

Approved by the Board - April 7, 2022

North Hampton School Board Meeting (Monday, March 7, 2022)

Generated by Deb Tuite on Thursday, March 10, 2022

Members present

Allyson Ryder, Katelyn Belanger, Martin Tavitian, Tom von Jess

Superintendent Meredith Nadeau, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira, Principal Susan Snyder, Curriculum Coordinator Becca Carlson, Student Services Director Aisha Weaver
Absent: Danielle Strater

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 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **February 3, 2022 (Regular Meeting)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2022, regular meeting.

Motion by Martin Tavitian, second by Allyson Ryder.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Minutes: B. **February 8, 2022 (Special Meeting)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2022, special meeting.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

3. Student Update

Information: A. **Student Representative Report**

School Board Student Representative Emily Hyatt mentioned that today was the first day masks were optional in school and on busses after two years since the pandemic began, which came with mixed feelings. Highlighted the opportunity for the Student Council to participate in the School Board Candidates night. 7th grade science curriculum is currently focusing on anatomy and organ systems, including frog dissections as well as how foods affect the body. Students also tapped maple trees to make maple water as part of the unit. Students are excited about the warmer weather and the new trimester ahead. The Board commented how great the candidate night was.

4. Questions and Comments from those in Attendance

Procedural: A. **Public Comment** - No comments from the public.

The Board provided a brief comment about the notification from the State of NH in February with regard to masks and thanked everyone for their quick pivot including administration, staff and families.

5. Continuing Business

Action, Procedural: A. **Continuing Business**

Superintendent Nadeau commented on the Re-opening plan which was recently updated to reflect the new guidance from DHHS and the CDC. The CDC community levels are the new metrics being utilized at a county level, and currently Rockingham County is in the low range. Local mitigation recommendations remain in place (masking remains optional in the low to medium range, high range also optional unless advised by DHHS, cleaning protocols and hygiene protocols, self monitoring for symptoms). Athletics and co-curricular activities continue, however still following recommended protocols as needed. Field trips and travel are being monitored regularly. If someone requires accommodations they should reach out to their IEP/504 team.

The Board questioned if the documents and links are posted on the website. Superintendent Nadeau commented that the documents are available through the DHSS website, but are not posted yet on the SAU website while awaiting approval by the Boards.

Motion to adopt the revised opening plan.

Motion by Tom von Jess, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

6. Presentations and Updates

Information: A. **Correspondence / Commendations**

Principal Susan Snyder thanked the SEL Committee for their work this year working on self evaluation goals and action plans at North Hampton School. Thanked Tom von Jess for his leadership, honesty, ability to see other perspectives, commitment to open communication and unwavering support of the school, students, staff, and the community. Tom von Jess commented that it has been his honor serve the community, working with the NHS and SAU over the years. Tom thanked Allyson for stepping up when NHS was in need, and Martin for his dedication. Katelyn Belanger thanked Tom as well for the example that he led. Aisha Weaver thanked Allyson Ryder for her commitment and support the past few months. Becca Carlson thanked Martin Tavitian for his time on the board, including all the ways that he supports the NH community.

Information: B. **Middle School CBE update**

Lauren Marsden, Curriculum Coordinator from Winnacunnet High School, presented a report on Competency Based Education at WHS and how this aligns with the work the other districts have been focusing on. WHS plans to dual report with both competency grades and traditional grades for the 22/23 school year. Vertical teams have been working together to ensure alignment of curriculum,

meeting bi-weekly with Dr. Hobbs.

The Board asked how the report card will appear. Ms. Marsden commented that Powerschool allows for multiple avenues of reporting which WHS is currently working on. The Board commented that this is a great step. Dr. Hobbs commented that they are taking this step by step to be as transparent as possible with clear expectations.

7. Administrative Reports

Reports: A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Nadeau commented that elections are taking place tomorrow, along with voting on school district budgets. Mentioned that an orientation meeting with new board members will be held on March 14th. A Joint School Board meeting is scheduled for March 30th, which includes training with the NH School Board Association, where policies will be also be adopted. In April, there will be another legislative meeting. A week before vacation week was Public School Week, highlighting her appreciation for efforts of the staff over the past two years.

The Board asked about the policies around masking and supporting individual choices with regards to any bullying that may occur. Superintendent Nadeau and Principal Snyder commented that the staff continuously have conversations with students and staff about respecting individual choices, (students and staff making individual choices, with about 50% of students still opting to wear masks, as well as teachers).

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

Dr. Hobbs mentioned that the Safety and Security Task Force will meet on March 22nd. The Department of Safety connected SAU 21/90 with the Division of Homeland Security to procure many scenarios for schools and districts as a resource for training.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice work continues, commenting briefly on a proposed transgender policy that will be presented in the near future. Teacher recertification process in full swing throughout the districts.

Information, Reports: C. Student Services Report

Dr. Arakelian commented on the SAU wide Social and Emotional Professional Development Day which will be held tomorrow, March 8th. Character Strong Organization will present a virtual event focusing on social and emotional learning. In addition, Deep Kindness books were purchased for all staff, in order to foster more kindness across all schools and staff to bridge those gaps.

Information: D. Principal Report

Principal Snyder commented on spring sports, with NHS offering baseball, softball, track and field, and the cycling club. Field trips starting up again, while also planning end of year events. The Leadership Council is currently working on a proposal for a sensory walk which would be available for all students. PAL has agreed to fund the cost of the sensory walk and it will be presented to the Board in the future.

Information: E. Finance Report

Dr. Ferreira commented that there are no significant fiscal variations from the prior month, except that Special Education continues to see unexpected expenses (currently \$230,000 over budget). Unanticipated revenue of approximately \$80,000, from the Healthtrust insurance refund. Overall, there is a remaining balance of approximately \$300,000, with three months left to the school year, putting NHS in good shape. There will be four warrant articles presented tomorrow; 1. Operating budget, which is fiscally minded at only 1% over the default budget, 2. Long-term maintenance article for HVAC unit upgrades in the main office and nursing area, 3. Special Education Expendable Trust article for unanticipated special education costs, and 4. Fund Balance Retention article for emergency costs, while also providing a way to smooth the tax rate to the town).

8. New Business

Procedural: A. **New Business**

9. Personnel

Procedural: A. **Resignation**

Procedural: B. **Renominations**

10. Next Meeting Dates

Information: A. **Voting Day - Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

Information: B. **SAU21 Operations Committee Meeting - Thursday, March 17, 2022 (5:30 p.m.)**

Information: C. **SAU21 Joint Board Policy Committee Meeting - Wednesday, March 23, 2022 (5:00 p.m.)**

Information: D. **SAU21 Joint Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 30, 2022 (6:00 p.m.)**

Information: E. **North Hampton School Board Public Hearing and Meeting - Thursday, April 7, 2022 (6:30 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 7:13 p.m.

Motion by Allyson Ryder, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Information: B. **Resignation**

Discussion: C. **Renominations**

12. Resume Public Meeting

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

Motion to adjourn the non-public session and resume the public meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Motion by Martin Tavitian, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action: B. **Resignation - AG**

Motion to accept the resignation of Andre Garner effective June 30, 2022.

Motion by Martin Tavitian, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action: C. **Teacher Renominations**

Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of renominations for North Hampton School certified staff for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

13. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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