

Members present

Danielle Strater, Katelyn Belanger, Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, Marianne von Jess
Superintendent Meredith Nadeau, Business Administrator Matthew Ferreira, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent Mary Toomey, Principal Susan Snyder, Director of Student Services/Asst. Principal Deena Jensen

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

1. Call to Order

Procedural: A. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Danielle Strater opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. August 4, 2022 (Public Hearing & Regular Meeting)

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2022, public hearing & regular meeting.

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

Motion to amend the agenda order and move the Administrative Reports to immediately follow Public Comment and for Commendations and Correspondence to take place afterwards.

Motion by Marianne von Jess, second by Katelyn Belanger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

3. Student Update

Information: A. **Student Representative Report**

Student Representative reports will begin in October.

4. Questions and Comments from those in Attendance

Procedural: A. **Public Comment**

Chair Strater reminded the public that there is a 3 minute limit person with a 30 minute limit overall. Comments are to be respectful and the Board does not engage but is there to listen.

Frank Ferraro, 55 Post Rd, NH, commented on news reports citing a significant impact on student learning from the Covid shut downs over the past couple years. He asked about Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment reports claiming there is no mention of assessment testing. He requests the public to be made aware of evaluation and assessments. He stated he is a member of the Budget Committee and is a numbers person. He also cautioned what years should be assessed: i.e. grade 3 in 2019 compared to grade 5 in 2021.

Chelsea Christensen, Atlantic Ave, parent, requested the Board to clarify comments over the past week that involve an incident claiming that "Merry Christmas" is being erased and is offensive. She stated that her daughter claims the Music Teacher is removing the holidays from the Winter concert. She spoke with Principal Snyder, and feels that the message is that religion is being removed from Winter concert due to a separation of Church and State. She commented on the constitution and an amendment to put religion back in. Believes that removing religion sends a confusing message and wants children to learn about everything with no negative connotation connected to holidays.

Brad Green, 435 Ocean Blvd, addressed the upcoming September 13th Professional Development. His comments included an analogy about gay marriage, children getting gender surgery, special education becoming a cottage industry, 1980's primary drivers were academics, academics now are silenced, driven by content, educational theorists. He stated that a PHD in education only takes 3 years. He believes that the social emotional learning focus in schools now resembles mental hospitals. Chair Strater reminded him that his 3 minute limit had expired.

Paul Markey, Hobbs Road, wanted to give his 3 minutes to Mr. Green.

It was stated that per board policy BEDH speakers may not relinquish their allotted time to another speaker.

He then received Mr. Green paper that he was reading from and continued to read from it. He read that the state is now purple, schools are not performing, teachers and students deserve more credit, teachers have more to do than to cow-town to latest fad, needs to stay on academic improvement,

Shawna Healy, South Hampton resident,

The Board noted that this is a North Hampton School Board meeting and that if all NH residents have spoken and time still remained within the 30 minute allotment she would be given a chance to speak.

Brianne Moore, 2 Stevens Rd, parent at NHS, support teachers and staff for what they give to the kids, bring their professionalism to students, her children have learned so much in just 2 weeks. She reminded those in attendance that Public School is for ALL students. Diane Betz, 27 Mill Rd, reiterated Ms. Moore's comments, appreciates separation of church and state and an inclusive school. Donna Macia, 11 Dearborn Rd, raised children in NHS schools, we need to look at not only students education and also the individual, very difficult for students that are LGBTQ, supports teachers learning on how to accept these kids, important to continue with the training. Sends a message that you need to accept others no matter who they are.

Bryan Belanger, 2 Spice Meadow, commended the Board in including more inclusive messages. He believes that the majority of the community feels it is beneficial to the students and community. He stated that it helpful to everyone for the Board to create a

statement of inclusivity, noting that parents of the students in NHS are in support if it, the LGBTQ is in support, and that learning does not happen when kids do not feel safe. Wants the next generation to be better at acknowledging and including others who are different than themselves and to also know how to do their research and not get c

Jeff , Middle fox Rd, reiterated Mr. Belanger's comments stating that it's a reality, children need to feel safe, most adults don't have these experiences, reality is that any of us need to learn about the process to help the students. He noted that it's all about the safety of the kids. Social media is not the place to learn your facts. Stated that anyone can put anything out there and claim it to be truth. Cautions people to check their facts. He noted the Board can be better about being transparent so the community can learn what the training is about and what it's not about.

Anne Marie Banfield, 7 Highlander Drive, read a phrase T. Jefferson wrote about separation of church and state. She cited the First Amendment establishment clause, Religious Christmas carols, can recognize and celebrate kwanza, menorahs. She referenced court cases about religious symbols, stating the government subsidizes religious holidays, endorses religion and to forbid use is an overreaction. She believes that hymns and carols can be sung in public schools. Commented on the lack of inclusion in teacher training.

Shawna Healy, South Hampton resident, parent of student in SAU21, is concerned that the SAU has hired a political organization. She doesn't understand why so many districts are in support of the training. She stated that she knows many LGBTQ people that don not believe that it should be taught in schools. Political organizations try to influence in schools.

Angie Lombard, Kimberly Drive, parent, understands this training is for teachers to help students "in crisis". She is having trouble seeing the problem with helping teachers learn how to better handle students in crisis. She stated that there appears to be a need to hold a training for adults on getting their information from Social Media and how to research and determine what is fact, etc.

Kathy Kilgore, 220 Atlantic Ave, parent, was watching from home, came here after seeing gentleman talk about transparency, believes that people want to do good, but has a question about training, is it open to public?

5. Administrative Reports

Reports: A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Nadeau reported schools are back in session, commended everyone that makes the opening of school smooth, very positive opening for students and families. Educators were brought together on August 24th to 'kick-off' the new year. Daniel Singer and Cindy Dixon were both acknowledged for their milestone achievement in public service, 30 and 40 years of service respectively. It was that the backpack incident from last week has been investigated and questions should be directed to Chief Mohn.

Reports: B. Principal's Report

Principal Snyder reported on the Leadership council work that has been done, the new School Improvement Plan (SIP) was drafted and shared, curriculum night will be held September 29th at 5:30 p.m. with an open house and presentations. A very successful back to school social was held. PAL was thanked for their support and contributions to the family friendly event. Upcoming events and dates to remember: Middle School (grades 5-8) December concerts on December 7 and a band concert on December 14. Both concerts will be made up of holiday music representing a variety of cultures. Families should have received individual assessment testing results in the mail last week. She noted the four (4) focus areas for the SIP as being communication, SEL, interventions & extensions (Forestry stewardship) and Special Education. Deena Jensen has been welcomed as new Special Education Director and Assistant Principal. (see attached report)

Board discussion included curriculum night, Middle School competency-based grading, the winter concerts. It was noted that nothing has changed with the concerts. The winter concerts were not held during the pandemic and with only the spring concert taking place. The only difference has been separating the band concert and chorus into 2 separate concerts.

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

Dr. Hobbs reported that individual student assessment scores were mailed last week. The committee is just starting the review of aggregate scores. Professional Development (PD) is getting started. As with every year, a tapestry of various PD programs are held, including an angle on student safety and preventing student harm to others. Portrait Of a Learner (POL) Community Night will be held on October 4th. (see attached report)

Board discussion included how aggregate reports are being looked, referencing the public comment from earlier. Dr. Hobbs responded that the work is being done and once it has been completed it will be presented to the public as has always occurred in the past. The board commented that assessments are only 1 snapshot of a student.

Information: D. Student Services Report

Dr. Toomey reported that on August 11th the CDC released new guidance regarding Covid screening with routine screening no longer being necessary. The State of NH is continuing to fund the SASS programming that was done last year. It is completely voluntary, consent is required from parents and staff in order to participate. She noted that the Seacoast CARES team has met and welcomed many new staff members. She also provided information on Partnerships in Education Ad Resilience (PEAR). (see attached report)

Information: E. Finance Report

Dr. Ferreira reported on SAFE grant funding through the state. There is still no response from the state. Anticipating a reply by end of September. Revenue and expenditure reports included, very early in school fiscal year. It is anticipated that accounts will go overbudget based on rising costs of goods and services. He noted that the utilities contracts are bid out on a long-term basis. Our electricity cost is guaranteed through December 2023. Bargaining has commenced with the teachers union. The hope is to have an agreement on the March Warrant.

6. Presentations and Updates

Information: A. Commendations

Deena Jensen was again welcomed as the new Director of Student Services/Assistant. Principal. The assembly on first day of school was a success. Recognized the staff that work all summer long to keep things going and ready to start school; Sue MacLaughlin and

Maribeth Driscoll (office personnel), Demetri Mattis (IT), Stu Spooner and the whole facilities department, Paula Field and the Cafe staff.

PreK and Kindergarten started in school this week. Grade 7 students are in Nobleboro, ME at Camp Kieve. Recognized the teachers that make this possible from chaperoning to 'holding down the fort' at the school.

Superintendent Nadeau also noted the Educational Associates for their prep day to get ready before the start of school.

Information: B. **Correspondence** - An email was received on August 4, 2022 from Ann Marie Banfield and included in the agenda.

7. Continuing Business

Action, Discussion: A. **Policies - Second Read and Adoption**

Motion to approve the adoption and withdrawal as recommended for the 55 policies presented.

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. **Reopening Plan - Update** - There is no update.

Superintendent Nadeau reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the North Hampton Police Department is ready to go now that policy is adopted. Officer coverage will amount to 12 hours a month.

Board discussion included increasing officer presence in the building for next year, the multi layer process oage sexual behaviors. The training is well within inclusive guidelines per the technical bulletin issued by the NHDOE and distributed last year.

Board discussion included asking if any NHS parents or staff have reached out to the administration with concerns about the training outside of this evening's public comment? Any teachers? Have any community members asked about previous PD trainings?

The administration responded that no community members have asked nor about past trainings. The staff requested training based on a March 2020 PD staff audit. Over 60% of staff requested better training around these types of matters. It was also noted that parents are included in discussions when students go to their counselors.

8. New Business

Discussion: A. **NHSBA Delegate Assembly** - Board discussed having delegate attend and vote. They chose not to review each item individually but to forward any concerns to their delegate.

Discussion, Information: B. **Policies - First Read** - Reviewed. No questions were heard.

Action: C. **Award of Bid: Audit Services**

Dr. Ferreira reported on the bid process. It was submitted to 5 vendors, only one responded.

Motion to approve award of bid to Plodzik & Sanderson in the total amount of \$50,055 for a five-year audit services contract.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalís.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Additional comments from the Board included a work session to review BoardDocs, communications, the school's Facebook page, the school website, twitter, and sending messages.

Superintendent Nadeau stated that an SAU-wide communications plan is in the works.

9. Personnel

Action: A. **Substitute Teacher/EA Rate of Pay**

Dr. Ferreira reported on the difficulty in acquiring substitutes. Changes being made include removing the 2 year college requirement and also increasing the the daily rate from \$90 to \$110. These changes will make us more comparable to others SAUs and school districts in the area.

Motion to approve adjusting the substitute teacher/educational associate rate of pay to \$110.00 per day, effective September 26, 2022.

Motion by Katelyn Belanger, second by Lisa Gagalís.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

10. Next Meeting Dates

Information: A. **SAU21 Operations Committee Meeting - Wednesday, October 5, 2022**

Information: B. **North Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, October 6, 2022**

Information: C. **SAU21 Joint Board Policy Committee Meeting - Monday, October 17, 2022**

Information: D. **SAU21 Joint Board Meeting - Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

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).** - Not needed.

12. Resume Public Meeting

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

13. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Motion by Danielle Strater, second by Katelyn Belanger.