

**New Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall/Senior Center  
Tuesday, July 18, 2017 @ 7:00 PM**

Present: Josh Adams, Jennifer Benaitis, Cindy Duval, Mary Misiorski, Pat Spaziani, Jen Zenuh, Stacie Cull, Penny Miller

Absent: Karl Hermonat

Administrators: Brian P. Murphy, Barbara McLean, Dr. Roxanne Pangallo and Amanda Shaw

**A. Chair to Open Meeting**

Jen Benaitis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She then requested that Vice Chairman, Josh Adams run the remainder of the meeting.

**B. Public Comment**

**Aulay Carlson** – Read his letter to the Board regarding the disappointing test scores and the incompetence of the Board of Education.

**Donna LaPlante** – Concerned and disappointed that the Board of Education has not addressed the amount that the Board of Finance directed us to cut. She feels that it is disrespectful to the Board of Finance and their authority to disregard their directive. She stated that six teachers were put on notice that their jobs may be cut and they need to know whether or not they should start looking for another position. She feels that there are three areas that can be cut: 1. Close a school. 2. Increase class size. 3. Regionalization. She feels that a 5% increase to the Town's budget won't pass. She wants to see something different in our budget. And something to think about: there are only 14 births YTD.

**C. Budget 2017-2018**

Discussion included information that the state budget wasn't resolved by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board of Finance has funded the Town and Board of Education budgets for 90 days. If the town doesn't resolve the budget, the Board of Finance will provide funding every 30 days until the budget is resolved. Discussion tonight needs to focus on staffing for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. Mary Misiorski discussed reworking the job description for the Director of Curriculum and put it back as a teaching position. Penny Miller asked if any positions could be consolidated; i.e., custodial. Jen Zenuh stated that she was not comfortable with making these drastic cuts and affecting children's education. **Motion** by Josh Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Misiorski, to reduce staffing by one teaching position for the 2017-2018 school year. In favor: Stacie Cull, Pat Spaziani, Mary Misiorski, Cindy Duval and Jennifer Benaitis. Opposed: Penny Miller, Jen Zenuh and Josh Adams. **Motion passes.**

**Motion** by Josh Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jen Zenuh, to table the remainder of the proposed budget cuts until the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. In favor: Jen Zenuh, Stacie Cull, Penny Miller, Mary Misiorski, and Josh Adams. Opposed: Pat Spaziani, Jennifer Benaitis and Cindy Duval. **Motion passes.**

**D. Adjournment**

***Motion*** by Jen Zenuh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Josh Adams, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Unanimous.  
***Motion passes.***

Respectfully submitted by Janet A. Terenzi, Recording Secretary