

**New Hartford Public Schools
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday June 21, 2016 @ 7:00pm
Antolini School – Media Center
80 Antolini Road, New Hartford, Connecticut**

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

Absent: None

Chair to Open Meeting: Chairman Sue Lundin called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Kate Reiger (West Hill Road) – expressed concerns about a perceived divisiveness in the Town over the Oak Hill School contract. She asked for an explanation or clarification on the issue

Order Business:

A request was made to make a switch with the items under **New Business**. The Board will first address the *Budget Transfers* (Item #2) and then the *Superintendents Evaluation* (Item #1).

Old Business:

1. Oak Hill School Proposal:

Superintendent Murphy reported on a lease agreement reached that would pay the Town \$88,000.00 for an additional ½ classroom, with a negotiated contract for one year (2016-2017). An updated map of the school and history of enrollment, since 2010, was provided to the Board. Oak Hill remains interested in a 3 year, 3 classroom lease in hopes of future expansion. Lengthy discussion between the Board and Superintendent Murphy revolved around what transpired, up to this point, with Oak Hill negotiations and what the Board could expect through current negotiations between Superintendent Murphy and the Oak Hill School going forward for the 2016-2017 school year.

Sue Lundin called for a **Motion** authorizing Superintendent Murphy to sign a one year contract with the Oak Hill School, for the 2016-2017 school year, for an additional ½ classroom. Motion so moved 1st by Pat Spaziani, 2nd by Josh Adams, unanimously approved. **Motion passes.**

2. Discussion of Ad hoc Committee for School Population:

Sue Lundin presented a list of members for the newly established Ad hoc Committee. Lengthy discussion about the selection of members resulted in a **Motion** by Josh Adams, 2nd by Pat Spaziani to accept the members as presented (**Attachment A**). Those in favor: Josh Adams, Jen Benaitis, Sue Lundin, Mary Misiorski, Pat Spaziani, Cindy Duval. Those opposed: Jen Zenuh, Penny Miller, Stacie Cull. **Motion passes.**

Superintendent Report:

1. Safety and Security Plan:

Superintendent Murphy updated the Board about the New Hartford Public Schools District Safety and Security Plan. He has sent that to the State Dept. of Education

2. Location of additional First Grade Class:

Superintendent Murphy discussed with the Board, the location of the additional First Grade classroom, recently approved by the Board. Due to lack of space at Bakerville School, the additional First Grade classroom will be located at New Hartford Elementary School.

Superintendent Murphy went on to say that 7 current Bakerville Kindergarten students will be relocated to New Hartford Elementary for the 2016-2017 school year. Staci Cull inquired about what steps would be taken to integrate these 7 students with their new school environment. Principal Roxanne Pangallo responded by saying opportunities would be provided to these students that would allow them to get to know the staff and school.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2016

Motion by Josh Adams, 2nd by Jen Benaitis, to accept the minutes of the June 7, 2016 Board of Education meeting minutes. Those in favor of the motion: Josh Adams, Jen Benaitis, Sue Lundin, Mary Misiorski, Pat Spaziani, Stacie Cull, Penny Miller. Abstentions: Cindy Duval, Jen Zenuh. **Motions passes.**

Communications to the Board: None

Jen Zenuh asked the Chairman to define what qualifies as communication to the Board. Sue Lundin responded by saying, anything that is relevant to the Board of Education.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Bridget Sayer - Expressed concern over the absence of teacher representation in regards to the list of Ad hoc Committee members.

Kelly O'Dell – thanked the Board for taking the steps in forming the Ad hoc Committee.

Kate Rieger – assured that her representation on the Committee would be one of fairness in the voting/ recommendation process.

Marie Bombara – would like to see balance in the committee, feels as though there may be a leaning toward the closing of Bakerville School with the chosen members.

Linda Goff – was not happy about the perceived notion by some Board members, that it was 1st Selectman Dan Jerram fault for the conflict that has arisen with the Oak Hill School contract.

Karl Hermonat – wanted clarification as to why the Board cannot comment during Public Comment and also thanked the Board for providing a 2nd Public Comment within their Agenda.

Lou Helt – expressed that since the money from Oak Hill goes to Town Budget, and feels that is should be ok for the 1st Selectman Dan Jerram have become involved, went on to say that it was her perception that some members of the Board were unhappy about his initiated involvement. Feels we all need to work together for the good of the Town.

Karl Hermonat – felt that it was good the 1st Selectman to intervene in the Oak Hill situation.

Kate Rieger – expressed that Oak Hill students will not survive in Bakerville School, they need the interaction with the children of Antolini.

Rebecca Dwan – was concerned about the selection of Board members to the Ad hoc Committee.

Beth Phillips – also concerned about the Ad hoc Committee selection process

Jim Fitzgerald – expressed appreciation with the Board and its' members. Recommendations: need more control with the public comment, wants to see accurate numbers, a fact sheet, coming from the Board as it applies to each individual school population.

Marie Bombara – doesn't feel it appropriate for the Board of Finance to tell the Board of Education what to do.

Kelly O'Dell – also wants facts of school population

Pat Spaziani – thanked the members, chosen for the Ad hoc Committee, for serving.

New Business:

1. Budget Transfers 2015-2016:

Superintendent Murphy highlighted budget transfers and was pleased to inform the Board of the surplus for the 2015-2016 school year. **Motion** by Mary Misiorski to approve the budget transfers for the 2015-2016 school year, 2nd by Pat Spaziani, unanimously approved.

Motion passes.

2. Superintendents Evaluation:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:15 for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation. Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50.

Sue Lundin summarized Superintendent Murphy's evaluation stating that there were many challenges and accomplishments noting the budget process that resulted with a surplus, for his new school program initiatives resulting in high marks for the student testing. Sue Lundin went on to say that she would like to extend Superintendent Murphy's contract through the 2018-2019 school year.

Jen Benaitis exited at 8:50, Penny Miller exited the meeting at 8:55.

Motion by Josh Adams to extend the Superintendents contract through the 2018-2019 school year, 2nd by Mary Misiorski. Those in favor Josh Adams, Sue Lundin, Mary Misiorski, Pat Spaziani, Stacie Cull, Cindy Duval, Jen Zenuh. **Motion passes.**

Reports:

1. Policy Subcommittee:

The Policy Subcommittee reported on and reviewed, with the Board, the following Policy and Regulation:

Second reading: *Policy 5141.21* (Administering Medication) – updates were noted, after some discussion **Motion** was made by Pat Spaziani to adopt the Policy 5141.21 Administering Medication to Students, 2nd by Josh Adams. Those in favor: Josh Adams, Sue Lundin, Mary Misiorski, Pat Spaziani, Stacie Cull, Cindy Duval. Abstention: Jen Zenuh **Motion passes**

Second reading: *Regulation 5141.21* (Administering Medication) – no changes to note from first reading. **Motion** by Josh Adams to accept Regulation 5141.21 – Administering Medication, 2nd by Stacie Cull. Those in favor: Josh Adams, Sue Lundin, Mary Misiorski, Pat Spaziani, Stacie Cull, Cindy Duval. Abstention: Jen Zenuh. **Motion passes.**

Adjournment:

Motion by Jen Zenuh, 2nd by Cindy Duval to adjourn the meeting at 9:07. All in favor
Motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Misiorski

Secretary for the New Hartford Board of Education

Attachment A – Proposed slate of members of the Ad hoc Committee