

North Hampton School Board Meeting (Thursday, June 2, 2022)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Friday, June 3, 2022

Members present

Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess
Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira, Principal Susan Snyder, Curriculum Coordinator Becca Carlson, Director of Student Services Aisha Weaver
Absent: Superintendent Meredith Nadeau

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

1. Call to Order

Information: A. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Danielle Strater called the meeting to order and the call to order and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **May 5, 2022 (Regular Meeting)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2022, regular meeting.

Motion by Lisa Gagalis, second by Danielle Strater.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Minutes: B. **May 24, 2022 (Special Meeting)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2022, special meeting.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre

Abstain: Marianne von Jess

3. Student Update

Information: A. Student Representative Report

Corbin Garofalo, started his last report noting that it has been fun serving in this role. He spoke about upcoming field trips to Appledore Island, Take Flight, and an upcoming beach day. He reported on the performing arts performance and a grade 6-8 band concert. He also noted that a group of students presented a flag to a veteran on Memorial Day.

4. Questions and Comments from those in Attendance

Procedural: A. **Public Comment**

Jeff Miller, 12 Middle Fox Road, parent and trooper with the NH State Police, expressed concerns & support of full-time SRO at NHS. He spoke about the length of time of an event versus the response time of police to arrive to the incident and noted that having an officer in the building can act as a deterrent as well as saves critical time & lives. He believes the school is vulnerable without an SRO.

Chelsea Christianson, parent (address not provided) questioned vulnerabilities such as recess, after school and sporting events. She stated the doors are open during these times with people coming and going. She also questioned the inclusivity at the expense of offending others and noted an incident with her daughter writing "Christmas" and being told not to write it as it might offend someone. She would like to see the school not be so concerned with being "too inclusive" that they end up offending those with "more traditional values" as she believes that it what is currently happening.

Tim Failey, 3 North Rd, parent of 3 students and ex-marine, stated he has a keen understanding of 'bad' people and what they want to do and how to do it. He noted the number of first floor windows and doors and the 'ease' of entering through them to access the school. He is in favor of an SRO. He believes it is vital to the security of the school.

5. Presentations and Updates

Information: A. **PAL Presentation**

Yvonne LeBlanc (Co-chair of PAL) provided presentation on the history of PAL, what PAL does, how funds are raised and activities supported.

Information: B. **Forest Stewardship**

Becca Carlson gave an overview presentation on the Forest Stewardship and the school's involvement. (PowerPoint included in the agenda) The forest will be divided into parcels and maintained by a class/grade level throughout their years at NHS, handed over at the end of grade 8 to incoming grade 1 class. Curriculum connections: Humanities, Service, STEM and Unified Arts.

Information: C. **Correspondence / Commendations**

Principal Snyder commended student Maddy Dinan for being selected "Governor for the Day". Maddy was chosen from a large group of students throughout the state based on an essay she submitted.

She recognized teachers and staff who helped coordinate the concert and the school play; Marsha Zavez, Brenda Conley, Dan Singer, Demetri Mattis, Mary Oliver, Sue McGlaughlin, Karen Donahoe, Ellen Pongrace, and Tracy Barnes.

The Grade 2 wax museum and the Grade 5 play on states & regions. Becca Carlson was recognized for organizing school representation at the Memorial Day parade

Coordinator Carlson recognized the 7th grades Boy Scouts: Corbin Garofalo, Wyatt Failey, Max Passero along with Jenn Herman and Stu Spooner for assisting with the Memorial Day parade and festivities.

Aisha Weaver was also recognized as the Director of Student Services and thanked for everything she has done to help with the Special Education department over the past two years. It has been trying time with Covid and her service was greatly appreciated. Director Weaver thanked the administration and the Board for their support over the past two years.

6. Continuing Business

Action, Information: A. Competency Based Education

Dr. Hobbs gave an overview of where we are at the SAU level with CBE. He briefly reviewed that Portrait of a Learner presentation that took place at the recent Joint Board meeting held in May.

Coordinator Carlson gave an overview of where we are with CBE at the building level. She requested on behalf of the teachers to suspend the grading policies. She provided reasoning and noted that they understand that parents are more comfortable with the letter based grading but that no such connection exists in NHS classroom between competencies and letter grades. NHS Students do not receive letter grades in classrooms. Letters appearing on progress reports are not a true reflection of student's learning. Dual system creates a barrier for teachers.

Board questions included whether a standard exists across the middle school in reporting grades, k-12 effort, requests more information in transition to CBE reporting, timeline of 'ripping off the band-aid, the grading policies IKA-R and IKA-R2, what schools have these policies.

Motion to suspend IKA-R and IKA-R2.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Further discussion included whether the board can operate outside of their boundaries; setting this policy is outside of the Board's boundaries, realizing that the school is going full CBE per a state requirement but wanting a seamless transition for students and parents especially when moving to WHS, and whether this serves students well. It was reported that WHS teachers are fluent with reporting via CBE. It was also stated that parents feel that the letter grades give them a view of what's going on in the classroom yet also noted that this "view" is inaccurate and provides less information. CBE reporting provides much more detailed information. All other schools in the SAU is doing this.

Principal Snyder reiterated that CBE reporting is goal #3 of the school improvement plan and has been for last 3 years. NHS was a leader with CBE but this is now holding them back.

The motion was re-read.

Motion to suspend IKA-R and IKA-R2.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis

No: Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess

Action: B. Updated ESSER Use of Funds Plan

Dr. Ferreira reviewed the three sources of ESSR funds, how the funds have been spent to date, and the proposal for using the remaining funds totaling \$30,610. He addressed a previous request to spend ESSER funds on constructing an outdoor learning area and the requirements that would entail. Recommendation is to use the remaining funds to upgrade the HVAC controls and reading

Motion to approve the updated ESSER Use of Funds Plan.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Marianne von Jess.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

7. Administrative Reports

Reports: A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hobbs reviewed Superintendent Nadeau's report (included in the agenda packet).

Information: B. Principal's Report

Principal Snyder highlighted that the Leadership Council will be assessing the progress from their school improvement plan. They will provide their new goals to the Board for their August meeting. It was also noted that safety and security conversations are constantly take place at school. Staff is constantly assessing and thinking about ways to keep the students safe. Drills occur regularly. The Homeland Security audit occurs every 3 years. School follows through on recommendations when they are made. Actively work with the local police.

A brief discussion was held on parent volunteers and the requirements of background checks were noted.

Amy Failey, parent, noted appreciation of more parents being able to go into the schools for activities, plays, band concert. Very uplifting for students and parents.

Tim Failey, 3 North Road, parent, commented on fingerprinting.

Mentioned upcoming field trips and field day.

The Board thanked the staff for all they do to put these events and field trips together.

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

Dr. Hobbs recognized Dr. Arakelian and her work with safety and security, behavioral and interventions, very proactive effort versus the reactive approach. Kudos to social studies teachers and librarians for planning to come back into school for 2 additional days of PD after school is out.

Information, Reports: D. Student Services Report

Information: E. **Finance Report**

Dr. Ferreira reviewed both revenue and expenditure reports. No significant changes with the exception of longevity and retirement stipends being paid out.

8. New Business

Action: A. **Acceptance of Gift - People Active in Learning (Student Government)**

Motion to accept the donation of \$1062 from People Active in Learning to support Student Government.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action: B. **Acceptance of Gift - People Active in Learning (Sensory Pathway)**

Motion to accept the donation of \$1370 from People Active in Learning to fund the sensory pathway.

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: C. **Acceptance of Gift - People Active in Learning (Gr 8 Yearbooks)**

Motion to accept the donation of \$613.17 from People Active in Learning for yearbooks for grade 8.

Motion by Lisa Gagalis, second by Michael Gendre.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Discussion: D. **Summer Hiring**

Motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to offer contracts during June, July and August.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Information: E. **Policy JBAB**

Dr. Hobbs reported on the NHSBA removal of the policy due to legislation currently being discussed around student privacy. NHSBA and legal counsel both recommend withdrawing due to current litigating on parent notification.

Board discussion included a request to have an affirmation policy. Dr. Hobbs noted that something can be brought forward for August meeting. He also noted that anti-discrimination laws are already in place and that once a new NHSBA sample policy is ready it will be brought forward for Board review and approval.

Motion to withdraw Policy JBAB per the New Hampshire School Boards Association Spring Update recommendation with an understanding that an affirmation policy will be brought forward to the August meeting.

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Information: F. **2022-23 Lunch Price Recommendations**

Dr. Ferreira reported that a revamping has not occurred. If families are in need, there is help available. Food service is supposed to be self sustaining and usually runs in a deficit. During the budget process a transfer is always budgeted to cover deficit.

Principal Snyder also reported that the number of meals being served has increased. No student is denied a meal.

Motion to approve a lunch price of \$3.25 and a breakfast price of \$1.80 respectively for the 2022-23 school year.

Motion by Lisa Gagalis, second by Michael Gendre.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Information: G. **2023-24 Budget Calendar and Development Timeline**

Dr. Ferreira reviewed the timeline.

Action, Discussion: H. **2023 Deliberative Session Dates**

Motion to hold the Deliberative Session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Lisa Gagalis, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Discussion: I. **School Safety & Emergency Management**

Dr. Hobbs noted the Homeland Security audit that occurs every three years, drills do take place regularly, social emotional learning is also a large piece, SRO discussion, SRO agreements are in place at Seabrook and WHS. More information will be provided in non-public session.

North Hampton Police Chief Kathryn Mone spoke on the history of the SRO officer at NHS noting that prior to the 2010 school year there was an SRO in school. In 2014 discussion occurred but no result. At one point funding for an SRO was placed on the ballot but failed. At the beginning of the 2019 school year the police department started with very informal visits to the school by an officer. Then the pandemic occurred.

Board discussion included creating a Warrant Article, can anything be done now versus waiting for the next budget cycle, how the SRO is contracted, creating an SRO position and determining needs, costs, hours, and whether a public hearing is needed. The Board wants to accelerate the process and have an SRO in place for the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

Chief Mone stated that the NHPD will need to know the expectations of an SRO with a clear description of job expectations, timeline,

etc.

It was noted that the Board's goal is to begin discussions in order to have one in place as soon as possible.

Motion to direct the administration to work with the town to develop an MOU for the creation of a position of SRO beginning with the 2022 school year.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Marianne von Jess.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Yvonne LeBlanc, resident, asked about this current year's unused funds being available after budget ends per the recent warrant article. It was explained that the warrant article is for next years funds and the budget ending FY22-23.

9. Personnel

Information: A. **Nomination(s)** - to be discussed in non-public.

10. Next Meeting Dates

Discussion: A. **Special Meeting for Public Hearing & Bid(s)** - The Board set a date for special meeting; Wednesday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Information: B. **SAU21 Joint Board Policy Committee Meeting - Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

Information: C. **North Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, August 4, 2022 (6:30 p.m.)**

Information: D. **2022-2023 Board Meeting Schedule**

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 (b and i) at 9:10 p.m.

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Discussion: B. **School Safety & Security**

Discussion: C. **Nomination - AM**

12. Resume Public Meeting

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

Motion to adjourn the non-public session and resume the public meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Marianne von Jess.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

13. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalis.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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