

North Hampton School Board Meeting (Thursday, April 7, 2022)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Monday, April 11, 2022

Members present

Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess
Superintendent Meredith Nadeau, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira, Principal Susan Snyder, Curriculum Coordinator Becca Carlson

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

1. Call to Order

Procedural: A. **Call to Order and Reorganization by the Superintendent**

Superintendent Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Reorganization

Action: A. **Appointment of the Board Chair**

Move to nominate Danielle Strater to serve as the Chair of the North Hampton School Board.

Motion by Marianne von Jess, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Superintendent Nadeau explained that all voting will be done by a raise of hand so that anyone observing the meeting can see how board members vote on items.

Action: B. **Appointment of the Board Vice-Chair**

Move to nominate Katelyn Belanger to serve as the Vice-Chair of the North Hampton School Board.

Motion by Lisa Gagalis, second by Marianne von Jess.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Action, Discussion: C. **School Board Committee Appointments**

Committees and the descriptions of each were reviewed before appointments were made.

SAU Operations Committee - Michael Gendre

SAU Operations Committee Alternate - Danielle Strater

SAU Policy Committee - Danielle Strater

SAU Policy Committee Alternate - Lisa Gagalis

SEA Negotiations - Marianne von Jess

SEA Negotiations Alternate - Katelyn Belanger

SESPA Negotiations - not needed

SESPA Negotiations Alternate - not needed

BudCom - Lisa Gagalis

BudCom Alternate - Marianne von Jess

Facilities Committee - Danielle Strater

Facilities Committee Alternate - Michael Strater

NHSBA Delegate - Katelyn Belanger

NHSBA Delegate Alternate - Michael Gendre

Wellness/ Joint Loss - Lisa Gagalis

Wellness/ Joint Loss Alternate - Katelyn Belanger

Channel 22 - Marianne von Jess

Legislative Liaison - Lisa Gagalis

CIP - Danielle Strater

Motion to approve the above listed Committee appointments.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

3. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **March 7, 2022 (Regular Meeting)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2022, regular meeting.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Danielle Strater.

Final Resolution: Motion Failed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger

Abstain: Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Action, Minutes: B. **March 21, 2022 (Orientation Workshop)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022, new board member orientation workshop.

Motion by Lisa Gagalis, second by Marianne von Jess.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Abstain: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger

4. Student Update

Information: A. **Student Representative Report**

Student Rep Corbin Garafallo, reported on recent trips taken by grades 7 and 8 to Gunstock that included XC skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Students held a fundraiser to raise money for their class gift. The fundraiser involved designing an Earth Day themed t-shirt which was then voted on and the winning design was sold throughout the school raising over \$400. Student government will be organizing an Earth Day cleanup. The class gift will be a gaga pit. Spring sports starting soon. Grade 6 will be taking a field trip to the ropes course in Kittery, ME.

5. Questions and Comments from those in Attendance

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

6. Presentations and Updates

Action, Information: A. **Competency Based Education Presentation**

Dr. Hobbs presented on Competency Based Education Progress & Planning. Provided a narrative on where it began to where it is now.

Curriculum Coordinator Carlson presented NHS specific learning and curriculum work and how the school focus has continued to move forward within the SAU-wide vision. (See Power Point attached to agenda) NHS has two grading and assessment policies that now limit the expansion of competency learning and grading.

Board discussion included RTI (response to intervention), MTSS (Multi-tier Systems of Support) and also the standards and competencies as provided by the policies: IKA-R and IKA-R2. Voting to suspend the policies was discussed and how they fit or don't fit with best practices.

Motion to suspend policies IKA-R and IKA-R2.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second NONE.

Motion to amend policy IKAR-2 so that it does not include grade 6.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second NONE.

Additional Board questions and concerns were involved a communication plan with families before moving forward with the grading changes, how WHS reports grades, how other schools in SAU21 report competencies and how they transitioned to do so. Parental communication and a lack of understanding in competency reporting was discussed. The Board believes that a disconnect still exists with families regarding competency reporting. Principal Snyder noted that all progress reports have companion/supporting documents to assist in reviewing the results. Competency based education is driving the bus. Traditional grading can vary wildly. Discussed a survey asking for feedback from parents understanding the supporting documents before removing the policies.

Information: B. **Correspondence / Commendations**

Kindergarten Team - Karen Donahoe, Ellen Pongrace Sue McLaughlin, Laurie Berry, Jamie Walthier, Lauren Bottomley, Allison Duffield

Tech Support - Demetri, Carly Herlihy

Grade 2 Team - Megan Sharples, Karen Donohoe, Laurie Berry

Officer Whitcomb (NHPD) for the visit with Preschool

PAL - for helping student government with online store selling t-shirts

Counselor hiring committee: Amanda Wiernicki, Ellen Pongrace, Kerri Ann Coronato, Laurie Berry, Elliot Pope, Mara Derosier, Patrick Guidi

Students - Riley, Emily, Christian, Sully

7. Continuing Business

Procedural: A. **Continuing Business** - Nothing to discuss.

8. Administrative Reports

Information: A. **Principal's Report**

Principal Snyder highlighted the upcoming information night for incoming Kindergarten students and their families, report cards, leadership council, and teacher appreciation.

The first round of interviews were held for the Director of Student Services. Two candidates have been selected for the second round of interviews and will consist of on-site visits.

Board discussion and questions included parent involvement and feedback. It was noted that there was more parent interest in serving on the committee than committee could accommodate.

Reports: B. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Nadeau highlighted the recent Legislative Roundtable that was attended by 11 SAU21 Joint Board members and SAU90 Board members as well State Representatives Edgar and Khan. Numerous bills were reviewed.

She reported that there are 14 committee members on the hiring team for the Executive Director of Student Services. Interviews are in process and this is the middle of the hiring season.

Information, Reports: C. **Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Report**

Dr. Hobbs highlighted that the Portrait of a Learner team met today. Safety & Security Task Force recently met. Teacher recertification process is continuing. A full-day of professional development is being planned for September on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice (DEIJ).

Information, Reports: D. **Student Services Report**

Dr. Arakelian reported that the committee's search for next Director of Special Services for North Hampton going well. Special Education Directors within the SAU21 will be attending the NHSEAA Law Conference in Concord on Friday.

Information: E. **Finance Report**

Dr. Ferreira reviewed finances. We are nearing the end of the fiscal year. Special education is driving the expenditures by \$228,000 more than budgeted. This speaks to the importance of the expendable trust. Savings have occurred in salary accounts unfortunately due to the inability to fill needed positions. The health insurance refund has also helped. More specific numbers will be provided at the June board meeting. Planning for two public hearings at the May board meeting - Technology Expendable Trust and Building Maintenance Expendable Trust.

The Board asked about expendable trust account targets: Special Education has a target of \$400K and after this year's contribution is should be about \$425K

9. New Business

Discussion, Information: A. Policies - First Read

Superintendent Nadeau reported that the Joint Board Policy Committee has reviewed and determined the attached 26 policies were to be moved forward for a first read for the NHSB. A brief explanation was provided for each policy. The Board questioned the procedures for policy JBAB. It was explained that procedures cannot happen until after the policy is adopted and that they may vary slightly from school to school.

Action, Discussion: B. Last Day of School

Motion to adopt Friday, June 17th as the last day of school (early release).

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Lisa Gagalís.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalís, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

10. Personnel

Action, Information: A. Resignation - AW

The Board thanked Aisha Weaver for taking on the role during such an arduous year with students and staff and acknowledged her kindness when dealing with students in difficult situations.

Motion to accept the resignation of Aisha Weaver as the Director of Student Services effective June 30, 2022.

Motion by Lisa Gagalís, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalís, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Information: B. **Nomination(s)** - To be discussed in non-public.

11. Next Meeting Dates

Information: A. ***Tentative SAU21 Joint Board Special Meeting - Wednesday, April 20, 2022 (6:00 p.m.)**

Information: B. **North Hampton School Board Public Hearing and Meeting - Thursday, May 5, 2022 (6:30 p.m.)**

Information: C. **SAU21 Operations Committee Meeting - Wednesday, May 11, 2022 (6:00 p.m.)**

Information: D. **SAU21 Joint Board Meeting - Tuesday, May 24, 2022 (6:00 p.m.)**

12. 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 8:21 p.m.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Marianne von Jess.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalís, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Discussion: B. **Nomination - EF**

13. Resume Public Meeting

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

Motion to adjourn the non-public session and resume the public meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalís.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalís, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Action, Discussion: B. **Nomination - EF**

Motion to accept the Superintendent's nomination of Elisabetta Fiore for the School Counselor position beginning July 1, 2022.

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Lisa Gagalís.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalís, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

14. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Danielle Strater.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalís, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess