

**New Hartford Board of Education Meeting
Board Special Education Meeting
May 5, 2020**

6:00 PM /Virtual Meeting

Access

Meeting ID: 878 5607 9285

Password: nhps2020

Board Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brian Murphy- Superintendent of Schools
Amanda Shaw-Antolini School Principal
Linda Fitzgerald- Data Management Coordinator
Diane Barrett-Recording Secretary

A. Chair to Open Meeting -

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Goff at 6:05pm. Tim explains this is a Virtual Meeting. The public is allowed to listen. If there are questions or comments for the Board, please email Tim Goff @ gofft@newhtfd.org.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Chair Select Order of Business

Before Chairman Goff dove into the meeting, he gave a large "THANK YOU" to all who joined the meeting. Mr. Goff acknowledged that it was "Teacher Appreciation Week" and thanked all the teachers for their hard work and dedication to Distance Learning. He stated the Governor issued the bad news that schools will be canceled for the rest of the year. "We have taken what we have done in education over the last 150 years and have completely uprooted and changed

directions in a matter of a month” Chairman Goff said. Chairman Goff states there are some difficult discussions at this meeting, so please bear with the Board. Chairman Goff explained that the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen has requested that the Board of Education take another look at the budget and locate ways to mitigate the increases in the budget.

C. Superintendent’s Report

1. 2020-2021 Budget

Superintendent Murphy began the presentation by acknowledging “Teacher Appreciation Week”. He stated that the Town has the best teachers that anyone could ever imagine in the Town of New Hartford.

Superintendent Murphy stated that in response to the Board of Finance, he has identified \$100,000 of savings during this current budget year. The savings will come from the bus contract with Dattco, Fuel Savings, Substitute Line Item and Miscellaneous Savings.

Superintendent Murphy is proposing to prepay services for next year 2020-2021. This would decrease the proposed budget increase down from 2.84% to 1.6% with this \$100,000.00 reduction.

Superintendent Murphy stated, in addition, he proposes a \$75,000.00 decrease to the Capital Plan. This would leave the BOE Capital Plan with Technology and Security Upgrades intact, and also will keep \$2500.00 for the playgrounds.

6:44 pm- Chairman Goff states that he received a letter for First Selectman Dan Jerram in regards to the salary increases for the year 2020-2021 and read the letter to the Board of Education (letter on file). In summary, Selectman Jerram requested to remove any and all allowances for increases in pay for the Fiscal 2020-2021 budget or defer the wage increases to support all of those families who have lost their jobs during this COVID 19 crisis.

Chairman Goff explained that the BOE would have to approve this request, then go back to each Union bargaining unit and ask this request for no pay increase. Superintendent Murphy stated there is no discussion for any pay freeze from Regional 7 and he states he has not heard of any pay freezes requested from any schools in the Litchfield County.

Discussions throughout the board members stressed that the teachers have been working double time and completing a different job from a different location plus staying home and educating their own children. There was discussion of the increased legal costs of a possible pay freeze. Chairman Goff stated that the deduction of \$100,000 to the budget and the \$75,000.00 reduction to the Capital Expenditure Request is an action of good faith and fair. He states it is important to keep in mind that Regional 7 has not cut anything.

6:59 pm Motion Chairman Goff motioned that the BOE directs Superintendent Murphy to apply \$100,000 in identified savings to next year’s 2020- 2021 budget reducing the budget from \$8,589,106.00 to \$8,489,106.00. This would essentially give the 2020-2021 budget a decrease

of 2.84% down to 1.65%. Seconded by Miller.

Unanimous

7:09 pm Motion by Chairman Goff to decrease the 2020 -2021 Capital Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$75,000.00 to the new amount of \$71,500.00. This \$71,500.00 entails the \$38,000.00 Technology, Security Upgrades for \$31,000.00 and the \$2500.00 for the playground equipment. Seconded by Persechino.

All in favor: Tim Goff, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Tony Persechino, Mary Stempien

All opposed: Karl Hermonat, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Penny Miller, Heather Tomala

Abstain: None

Motion Passes

Chairman Goff moves onto discussion to First Selectman Jerram's request to freeze or defer the union contracts for next year. He noted that there are three Board of Finance meetings in the near future- May 6, May 12, and May 26, 2020. Chairman Goff states that if there are avenues to pursue, then yes, no decision has to be made this evening. The Board of Ed and Chairman Goff decided to postpone the decision to freeze or defer pay increases for the BOE Fiscal Budget of 2020-2021. The Board of Education requested more time to gather information in order to research other avenues to mitigate the increases of the BOE 2020 2021 budget.

D. New Business

1. Approval of Minutes-March 31, 2020

MOTION by Miller to approve the Board of Education minutes from March 31, 2020 as presented, seconded by Persechino.

Unanimous

7:28 pm MOTION by Miller to adjourn meeting , seconded by Klepps.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Recording Secretary