

**New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
February 16, 2021**

**6:00 pm/Virtual Meeting
Access Meeting/Listen Only**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847901195?pwd=U0JGTFUwMEhWVWkF5QmVnVGxXN25QZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 4790 1195

Passcode: k9rkYj

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

Other- Amanda Shaw, Barbara Mclean, Dan Jerram

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 changes to the order of business.

D. New Business

1. First Selectman/New Hartford Elementary School-Water Treatment/Sewer System

First Selectman for the town of New Hartford, Dan Jerram, opened the meeting with information regarding the proposed plan to enter into a new agreement with Aquarion Water company, to control the towns water and sewer system. Part of the planning, includes utilizing 0.7 acres of New Hartford Elementary School's land which is located at the intersection of Wickett Street and Blackridge Road. It has been determined that there will be no impact to the day to day operations of the school. A copy of the map of the area can be found on the Town of New Hartford website. (<https://www.newhartfordct.gov/>)

A town referendum on this has been planned for March 6th 2021.

2. School Calendar 2021-2022

Mr. Murphy reviewed the proposed school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Penny Miller asked Mr. Murphy a question pertaining to snow days to which the response was that the District would plan for five traditional snow days to be used throughout the year.

Schools would then transition to distance learning, should all five days be needed. The 2021-2022 calendar will be posted on the District's website.

Motion- by Buzzi to approve the proposed 2021-2022 school calendar as presented by Superintendent Murphy. Miller seconded.

Unanimous

E. Superintendent's Report

1. Budget 2021-2022

To follow from Mr. Murphy's budget presentation on February 2nd, the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school shows a proposed increase of 3.89% with a dollar increase of \$331,964. The three main areas which make up the budget is Special Education Costs, \$272,065, Salary Increases \$92,333 and Health insurance/Contractual raises, \$75,220.

At the meeting on Feb 2nd, Board members were asked to review the budget and submit any questions or concerns to the chair and Mr. Murphy prior to tonight's meeting. These questions were read aloud answered by Mr. Murphy. In addition, Tim Goff conducted a page by page review of each line item to which the board entered further discussion into specific areas of the budget.

Board members thanked Superintendent Murphy for his hard work in preparing and presenting the budget. Board members Karl Hermonat and Penny Miller both recommended further review in an attempt to lower the overall increase slightly with joint concern that the current proposal was too high. Tim Goff and Tony Persechino both agreed that the main areas of increase cannot be avoided and are mandatory costs to the district. Goff also mentioned that the increase reflects a higher student population for the 2021-2022 school year as enrollment is projected to increase.

Motion- by Persechino to approve the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Buzzi seconded for discussion.

Unanimous

Motion- by to Persechino to approve the 2021-2022 Board of Education budget for the New Hartford Public Schools for \$8,869,070 for presentation to the Board of Finance in March

All those in favor: Buzzi, Klepps, Persechino, Tomala, O'Dell Longhi, Stempien, Opposed: Miller, Hermonat.

Motion Passes

F. Public Comment/Communications to the Board of Education-

Tim Goff received a letter from Gina Maroney that was passed to the board prior to the meeting and will be addressed by Mr. Murphy. An email was also sent by Christina Worley in opposition to reducing a full time teacher at Ann Antolini school which is a proposal included in the 2021-2022 budget. A copy of this letter will be included with the board minutes.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2021

Motion- by Miller to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Persechino.

Unanimous

H. Reports

1. Review Policy 5145.44 (Personnel Certified/Non-Certified/Title IX Sexual Harassment)

Motion- by Tomala to table the review of the policy to the next board meeting on March 2nd. Miller seconded.

Unanimous

I. Adjournment

Motion- by Miller to adjourn meeting at 8.23pm. Persechino seconded.

Unanimous

**Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Fritch**

Board Recording Secretary.