding the detriment to student education; unanimously approved.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Karl Hermonat second, to approve the February 8, 2017 minutes; passed with Josh Adams, Jen Benaitis, Staci Cull, Cindy Duval, Karl Hermonat, and Mary Misiorski voting aye while Penny Miller and Pat Spaziani abstained.

F. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Chairman Benaitis shared a letter from Sue Lundin clarifying minutes from a previous AdHoc committee meeting.

G. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lou Helt suggested the BOE look to support staff for cuts to the present budget. She questioned the advisability of professional development trips for Data Manager and is in full support of professional development for teaching staff.

Alecia Kennerson said that the Chairman should have received an email from First Selectman Jerram with a potential date for Town Meeting.

Alicia Boucher wondered about an AdHoc committee deadline; and NHPS off on Martin Luther Kind Day while rest of region attended school.

Kara DeSantis said that the PTO has assisted the town with fingerprinting and would perhaps do so again.

Laura Polakow read a statement (see attached.) She also questioned the feasibility of combining the role of principal with curriculum specialist. Mrs.

Polakow is also requesting information on the number of nightly meetings attended by Mr. Murphy this year in an effort to determine the possibility of a part time position in accordance with the governor's statement (see attached.)

H. REPORTS:

1. AdHoc Committee:

Mr. Hermonat reported the committee has no recommendation yet but will by the next BOE meeting.

2. Policy Review:

a. Student Data Protection and Privacy (3520.13)

MOTION: Mrs. Spaziani, Mr. Adams second, to adopt; unanimously approved

Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program (5145.511)

MOTION: Mrs. Spaziani, Mr. Adams second, to adopt and approve accompanying regulations; unanimously approved.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

None

J. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Mrs. Benaitis second, to adjourn at 9:24 PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Barberet