

Unofficial Until Approved by the Board

North Hampton School Board Meeting (Thursday, January 6, 2022)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Monday, January 10, 2022

Members present

Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Tom von Jess

Martin Tavitian arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Superintendent Meredith Nadeau, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matthew Ferreira, Principal Susan Snyder, Curriculum Coordinator Rebecca Carlson

Absent: Director of Student Services Aisha Weaver

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

1. Call to Order

Information: A. **Roll Call**

Chair Tom von Jess called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **December 2, 2021 (Regular Meeting)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2021, regular meeting.

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Tom von Jess

Action, Minutes: B. **December 15, 2021 (Budget Review)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2021, budget review meeting.

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Allyson Ryder.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Tom von Jess

3. Student Update

Information: A. **Student Representative Report**

Trimester 2 welcomes Corbin Garofalo, Connor Snow, Jamison Lafleur, and Vanessa Williams as the 7th and 8th grade representatives to Student Council.

Emily Hyatt is the new student representative to the board. Ms. Carlson read her written report (attached in agenda) in Emily's absence.

4. Questions and Comments from those in Attendance

Procedural: A. **Public Comment** - None were heard.

5. Presentations and Updates

Information: A. **2nd Grade Literacy Presentation**

Ms. Carlson reported on vertical and horizontal alignment in 2nd grade literacy and throughout other grades and noted the Lucky Caulkins Readers Workshop Model that is used. She introduced Lori Berry, Megan Sharples, and Karen Donahoe as the Second Grade 2 and the provided a presentation (see agenda) on Literacy.

The presentation highlighted various ways they expose students to age appropriate, diverse books, through the library and book series to name a few, how students are encouraged to choose own books, how literacy ties in to the development of SEL and creates collaboration among students. Components of a Balanced Literacy Program, mini lessons, independent reading and worktime, guided reading and sharing were all discussed.

Discussion from the Board included the consistently strong verbal and language arts scores by NHS students, the Fountas and Pinnell reading program and benchmarks that are used, state testing scores, the SEL component and connections made when reading. The teachers noted how SEL curriculum also happens with reading and open conversation in the classroom. Readers workshop exposes students to many different types of books. Teachers expressed they have the liberty to choose their own books and often do so. There is a lot of carry-over between SEL and readers workshop.

Information: B. **Correspondence / Commendations**

Principal Snyder recognized Nurse Maura for everything she is doing. She works overtime helping students, staff and families navigate the guidance and challenges from the pandemic. She has such strong connections with families in the communities and has such trust with them. Also recognized were Maribeth Driscoll and Sue MacLaughlin from the front office as they have kept everything going with a smile and are so helpful.

Ms. Carlson recognized teachers who planned a safe and festive Holiday Sock Exchange: Lauren Chase, Jenn Herman, Erin Preston, Maribeth Driscoll.

6. Continuing Business

Discussion: A. Covid Update

Superintendent Nadeau noted that the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) just released new Covid guidance this afternoon. Dr. Arakelian will be unpacking the information with school nurses early next week in order to share the the revised guidance with the school staff, families and students. The schools are seeing more student absences due to increased transmission but none are currently school related. The Board advised parents to keep students home when sick. A discussion was held on the amount of letters sent to home families every time an exposure of Covid is learned. Superintendent Nadeau reminded the Board that these are the guidelines that were adopted earlier this year. Letter will continuing to be sent home. The administration understands that it is a lot but noted that when this practice was originally adopted none of us had any idea we would be at this stage. The pros and cons of sending the emails were discussed. Principal Snyder stated that at this time the administration would rather err on the side of caution.

Action: B. Warrant Articles

Public Hearing will be held January 18th

Second session, Voting Day, will be on Tuesday, March 8

Dr. Ferreira reviewed the preparation of the operating budget which received the approval of the North Hampton Budget Committee. Additionally two monetary warrant articles were reviewed: 1) Long Term Maintenance (LTM) in the amount of \$70,000 for long term maintenance projects to include but are not limited to main office (including nursing area) HVAC upgrades and installation of a permanent outdoor classroom. 2) Special Education Expendable Trust \$35,000 from unassigned fund balance Along with a non-monetary warrant article for fund balance retention. This is another measure to safeguard the school and the town against fiscal uncertainty. The school would be allowed to retain up to 5% of the operating budget. Additionally this would provide a way to balance and smooth the tax rate to the town. The school board would need to vote annually to retain any funds.

*Motion to reduce the Long Term Maintenance Warrant Article by \$40,000 to request an amount of \$30,000 to be raised and appropriated for HVAC upgrades.

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Tom von Jess

(*The Board returned to this item at 8:22p.m. with board member Martin Tavitian present. See below.)

7. Administrative Reports

Reports: A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Nadeau noted that she is planning to hold a round table discussion with the local legislators regarding the upcoming legislative session. There are numerous issues that will effect public education and educational initiatives that board members should be aware of. Board members will be invited once it a date and time have been scheduled. She encouraged board members to familiarize themselves with current legislation.

A non-public session will be held on safety and security within the schools at the upcoming Joint Board meeting. Superintendent has also been recently appointed to serve on the College Board.

Information, Reports: B. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Report

Dr. Hobbs noted they are looking at the 2022-2023 professional development calendar and hoping to collaborate with SAU90. Teacher re-certifications have just started and are to be completed in April. The Safety and Security Task Force was unable to meet in December but will be meeting in March. Statewide Assessment System (SAS) testing will begin in March.

Information, Reports: C. Student Services Report

Dr. Arakelian highlighted the Safer at Schools (Safer at Schools) testing partnered with Convenient MD. She will be meeting with the nurses early next week and sharing the new Covid guidance that was just received this afternoon from NHDHHD in anticipation of getting that out into the schools and to families shortly after. She also noted they are partnering with Seacoast mental health for school counselors.

Information: D. Principal's Report

Principal Snyder reported that Kindergarten registration has started. Very appreciated to have received a \$200 donation from PAL to the 8th grade class.

Information, Reports: E. Finance Report

Dr. Ferreira reviewed the revenue and expenditure reports included in the agenda.

Martin Tavitian arrived at 7:40 p.m.

It was noted that as the end of the year gets closer we may need to utilize the Special Education Expendable Trust. Electricity usage was also discussed as the usage is up. This will need to adjust in next 2023-2024 budget cycle. A brief discussion ensued. It was noted that the electricity rate is negotiated throughout the SAU and therefore usage appears to be the factor.

8. New Business

Discussion, Information: A. Policies - First Read

A total of 23 policies were presented for a first read: 21 for review and two for withdrawal.

Board member Ryder reported on the Policy Committee meeting and highlighted the importance of the legislative roundtable that will be coming up. Many of the policies are due to recent legislative changes. Chair von Jess explained the background and purpose of the policy committee and suggested leaning on the recommendation of the policy committee. Board member Belanger noted concerns that she had regarding policy JICD.

Superintendent Nadeau explained the rationale behind the policies created by the NHSBA as they are based on state or federal legislation. Regarding JICD, it was noted that discipline is handled in an age appropriate manner within the schools. The policy itself is broader as it's created for K-12 across the state. Procedures in implementing the policy are handled appropriately by the administration.

Chairman von Jess recommended for the members to review the parent-student handbook and the Board can discuss it at the next meeting.

Discussion, Information: B. Policy IIB Class Size Recommendations

Information regarding class sizes within the state were provided. The administration is recommending a change to grade 1 only. Grade 1 is currently listed with grades 2 for a class size range of 14-18 and grade 3 is listed with Grades 4 & 5 for a class size range of 16-20. It is being recommended to lower the class size range for grade 1 to be 12-16 students per class (the same as is recommended for Pre-k and Kindergarten) and for Grade 3 class size range to be lowered to that of Grade 2 (14-18 students). NHS administration believes that by investing time and money in the lower grades it will help students at an earlier age when it will benefit them longer in their educational career. Board discussion was held on state average and pre-K class sizes.

It was determined that this policy will be added to the second read and approval policies for the meeting next month.

Information: C. Transgender policy

Board member Belanger requested the process and wants that articulated within the policy. Discussion was held on reviewing the draft prepared by Winnacunnet High School and the difference between policy and procedures. It was noted that this policy is scheduled to be reviewed at the Joint Board meeting.

Discussion: D. Approval of overnight field trips

Principal Snyder reported that they began planning for overnight field trips for grades 7 & 8 then learned this week that both venues have vaccination and testing requirements that may not make the trip possible for all students. All of these parameters changed the plans. The Board will be kept in the loop if anything changes but the administration is no longer looking for approval to plan the overnight trips. The administration will continue looking for alternative field trips.

**With board member Martin Tavitian in attendance, the Board chose to revisit the Warrant Article vote.*

6. Continuing Business Action: B. Warrant Article

Dr. Ferreira provided an explanation of the proposal to reduce the LTM WA to bring forth the HVAC project only and to reduce the total amount being requested.

Motion to reduce the Long Term Maintenance Warrant Article by \$40,000 to request an amount of \$30,000 to be raised and appropriated for HVAC upgrades.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Martin Tavitian, Tom von Jess

9. Personnel

Procedural: A. **Personnel** - Retirements will be discussed in non-public.

10. Next Meeting Dates

Information: A. **SAU21 Operations Committee Meeting - Monday, January 10, 2022 (5:30 p.m.)**

Information: B. **SAU21 Joint Board Meeting - Tuesday, January 25, 2022 (6:00 p.m.)**

Information: C. **North Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, February 3, 2022 (6:30 p.m.)**

Information: D. **North Hampton School Board Deliberative Session - Tuesday, February 8, 2022 (7:00 p.m.)**

11. Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-m)

Action, Procedural: A. **Roll Call to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-m).**

Motion for a roll call to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Allyson Ryder, second by Danielle Strater.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Martin Tavitian, Tom von Jess

Discussion, Information: B. **Retirement - BT**

Discussion, Information: C. **Retirement - DV**

12. Resume Public Meeting

Action, Procedural: A. **Resume the Public Meeting.**

Motion to adjourn the non-public session and resume the public meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Motion by Allyson Ryder, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Martin Tavitian, Tom von Jess

Action: B. **Retirement - BT**

Motion to accept the retirement of Brenda Tharp effective June 30, 2022 and to approve the retirement stipend per the CBA along with a retirement incentive.

Motion by Allyson Ryder, second by Danielle Strater.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Martin Tavitian, Tom von Jess

Action: C. **Retirement - DV**

Motion to accept the retirement of Debra Vasconcellos effective June 30, 2022 and to approve the retirement stipend per the CBA along with a retirement incentive.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Martin Tavitian, Tom von Jess

The Board thanked both teachers for their years of service and were recognized for their impact on the school and community.

13. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Motion by Allyson Ryder, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Allyson Ryder, Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Martin Tavitian, Tom von Jess