

**New Hartford Public Schools
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM
Ann Antolini School
80 Antolini Road, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Josh Adams (8:20PM), 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 7:00PM.

2. CHAIR TO SELECT ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. Lundin did not change the order of business from the previously posted agenda.

3. REPORTS:

A. Building Committee.

Mr. Denton Butler, along with fellow Building Committee member Roy Litchfield, appeared before the board to provide an update on the Roof and Window Replacement, ADA Code Improvement project at Antolini School. He reported that the new TPO (Thermoplastic polyolefin) roof has a thirty year warranty and is nearing completion. Besides the new exhaust fans, gutter, and downspouts, roof snow guards, and railings, once finished will also have a soffit repair, too. Mr. Butler detailed to the board the discoveries made and incidental damage that had occurred during construction and the remedies taken in that regard.

Mr. Butler also detailed the budget for the roof replacement versus the actual costs, explaining the sizeable differential as a result of lower bids received after the first round of submitted bids were mistakenly opened by an employee unfamiliar with the closed bid process. Mr. Butler explained that the building committee is likely going to return to the Board of Selectman to gauge interest in the committee investigating with the state whether that differential could be used to offset the window/ADA budget.

B. Negotiations Subcommittee.

Ms. Lundin reported that the Negotiations Subcommittee will be going to mediation with the Administrators on December 9, 2015, primarily over the issues of salary and health benefits. Additionally, three of the Central Office Staff, Ms. Deb Kelly, Ms. Gayle Dibella, and Mr. Paul Carmen, have voted to join the secretary's union, resulting in the Negotiations Subcommittee entering into Impact Bargaining with the secretary's union. Ms. Lundin noted that Ms. Janet Terenzi was ineligible to join the secretary's union because she is considered a confidential employee.

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. Superintendent Award Winners.

Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy introduced one of the two Litchfield County Superintendent's Association Student Recognition Award winners, sixth grader Evan Rees, who was present with his parents. The board heartily congratulated Evan. Mr. Murphy also acknowledged the other recipient, McKenna Galliher.

B. Asbestos Removal/Boiler.

Mr. Murphy reported that a pipe on a secondary boiler at New Hartford Elementary School is slated to be repaired, along with the necessary removal of approximately two square feet of asbestos covering, over the holiday break. He noted that the district has been fined \$500 because of this leak. Mr. Murphy noted that the cost for repairs, \$3,000, will be paid from the emergency repairs account.

Ms. Jen Zenuh expressed her surprise at this repair, noting that it was not part of a list of items included in the repair budget. Additionally, she expressed frustration with the fine imposed by the state.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2015.

The November 19, 2015 Minutes should be corrected under agenda item #4, *Board Officer Selection*, in that the minutes should detail how each board member cast their vote for the officer positions. For the position of the chairman of the Board, Ms. Jen Benaitis, Ms. Stacie Cull, Ms. Cindy Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Mary Misorski, and Ms. Pat Spaziani cast their ballots for Ms. Lundin while Mr. Josh Adams, Ms. Penny Miller, and Ms. Zenuh cast their ballots for Mr. Adams. For the position of the vice chairman of the Board, Mr. Adams, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misorski, and Ms. Spaziani cast their ballots for Jen Benaitis while Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh did not specify a candidate on their ballots. For the position of secretary of the board, Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Duval, Ms. Lundin, Ms. Misorski, and Ms. Spaziani cast their ballots for Ms. Misorski while Mr. Adams, Ms. Cull, Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh cast their ballots for Ms. Miller.

Additionally, the November 19, 2015 Minutes should be corrected under agenda item #10, *Old Business*, the two motions and resulting votes should be stricken as this was a special meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to approve the November 19, 2015 Minutes as amended; Motion passed with Ms. Benaitis, Ms. Cull, Ms. Duval, Ms. Misorski and Ms. Spaziani voting aye while Ms. Miller and Ms. Zenuh abstained.**

B. Financial Report.

Ms. Spaziani questioned the line item reflecting the projected shortfall in the paraprofessionals salary account. Mr. Murphy explained that a shortage in the monies received from the Title I grant attribute to this and that a transfer to this account will need to be made in January. This is the case with the Adult Education account, too, according to Mr. Murphy in response to an additional inquiry made by Ms. Spaziani.

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Misorski second, **to accept the Financial Report; unanimously approved.**

6. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Ms. Lundin reported that no communications have been received.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board of Education Meeting Dates / 2016.

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to approve the following dates for the regular meetings in 2016: January 19, 2016, February 2, 2016, February 23, 2016, March 1, 2016, March 15, 2016, April 5, 2016, May 3, 2016, May 17, 2016, June 7, 2016, June 21, 2016, August 16, 2016, September 6, 2016, October 4, 2016, November 15, 2016, December 6, 2016; unanimously approved.**

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Technology Integration Specialist.

Discussion ensued regarding past meetings, motions surrounding the Technology Integration Specialist position, and how Roberts Rules may or may not apply, specifically with regards to the rule on reconsideration. Ms. Zenuh and Ms. Miller requested clarification from the board's attorney on this matter. Ms. Lundin noted that she would discuss that request with Mr. Murphy.

B. Long Range Planning Subcommittee.

Ms. Lundin reported that Mr. Adams had requested that this discussion await his arrival but that an additional delay for purposes of sharing a report from this subcommittee was not going to be practical. Ms. Miller requested that Mr. Murphy present. Mr. Murphy referred members to their packets, explaining that three options have emerged from this subcommittee: 1. keeping Bakerville School open with Central Office going there along with a half day PreK program; 2. closing Bakerville School altogether with full day PreK program; and 3. keeping Bakerville School open. He referred board members to a breakdown of proposed cost savings again in their packets. He noted that after five meetings of the long range planning subcommittee since last March, this committee recommends closing Bakerville School with full day PreK.

Costs and savings of full day PreK as well as savings projected through the three different options were then discussed in detail.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Tom Buzzi, of **651 Niles Road**, spoke in opposition of closing Bakerville School, noting that since moving into town a few years back, barns are being taken down and can see the fabric of the town changing.

Ms. Bridget Seyer, of **155 Town Hill Road**, spoke on behalf of the New Hartford Education, requesting that the Board take into consideration the impact that their decision on whether to close Bakerville School will have on the quality of education that New Hartford Students will have in the future. Additionally, she noted the group felt that the quality of education that residents have come to know and expect is due in part to the space they need to deliver their instruction. Further, she conveyed the group's thanks for the board's efforts.

Ms. Laura Polakow, of **155 Cedar Lane**, referenced the plan depicting where the classrooms are going to go, noting that it does not allow for any growth. She noted that the plan includes space for four 5th grade sections although currently there are five 5th grade sections. She noted that this limits flexibility in decisions. She also questioned what type of problems could arise from bringing six and seven year olds up to Antolini, a much larger building.

Ms. Erika Mumm, of **522 Steele Road**, noted her appreciation to the board in their consideration of full day PreK. She shared her impressions from a recent visit to the CREC school.

Mr. Karl Hermonat of **450 Cedar Lane**, expressed concern with closing Bakerville School, and what the future use of the building would be. He noted that the costs associated with maintaining the building should be considered when weighing any kind of cost savings.

10. DISCUSSION CONCERNING ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION/CLOSING (PROPOSED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION):

MOTION: Ms. Spaziani, Ms. Benaitis second, **to enter into executive session for purposes of discussing attorney client communication regarding proposed school consolidation at 8:17PM; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Misiorski second, **to exit executive session at 8:57PM; unanimously approved.**

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION/CLOSING OF SCHOOL:

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Miller second, **to close Bakerville Elementary School located at 51 Cedar Lane, New Hartford, Connecticut effective September 1, 2016; unanimously approved.**

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE RELINQUISHING OF CONTROL OVER THE SCHOOL TO THE TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD:

MOTION: Mr. Adams, Ms. Spaziani second, **the New Hartford Board of Education relinquish control over all the buildings, land, apparatus and other property located at the site of the Bakerville Elementary School located at 51 Cedar Lane, New Hartford, Connecticut effective September 1, 2016 in accordance with Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes since that property will no longer be used for school purposes after said date; unanimously approved.**

13. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Zenuh, Ms. Miller second, **to adjourn at 9:02PM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Colombie
Recording Secretary