

**New Hartford Public Schools
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Antolini School – Multi-Purpose Room
80 Antolini Road, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Josh Adams, Jen Benaitis, Staci 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 6:57PM.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Kelly Odell of 9 O’Keefe Lane spoke regarding Bakerville School and shared her hope that the Board will continue to move forward in terms of analyzing the population growth in New Hartford on a regular basis rather than reliance on a projection made a few years ago. She also reminded the Board that they had mentioned forming a committee, involving members of the Save Bakerville School coalition as well as the community in reviewing the schools. Ms. Odell distributed copies of sample community feedback surveys from the town of Colebrook as they, too, recently considered closing a school. Ms. Odell provided a written copy of her comments from this meeting for attachment to these Minutes available for public review through the Central Office.

3. CHAIR SELECT ORDER OF BUSINESS:

It was agreed that *Reports*, which included policy discussion, would be reviewed and discussed prior to *Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Negotiations with Central Office Staff*.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

No business was discussed.

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

A. Peace Out Project.

Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy introduced district teachers that had created a “Peace Out Program”, an April, 2016 two-day event featuring interdisciplinary activities to aid in fostering peace and understanding. Mr. Murphy acknowledged the work of this group and praised the efforts of these Specials teachers that had worked in putting this together.

A brief video was viewed featuring examples of some of the activities from this project. Teachers Silvana Carretti, Heidi Flower and Allison Mellilo were present and reviewed some of the activities students participated in: yoga; peace pods which was an activity involving students creating a clay ball peppered with seeds; “Tinikling”, a type of dance from the Philippines; a “Green Screen for Peace”; and a “Tower of Peace” created from Legos. The Peace Out Project also featured a visit from Author Jerry Craft, who described his own early struggles with reading and shared with students how he persevered. The group of educators also acknowledged the contribution of the PTO in financially supporting Mr. Craft’s visit and noted that he had also weaved a bullying workshop into this event.

B. 5 Year Curriculum Plan.

Curriculum Specialist Ericka Sacharko reviewed the five-year curriculum plan, noting that the district's current plan is part of one that was started two years ago. Her presentation centered on what the district will be focusing on next year. She noted that in 2016-2017 the district will be moving to the Updated Investigations Program, Investigations 3, which has been revamped and completely aligned to the Connecticut Common Core Standards for grades K-5. Ms. Sacharko reported that next year will include implementing Foundations Program, a phonics program for Kindergarten and 1st Grade. She noted that pursuant to state mandates, a universal screen for Kindergarten through 3rd Grade will be utilized next year. DIBLES Next is the early literacy assessment that will be utilized in the district according to Ms. Sacharko. She explained that these three to four minute, one-on-one assessments will occur three times a year and will be administered by Special Education teachers, Interventionists, and Administrators. Additionally, a regional focus, with all of the NWR7 feeder schools (New Hartford, Barkhamsted, Colebrook and Norfolk), will be explored, providing an overview of the Next Generation Science and Social Studies Standards and how this relates to inquiry based learning, according to Ms. Sacharko.

Because the National Arts Core Standards are going to be adopted by the State of Connecticut, Ms. Sacharko noted that the district's Special Areas teachers effected will be receiving professional development in terms of meeting with colleagues around the state. Finally, Ms. Sacharko reported that the district will be publishing online curriculum for writing and mathematics so there will be certain things available for parents and community members to review online. In response to an inquiry, Ms. Sacharko reported that New Hartford is not using the same Mathematics program as the other NWR7 feeder schools, noting that our teachers had opined that in reviewing last year's pilot program, it did not have the same investigative opportunities for students and was limited in its problem solving.

C. School Improvement Plans.

Mr. Murphy explained that a byproduct of last summer's Administrator Retreat was the choice by the administrators of adopting an objective to create a plan that will include measurable data for adjustments and improvements. He noted that the two goals of this year were improving student achievement and improving school climate. Antolini School Principal Amanda Shaw and Bakerville Consolidated School/New Hartford Elementary School Principal Amanda Pangallo reviewed School Improvement Plans. Dr. Pangallo explained that the plans presented for review by the Board were merely sample plans and that the plans when developed will include current data. Ms. Shaw noted that the intent in developing these School Improvement Plans was to take data which may be found previously in multiple documents and instead put it all in one place. Some of the documents that will be included are 21st Century Framework for Teaching and Learning, goals for the school, and goals for administrators. The structure of the plans was then reviewed.

D. Full Day Pre-K Program.

Preschool Teacher Michelle Gallant provided an update on the pilot full-day Pre-K program slated for the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Gallant shared her excitement and enthusiasm for this pilot program and detailed the many reasons why she deems a full-day program to be beneficial. She noted that a screening occurred for the eighteen (18) students who were interested in this program. Ms. Gallant reported that the 2016-2017 School year will begin with sixteen (16) students as a combination of three- and four-year olds, with eight (8) Special needs students and eight (8) peer models.

Ms. Gallant then reviewed what a typical full day pre-K might look like, broken down by time slots. Ms. Lundin questioned whether objective criteria have been developed to evaluate this pilot program. Director of Student Services Paula Gladu-Morabito confirmed that she has conferred with Mr. Murphy, noting that over the next couple of weeks, a rubric to develop baseline in the Fall, reassess in the Winter, and then present data in the Spring will be developed.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Minutes – March 22, 2016/April 7, 2016.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Misiorski second, **to approve the March 22, 2016 Minutes; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misiorski, and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh abstained.**

The April 7, 2016 Minutes should be amended as follows:

First page, Item 1, second paragraph/second motion, the area where it indicates that Ms. Spaziani opposed the motion should be amended to reflect that she voted in favor of this motion;

First page, Item 1, last paragraph, just after the third line wherein a Motion was made by Mr. Adams, the following should be added, “...Ms. Zenuh noted her opposition to this motion as she explained that she did not feel it right to hold the townspeople hostage...”

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Mr. Adams second, **to approve the April 7, 2016 Minutes as amended; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misiorski, and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh opposed.**

B. Finance Report.

Ms. Miller questioned the overage of \$17K in the Legal Fees line and how this shortfall will be met. Mr. Murphy explained that the Central Office staff went through mediation requiring legal representation for the Board as well as the legal counsel that was needed during the time that the Bakerville School consolidation was being considered. He noted that surplus from various accounts will cover the shortfall and will be done so in June. Ms. Zenuh questioned whether the Legal Fees line is updated and current. Mr. Murphy reported that it is not and reflects what has been billed as of March 31, 2016. As discussion ensued regarding legal fees, Mr. Adams suggested that the upcoming Self-Evaluation of the Board would be a more appropriate time for a more in-depth conversation in this regard.

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Spaziani second, **to accept the Financial Report; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misiorski, and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh opposed.**

C. Personnel.

No business was discussed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Ms. Lundin noted receipt of a letter addressed to the Board from Mr. Tom Bodin. Ms. Lundin explained that this individual had questioned why the Board recently entered into an agreement with the bus contractor, DATTCO, for more than one year without going out to bid. Ms. Lundin noted that she would work with the Secretary to respond to these questions. She noted that this letter will be an attachment to these Minutes available for public review through the Central Office.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board of Education Self Evaluation.

B. Superintendent's Evaluation.

Ms. Lundin explained that she will have both evaluation forms emailed to the Board so that initial discussion can occur at the June 7, 2016 meeting and then final discussion can occur at the June 21, 2016 meeting. Ms. Lundin requested that Board members particularly focus on the Comment section in an effort to aid the Secretary in putting forth the reports.

Ms. Benaitis suggested that the Board to accept the offer of resident Daria Hart who is willing to come to a meeting to offer suggestions on how members of the Board should be presenting themselves in public and how members should be talking. Ms. Benaitis offered another alternative would be to invite CAFE for something similar.

9. REPORTS:

A. Policy Subcommittee Review Report.

i. Policy 5141.1 (Administration of First Aid).

MOTION: Ms. Misiorski, Ms. Spaziani second, **to adopt Policy 5141.1 Administration of First Aid as presented; unanimously approved.**

ii. Policy 5144.1 (Physical Restraint/Seclusion).

MOTION: Ms. Misiorski, Ms. Spaziani second, **to adopt Policy 5144.1 Physical Restraint/Seclusion and to approve the Regulation; unanimously approved.**

iii. Policy 5114.12 (Student Handbooks).

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis second, **to adopt Policy 5144.12 Student Handbooks; unanimously approved.**

iv. Policy 5114 (Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process).

MOTION: Ms. Misiorski, Mr. Adams second, **to adopt Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misiorski, and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh opposed.**

Ms. Miller praised a parent, Mrs. Preece, for her efforts with the recent Science Fair. She also praised the recent Art Show. Finally, Ms. Miller inquired about the meeting with Oak Hill School that had taken place this date. Mr. Murphy reported that he will present information regarding this meeting at the next regularly scheduled meeting of June 7, 2016.

C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Negotiations with Central Office Staff (Discussion Proposed for Executive Session).

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to go into Executive Session at 8:29PM for the purpose of discussion regarding negotiations with Central Office Staff; unanimously approved. Mr. Murphy joined the Board for their Executive Session.**

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Misiorski second, **to come out of Executive Session at 8:44PM; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Mr. Adams second, **to accept the Agreement between Union 1303-386 - Central Office Staff and the Board of Education; Motion passed with Mr. Adams, Ms.**

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

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to adjourn at 8:45PM; unanimously approved.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Colombie
Recording Secretary**