

**New Hartford Public Schools
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Antolini School – Library
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Josh Adams, Jen Benaitis, Stacie Cull, Cindy Duval, Sue Lundin, Penny Miller, Mary Misiorski, Pat Spaziani, Jen Zenuh.

ABSENT: None.

1. CHAIR TO OPEN MEETING:

Chairman Sue Lundin called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Carol Pollutro, identifying herself as a person who has been employed by the district for 32 years, spoke in opposition of the closing of Bakerville School, especially in terms of a reduction of staff while still having the same number of students to service and opined that the savings derived are not significant enough to warrant the closing.

Ms. Laura Wearne of 86 Maple Hollow Road spoke in opposition of the closing of Bakerville School, and opined that to do so would be in contrast to the school's vision that is recited each day. She cautioned that the option of closing Bakerville School is short sighted.

Ms. Marissa Klepps of 94 Schafer Road read aloud an email that she reported was from a friend who lives on Wickett Street and is opposed to the closing of Bakerville School. The email cited concerns with an increase in traffic that will occur due to the extra students that would be relocated to New Hartford Elementary School.

Ms. Laura Polakow of 195 Cedar Lane expressed concerns she has with the proposed 2016-2017 budget, notably proposed class sizes, proposed purchase of computers, and the number of administrators remaining the same.

Mr. Karl Hermonat of 450 Cedar Lane reported that many members of the community have been attending the Region #7 Board of Education meetings. Mr. Hermonat also reported that many of the residents that have attended this meeting have committed to support the Board of Education at Board of Finance meetings, should this Board present with a 0% budget increase so long as it does not compromise the education of the district's students and that the Bakerville School remain open. He also opined that the sharing of superintendent duties with other districts be considered.

3. CHAIR TO SELECT ORDER OF BUSINESS:

While there was no change to the order of business, Ms. Lundin added "Possible Action Concerning Kindergarten with Bus Provider Proposed for Executive Session" to *Facility and Transportation Committee* under *Reports*.

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. Technology Grant.

Mr. Murphy reported that an application for a Technology Grant submitted back in June, and subsequently pushed back twice, has been awarded. He noted that \$11K will be received and used for the purchase of chromebooks.

B. 2016-2017 Budget.

Mr. Murphy reminded the Board that he had received a request at the last meeting to present alternative budget savings with the Bakerville School remaining open. He reviewed the following suggestions to that end: Unemployment Costs at \$30K, Moving Costs at \$13K, Summer Custodians at \$5K, Wiring at \$3K, Professional Development at \$20K, Behavior Specialist at \$20K, Reading Materials at \$10K, STEM/TAG Programs at \$11K, Superintendent's Salary Increase at \$3700, Spanish Teacher Salary and Benefits \$61,515, Music Teacher (2 Sections) at \$17K, Interventionist at \$10K, and Maintenance at \$5800.

Ms. Stacie Cull asked about the role of the Interventionist. Mr. Murphy noted that there are three Interventionists that work with students who are identified with needs and are pulled out for extra help. Ms. Jen Zenuh questioned whether these students have IEPs (Individual Education Plans). Mr. Murphy explained that they do not have IEPs but instead are regular education students. Ms. Mary Misorski sought more information about the two music teachers that would be lost. Mr. Murphy noted that the two music teachers currently at 1.8 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) would be reduced to 1.6 FTE. Mr. Josh Adams questioned whether this would mean that the foreign language program would be eliminated altogether. Mr. Murphy confirmed.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Jennifer Benaitis second, **to return to the budget as proposed on February 2, 2016; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misorski, and Ms. Pat Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Penny Miller, Ms. Cindy Duval and Ms. Zenuh opposed.**

MOTION: Ms. Miller, Ms. Zenuh second, **that if the referendum vote supports keeping Bakerville School open, then the closing of the school is at least postponed until September 1, 2017 so that more information can be gathered and evaluated to determine what school arrangement will provide the best education possible for our students in a financially responsible manner; Motion failed with Ms. Cull, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Zenuh voting aye while Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misorski and Ms. Spaziani voting nay; Ms. Duval abstained.**

MOTION: Ms. Miller, Ms. Zenuh second, **that it is our intent to revisit the decision to close Bakerville School if the voters vote to keep the school open; Motion failed with Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh voting aye while Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misorski and Ms. Spaziani voting nay; Mr. Adams abstained.**

MOTION: Ms. Zenuh, Ms. Miller second, **that the superintendent's position get put to a half-time position; Motion failed with Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh voting aye while Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misorski, and Ms. Spaziani opposed.**

The February 2, 2016 Budget Draft was then reviewed with questions posed to Mr. Murphy by board members.

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to increase the *Legal Fees* line item, 314, by \$5K to \$25K for the 2016-2017 school year; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis second, **to increase the *Professional Development for the Board* line item, 324, by \$2,500 to \$5K with the intention to develop the five year plan for the district; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misorski and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh opposed.**

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Spaziani second, **that the Board of Education present this budget as amended at the March 12, 2016 public meeting; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis,**

Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misiorski and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh were opposed.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Spaziani second, **to remove the February 2, 2016 Minutes from the Consent Agenda; unanimously approved.**

A. Financial Report.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved.

B. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2016.

The third line of the first paragraph on page 3 should read, "...would be if Mr. Murphy had to put the \$210K back into Bakerville School..." replacing the figure of "\$110K" with "\$210K".

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Spaziani second, **to approve the February 2, 2016 Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.**

6. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Ms. Gina Maroney of 28 Red Clover Road spoke in opposition of the elimination of the position of Administrative Assistant to the Director of Special Education, noting many fine attributes of Ms. Janine Cimmino.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and possible action concerning the employment of the school nurses. (Discussion proposed for Executive Session.)

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Misiorski second, **to enter into Executive Session at 8:23PM for the purpose of discussion concerning the employment of the school nurses; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Mr. Adams second, **to exit Executive Session at 8:43PM; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Ms. Miller, Ms. Misiorski second, **to accept the Agreement of Employment for Christine Holland, Agreement of Employment for Marie Kitch, and a Contract for Employment for Dawn Urlington; unanimously approved.**

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Administrator Job Descriptions.

Ms. Lundin reminded board members that she had requested copies of the job descriptions for the administrators and noted that copies were within their packets.

9. REPORTS:

A. Long Range Planning Committee.

The proposed all day pre-kindergarten pilot program was discussed.

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to table the discussion on full-day prekindergarten in order to explore the possibility of a four hour extended day Pre-K program; Motion failed with Ms. Benaitis and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Mr. Adams, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Miller, Ms. Misiorski, and Ms. Zenuh opposed.**

MOTION: Ms. Zenuh, Ms. Miller second, **to approve the pilot program as presented tonight for the Pre-K program at New Hartford Elementary for the 2016-2017 school year; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Miller, Ms. Misiorski and Ms. Zenuh voting aye while Ms. Spaziani was opposed and Ms. Benaitis abstained.**

B. Facility and Transportation Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Duval second, **to enter into Executive Session at 9:07PM for purposes of contract discussion around the bus contract; unanimously approved.**

Representatives of DATTCO were invited to join the board for their Executive Session.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Spaziani second, **to exit Executive Session at 9:43PM; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to accept a five year contract with DATTCO as presented by DATTCO to include the add/delete clause; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misiorski and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh opposed.**

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to adjourn at 9:44PM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Colombie
Recording Secretary