

**New Hartford Public Schools  
Special Board of Education Meeting**

**November 17, 2020**

**6:00 pm/Virtual Meeting**

**Access Meeting/Listen Only**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87341932924?pwd=UVVnOWh2Rm5QcGF2cG13WVRSL2pXdz09>

**Meeting ID: 873 4193 2924**

**Passcode: nhps2020**

**Present:** Tim Goff, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Tony Persechino, Heather Tomala, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Mary Stempien

**Guests:** Brian Murphy, Kelly Carroll, Heather Mathes, Barbara McLean, and Amanda Shaw

**A. Chair to Open Meeting-** Tim Goff opened the fully virtual meeting at 6.03pm.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance** – The Board joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Chair Select Order of Business-** No change to the order of business.

**D. Superintendent's Report**

**1. Teacher Evaluation Plan 2020-2021**

Mr. Murphy started by saying that the Connecticut Department of Education gave school districts flexibility in their teacher evaluation process. Mr. Murphy along with the Professional Development Evaluation Committee reviewed and made changes to their current plan. These changes include, that every teacher and administrator will work on developing a goal that focuses on social and emotional learning. The number of formal and informal observations will be changed and there will be no final summative evaluation.

Mr. Murphy explained that he does not need a motion for this change however wanted to keep the board informed of the process.

**2. Snow Day Information**

Mr. Murphy presented to the Board that recently, the State Department of Education gave flexibility to school districts specifically where snow days are concerned and

the option to utilize those days as distance learning days to prevent school from being cancelled. Mr. Murphy stated that this is a big change in education but is a result of the current pandemic.

Mr. Murphy proposed to the board, that the first five days count as traditional snow days which would be added to the end of the school calendar to allow elementary school children the experience of snow days. Any days beyond those five, would move into the distance learning model and those too could count as snow days similar to the current distance learning plan. Mr. Murphy explained that most of the feeder towns for Region 7 which include, Norfolk, Barkhamsted and Colebrook are also following this recommendation. Mr Murphy also notified the board, that Region 7 would follow a slightly different model of remote learning based on older children attending and the severity of the weather on the day. The Superintendent of Region 7 will make those decisions for that school.

In closing, Mr. Murphy informed the board that as of now, the last day of school is June 4<sup>th</sup>. Five additional snow days would bring the last day to June 12<sup>th</sup> and any days beyond that would be distance learning days. April vacation would not be impacted.

### **3. Award of Appreciation-**

Mr. Murphy acknowledged Kaleigh Midwinter, Special Education teacher at New Hartford Elementary school, for her hard work and dedication to her students and families and for continuously going above and beyond in her roll. Mr. Murphy would present Ms. Midwinter with a plaque at school in honor of her excellence.

### **4. Special Education Program Plan**

Barbara Mclean, Director of Special Education presented the Special Education Improvement Plan to the Board. Barbara explained the purpose of the presentation was a way to give information about the districts instructional core and the connection to teaching and learning which centers around the districts goals.

### **E. Public Comment/Communication to the Board of Education -No Comment.**

## **F. Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of Minutes-**October 6, 2020, Tim Goff motion to approve. Second by Penny Miller.

**Unanimous**

## **2. Expenditure Report**

### **3. Personnel**

#### **G. New Business**

##### **1. Early Release Days**

Mr. Murphy acknowledged the wonderful work the staff are doing during these turbulent times. Specifically, in balancing the challenges of in-person and distance learning. As a result of the pandemic, teachers planning time has been reduced therefore Mr. Murphy recommended to the Board, approving three additional early release days in the 2020-2021 calendar that would be utilized for teacher planning. These days would be December 9, January 27 and February 24. Schools would be dismissed at 1pm. Teachers would use the remainder of the day to plan and prepare their lessons with their grade level partners.

Tim Goff asked Mr. Murphy if these days would still apply if the district was remote learning at that time? Mr. Murphy answered yes. Early dismissal will still apply if the distance learning model is in place.

**Motion-** by Penny Miller to approve three additional early dismissal days for teacher planning. Second by Kelly O'Dell Longhi.

**Unanimous.**

#### **H. Adjournment-** Motion by Penny Miller to adjourn meeting at 6.42pm. Second by Heather Tomala.

**Unanimous**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Laura Fritch  
Recording Secretary**