

**Hartland Board Agenda  
Draft Minutes  
December 16, 2019**

**Present:** Colleen Spence, Beth Roy, Nicki Buck, Scott Richardson, Sarah Stewart Taylor, Christine Bourne, Angie Ladeau, Brittany Preston, Karen Woolsey, Dave Baker

Meeting called to order at 6:19 PM.

**Changes/Additions:** Adding French Trip Fundraising, Minutes of 10/21, Universal Meals, Official Date for Budget Presentation

**Minutes:** October 21 and November 18

Nicki Buck asked for a motion. Colleen Spence moved; seconded by Scott Richardson; motion passed.

**Public Participation:** French Trip Fundraising

Stella, Will and Maeve are in charge of planning a leave to learn trip in May 2020 to Montreal. They will be having a crepe sale every Friday. The charge is \$3 for one or three for \$5. Christine Bourne mentioned they are planning a trip to Montreal but do not want to do all the work if cannot go. They will have a detailed plan later on after it's approved. The trip is open to the entire French class if they help with the fundraiser. There will be about 16 going. Mrs. Meyer is the teacher. The crepes will be sold in the school and will be premade. Beth Roy suggested selling at another time so as not competing with breakfast. Nicki Buck asked for a motion to approve the fundraising request for the trip to Montreal. Sarah Stewart Taylor moved; seconded by Colleen Spence; motion passed.

**Discussion Items:**

Special Education: Karen Woolsey

Pre-Early Child Special Education there are 18 students. Total IEP's as of September was 279, with a total of 96 in Hartland with 34% of all IEPs come from Hartland. Nine students are in alternative placement and 61 IEP students in the building.

Staffing: Hartland has four special education teachers, a speech pathology assistant, and assistant director is here. Kieran Zito is here a lot. There is also additional support from SLP's.

There are three part time out of district case managers that represent our SU at meetings outside the SU. We utilize community mental health and two private organizations and over 40 paras in the SU. Hartland has nine paras, four vacancies, two in house BI's and an HCRS BI.

Beth Roy asked why four vacancies. Karen Woolsey mentioned it is for a variety of reasons. We have interviews for Thursday. There are also vacancies in Weathersfield and Windsor. A parent mentioned has heard that parents feel there should be more paras in the 3rd grade as larger class size. Karen Woolsey mentioned need to take a hard look at trend and data

regarding disability category. It depends on needs and services. There is a lot of expertise in this building. The assistant director is here a lot to make sure everyone getting services. Beth Roy feels students are not getting the services needed. It does not seem like enough. The general feeling in all grade levels is ratios are off and support not in place in a lot of the classrooms. Are we meeting our legal obligations within IEP's? Dave Baker mentioned with four vacancies, if we hired a person tomorrow, where would that person be. Brittany Preston mentioned it would depend on the highest need at the time. Karen Woolsey mentioned everyone is stretched to the max and services are being provided. Beth Roy asked when take step to say IEPs being met or look at reality and say did what we need to do. Karen Woolsey mentioned there is collaboration among everyone in the building and looking at IEP's and staffing pattern. Brittany Preston mentioned SEI's step in to help when can. Christine Bourne mentioned we are hiring subs here when there is a shortage in a class.

Sarah Stewart Taylor mentioned doing the best can with resources but hearing from public that some real problems. What can the school board do? Karen Woolsey mentioned a lot has to do with employment in this area. A comment here is that there is no place to live. Scott Richardson mentioned, as board members, can we be confident as we have a new policy manual and what can we do, we take less of a role in hiring. Maybe easier for me as I have no kids in this building and confident have policies guiding leaders that students will be cared for. Dave Baker mentioned if surveyed teachers across the SU on, do you feel you have enough help, and if would at the organizational level all principals want more help. Dave Baker mentioned is every need being met, and would be impossible to meet that goal. As administrative team we are talking about do we have the right delivery system in place. There is the possibility of outside help on multi-tiered system of support.

Karen Woolsey mentioned all funding has been categorical and get reimbursed but now talking about doing away with that and going to block grant. This is making special educators nervous as have to check boxes that being met. We have to provide a free and appropriate education for all students. Beth Roy asked what are the barriers within our system that work meeting all needs. Karen Woolsey mentioned with MTSS what is missing is targeted support. Block grant is to loosen up things with special educators. Still have same kids, same regulations and need to meet requirements. This is an unfunded mandate. There is a handbook but do not mention special education. The projection is will be getting less money. This roll out is now scheduled for FY 2022. Interventions to keep numbers down is not there. Karen Woolsey mentioned on average a special educator serves 12-13 students. Range is 13-14 and up to 22. Nicki Buck mentioned families are saying not hearing anything from case managers. Beth Roy asked how do we compare within our SU. Karen Woolsey mentioned numbers are about the same. We are addressing the issues. Christine Bourne mentioned special education teachers are providing services that paras would. Karen Woolsey mentioned there have been 10 referrals in the past two weeks. Beth Roy mentioned she heard it is hard to get a child evaluated. Karen Woolsey mentioned have 60 days to do an evaluation, 15 calendar days to hold a meeting, and every referral takes about 25 hours.

Dave Baker mentioned, academically and behaviorally, takes a long time to build up and once or twice a week the brain cannot change functioning mode. Karen Woolsey mentioned we need licensed teachers doing part of this. We have some that do now. Parent asked about grouping all special education kids in one classroom. Karen Woolsey mentioned co-teaching is an allowable expense. We would have to write a plan and the Secretary of Education needs to sign off on it. Research shows, however, that non IEP students do great but those on an IEP do not do any better. Dave Baker mentioned where are the promising practices and where can we go to see them. We would replicate whatever works.

Angie Ladeau mentioned she has had a math interventionist position open and had one applicant who could not be licensed in this state. Sarah Stewart Taylor asked would it be helpful to have hiring bonuses. Nicki Buck mentioned these are September numbers and at what point do we hit the threshold that need more special educators. Karen Woolsey mentioned we want special education teachers to know the curriculum that working with. Sarah Stewart Taylor asked would hiring an interventionist for this building help. Colleen Spence feels parents would say yes. Sarah Stewart Taylor feels teachers do not have enough support.

Scott Richardson mentioned it is interesting if look at all schools and can see five people under the staff. Brittany Preston mentioned not all people listed are case managers. Scott Richardson feels the percentage of IEPs does not mirror the assessments. If had everyone hired that should would be at 13 paras here. Is four vacancies the right number? Karen Woolsey mentioned we have to go by IEP's. If a student gets direct service from a para that has to be noted in the IEP.

Nicki Buck asked a question nationally and in our district is number of IEPs related to the curriculum, pushing them on things have never seen before, pushing so hard on things kids not interested in so not engaged. With curriculum, testing and teaching to the test is not helping students. Would love to be a revolutionary school saying change this but have requirements. Make them interested in learning things. Dave Baker mentioned schools are educating kids never asked to educate before. Curriculum in place is not motivational. A lot of models are private or charter models. Christine Bourne mentioned this is a new system in teaching children now days and teachers are teaching the way taught. Kids are the facilitator of their learning. Beth Roy asked with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) is there a way of supporting teachers in this way of learning. Christine Bourne mentioned it would have to be our vision/mission. Dave Baker mentioned with Portrait of Graduate competencies are going to rise to the top. Doing in confines of public school, have a mandated curriculum and testing and held accountable for.

Budget: Ed Connors

2nd Quarter: This is a projection. At the schools everything would have a purchase order. Professional Development is not encumbered as is on basis of approval of principal. Tuitions not encumbered as second half of year not in. Christine Bourne mentioned trying to buy from places where we have accounts. Encumbered \$934,675 or 10.81%.

Food Program: Based on what do in a given month. Mealtime does the online calculation and state comes back with reimbursement. In six months done 2/3 of the budget. Beth Roy would like to see adults broken out. You budgeted \$75,000 for food and spent \$33,000. Wages include their contracted amount but no overtime.

Beth Roy mentioned Farm to School awareness days coming up and is a good time to invite our state senators to come for lunch. Great opportunity to get press there. Dave Baker mentioned if all three districts agreed could see what might work. With universal meals parents need to fill out the free/reduced form to collect data. Beth Roy mentioned we need to make sure families know can fill out the form anytime. Universal can be by participation rate. Scott Richardson asked mentioned across the SU what is our breakeven point. Nicki Buck feels that every kid that wants to buy lunch is doing so. Scott Richardson feels should trust the community that would support students and families with students. With universal lunches they would be getting a good equitable meal.

#### Building Committee:

Sarah Stewart Taylor mentioned she volunteered to be a board member on the committee along with Christine Bourne. Who else do we want and how do it. Nicki Buck mentioned to e-mail the listserv and have people write a note why they want to be on it. The committee will consist of staff, community members, students, and custodians. Christine Bourne mentioned Jim Taft believes in long range planning. Sarah Stewart Taylor mentioned still thinking of reconfiguring office and is put into next year's budget. The date for letters of interest will be February 1 with the first meeting in late February. This will be posted after break.

#### Principal Update:

- Acceptance and understanding committee meeting regularly. Creating projects going forward. Took team to racial workshop day. Brought two students with us and trying to get students involved in the committee. Surveyed staff on comfort level with addressing and language to use when hearing racial comments
- Data team at WSESU consists of myself, Gina Davis, Jenifer Aldrich, and Angie Ladeau.
- STEAM going well.
- Portrait of Graduate: met twice with students, design team meeting and great sessions and talking about hopes, aspirations, dreams for kids. Kids have been forthcoming how they feel about school.
- SRO: Ten specific requests, more meetings with families. Very lucky he is here. The SRO committee would like to have him be more visible at lunch and assemblies, where can interact more with kids.
- Veterans Day Program and the band has outgrown classroom.
- Vaping is a big deal and addressing that. Got funding for Second Growth to come and talk about Vaping
- Second community dinner and served about 150 meals.
- Ray Sapp Memorial Basketball Game before break and staff won.
- Circus Smirkus was here all week and kids performed Friday.
- Received Exxon Mobil Grant of \$500 and used for activities.

- Received a Wellness Grant to bring Mindful Coaches into classrooms.
- Other News: Fundraising request from Middle School for parents and students to sell concessions at basketball games as a fundraiser for end of year trip and dance and mentioned wellness policy about food. Will set up in lobby during basketball games. Scott Richardson asked why is this in front of us. Why is the board looking at something like this. Christine Bourne mentioned the board has to approve all fundraisers.
- Sent staff members to Leader in Me to a school in Manchester last week.

Scott Richardson mentioned donations to lunch program, lunch debt forgiveness and holiday meal are run through system without going through the board.

Christine Bourne asked the board if they need to vote on out of country trips. Angie Ladeau mentioned the superintendent should know when students are out of the country. Sarah Stewart Taylor mentioned she is comfortable with the principal and superintendent approving trips but letting the school board know. Nicki Buck feels the principal should approve and then bring to the board.

Dave Baker mentioned all negotiations will start after break. With the insurance support staff will now have a copay and did not before. We are already at 80/20. Cash in lieu of insurance is locally bargained.

**Agenda:** January 7 (Executive session at 6:15, regular meeting at 7:00)  
Budget

**Adjournment:**

Nicki Buck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beth Roy moved; seconded by Sarah Stewart Taylor; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tessier, Board Secretary