

**New Hartford Public Schools  
Special Board of Education Meeting  
June 16, 2020**

**6:00 pm/Virtual Meeting**

**Access Meeting at:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327113617?pwd=bDZZK0tBNFp6SWRodkFzY2RBQW9tdz09> Listen Only**

**Meeting ID: 813 2711 3617**

**Password: nhps2020**

**Board Members Present:**

Karl Hermonat, Vice Chairman  
Tom Buzzi  
Timothy Klepps  
Penny Miller (signed on at 6:12 pm)  
Kelly O'Dell Longhi  
Tony Persechino  
Mary Stempien  
Heather Tomala

**Board Members Absent:**

Tim Goff, Chairman

**Also Present:**

Brian Murphy- Superintendent of Schools  
Kelly Carroll - New Hartford Elementary and Bakerville School Principal  
Amanda Shaw- Antolini School Principal  
Barbara Mclean- Director of Student Services  
Linda Fitzgerald- Data Management Coordinator  
Diane Barrett-Recording Secretary  
Open to the public per Zoom invitation

**A. Chair to Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Karl Hermonat at 6:03 pm. Karl explains this is a Virtual Meeting. The public is allowed to listen and send in public comment to the Vice Chairman's email. If there are questions or comments for the Board, please email Karl Hermonat @ [hermonatk@newhfd.org](mailto:hermonatk@newhfd.org).

**B. The Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

**C. Chair Select Order of Business**

Vice Chairman Hermonat had no changes in the order of business.

**D. Public Comment**

Vice Chairman Hermonat announces that if there is any public comment during this meeting, please email Karl Hermonat at [hermonatk@newhfd.org](mailto:hermonatk@newhfd.org).

## **E. Superintendent's Report**

### **1. Reopening Committee**

Superintendent Murphy updated the board on the reopening committee. He states that they have had two meetings so far and plan to meet throughout the summer to prepare for the opening of school. Stakeholders from across the district are on this committee. The main purpose of this committee is to ensure the safety and health of the students and staff as school reopens in the fall. The plan is to return to school, pre Covid 19; however, school may look different in the fall. Superintendent Murphy explained they are reviewing the protocols in the school cafeterias, recess and the possibility of distance learning. He stated they are waiting for the guidelines/rules from the CT State Department of Education. Tom Buzzi, who is part of the reopening committee, applauded the efforts of the Reopening Committee. He stated that what he took away from the meeting is that under the current summer school guidelines- 50% of the buses would be late dropping children off in the morning and returning home. Mr. Buzzi said that this will be a financial and logistical nightmare. Mr. Buzzi also suggested to the board and the reopening committee to consider video auditing of the classroom in the fall. This way, if parents do not feel comfortable sending their children back to school, they can attend the 6 hours of classroom through the video auditing option.

### **2. Extended School Year Update**

Superintendent Murphy explained that New Hartford Public School is offering the Extended School Year Instruction to 30 students using a combination of distance learning and in person learning. The majority of students will be using distance learning, and about 3-4 students will be in person instruction. Superintendent Murphy invited Barbara Mclean, Director of Student Services, to talk more about Extended School Year/Summer School. Barbara explained that the highest priority is the health and safety of the students. She discussed that they have been working closely with the Farmington Valley Health District. The primary mode of instruction is the Google Platform, with live instruction, one on one, with a Special Ed teacher and/or Para with follow up reinforcement activities on each individual google classroom. One percent of students cannot access the Google Platform, so they will participate in on site instruction at Bakerville. There will be a nurse and Spec Ed teacher on site. The custodians are trained for the cleaning protocols. The staff will have all appropriate PPE in terms of gloves, face masks, disinfectant and disposable nursing gowns. Barbara explained that they have communicated with the families any potential risks through the PPT process.

### **3. Oak Hill Lease**

Superintendent Murphy approached the board to ask for approval of the Oak Hill School Lease. Oak Hill leases three rooms in Antolini for 10 special needs students. They pay \$132,000 for the lease which goes directly to the Town of New Hartford, not the BOE operating budget.

**MOTION** by Miller that the BOE approves the Oak Hill Lease for 2020 2021 School Year in the amount of \$132,000, seconded by Klepps.

*Motion passes*

*Unanimous*

**4. Food Service Contract**

Superintendent Murphy notified the BOE that per the State Department of Education policy, each district's Food Service Contract must go out to bid. The bid for New Hartford Public Schools Food Service Program is currently out for bid ending on July 13, 2020. He stated that even though the food service program is on the State List, he went out for bid because Ed Advance has been increasing their costs the last few years.

**F. Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** by Miller to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2020 and the June 4, 2020 meetings and the expenditure report, seconded by Persechino.

*Motion passes*

*Unanimous*

**2. Personnel**

Superintendent Murphy informed the BOE that there are two new hires for teacher- Matthew Guinan, who has been a para and part of the New Hartford Schools for some time, is hired for 6th grade, and Haley Pilkington will be the new 5th grade teacher. Also, Rick Nicoletti and Sandra Lavallee have been hired as tutors in this district. They are filling Mr. Guinan's tutor position and a retired tutor. Superintendent Murphy stated that they are in the final stages of identifying a candidate for the Social Worker position. Superintendent Murphy is recommending a Motion from the BOE to approve Veronica Marquis - physical education teacher- a request for unpaid Child Rearing Leave until her return of October 5, 2020.

**MOTION** by Miller to approve Veronica Marquis's unpaid Child Rearing Leave from the beginning of the 2020 2021 school year until October 5, 2020, seconded by O'Dell Longhi.

*Motion passes*

*Unanimous*

**G. Communication to the Board**

A letter from a New Hartford resident, Rebecca Welsh, 45 Maillet Lane was read. A copy is on file at the BOE.

**H. Old Business**

No old business to discuss.

**I. New Business**

Superintendent Murphy explained that this is an annual exercise every June that he comes before the BOE for an approval of budget transfers. He reminded the BOE that \$100,000 of surplus money will be going to the non expense account for the unanticipated costs of the next school year. He explained there are some line items in the budget due to unforeseen circumstances that need money to be transferred. This line item transfers were shared with the BOE and is on file at the BOE.

**MOTION** by Buzzi to approve the proposed budget transfers by Superintendent Murphy , seconded by Miller.

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Discussion: Miller asked if any transfers are related to Covid 19 expenses. Superintendent Murphy stated the Health Supplies line items are related to Covid 19 expenses. He explains by the Federal Cares Act that New Hartford will be receiving \$13,500.00 for Covid related expenses. In addition, Superintendent Murphy is working with First Selectman Jerram as far as FEMA reimbursement. Both the Federal Cares Act and FEMA reimbursement will go directly to the Town of New Hartford to help defray these expenditures.

*Motion passes*

*Unanimous*

**7:08 pm ADJOURNMENT MOTION** by Buzzi to adjourn meeting , seconded by Miller,

*Unanimous*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Diane Barrett*  
*Recording Secretary*