

**Hartland School District Board Meeting
December 21, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Present at the meeting :

Board: Nicole Buck, Sarah Stewart-Taylor, Beth Roy, Scott Richardson, and Colleen Spence.

Administration/School: David Baker, Christine Bourne, Brittany Preston, Ed Connors, Angie Ladeau, Shannon Cramer, and Annah Brooks.

Public: Heather Vonada, Anna Hall, and Lauren Skilling

I. Call to Order @ 6:03 pm by Nicole Buck

II. Executive Session (Student Issue - Executive session scheduled as premature public knowledge could cause damage.)

Motion (Enter): Colleen Spence

2nd: Beth Roy

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion (Exit): Colleen Spence

2nd: Beth Roy

Vote: 5-0-0

III. Public Participation

There were some questions raised and general discussion from the public on COVID- related topics.

1. Who is the medical professional on the district team?

Dr. Mary Bender and Otelah Perry from MAH.

2. What metrics are being used to identify achievement with the ½ day schedule?

TMP (Track My Progress) completed 3 times per year.

SEL Metrics?

Teacher feedback is given, MTSS process, and School Counselors utilizing the SEL curriculum.

3. Who decides what days are remote days?

We have the original calendar that was set that included certain days as remote.

Additional through meetings and conversations with the COVID task force there were additional days added, and calendars rearranged to take into account possible needed quarantine time for both staff and students.

It would be ideal if there were state guidance and coordination around how the schedules/calendars are managed. As of now that management is left to local SUs and districts. The Superintendents do try to coordinate amongst themselves in their meetings and there are a lot of schools and factors to consider, so it is not a perfect science.

There is a firm community desire for students, particularly in the K-6 setting, to be able to return to a full day schedule. The board and Superintendent are firm on not

changing or considering any A/B type scheduling, and will pick up discussions with Union representatives upon return from the break in the hopes of implementing a longer day beginning Semester 2 (January 25th). Likely it will extend the day for an extra 45 minutes to 1 hour of time. This still complies with the Union Master Agreement for planning time and duty free lunch periods for staff. This also fits in with the complex schedules for para educators working both in the K-6 setting and assisting HS students in the afternoon. Having students in school 5 days a week allows for equitable access for all students and provides the greatest amount of instruction time for a week period compared to other possible schedules.

IV. Approval of Minutes from 12/21/20

Motion: Scott Richardson

2nd: Colleen Spence

Vote: 5-0-0

V. Items for Discussion

A. FY22 BUDGET

There is an overall budget increase of 3.06%. This is partially due to the carryover of a \$151K deficit from the FY20 budget. That deficit was due to Special Ed expenses, as well as, extra expenditures in the Maintenance and Repair budget namely the boiler and dishwasher. The presentation from the Principal Christine Bourne, had very limited changes from the one she presented last month. Points of emphasis were Supplies down \$35,570 savings from removing Big Picture expenses, Regular Ed is down \$17,000 savings from not hiring a BI position. Wages are a 4.91% increase, partially due to the potential hiring of a ½ time LPN. There is a 10% premiums increase, which had an impact on the budget for a 3.75% budget increase.

B. Principal's Report

The Principal provided a slideshow. Specifically welcoming the new Math teacher, Mr Michael Butts. The results from the parent survey that was completed for the remote week were shared. Overall there was a positive trend in technology related issues going better, and instruction and use of time also improved as compared to last Spring. There is still some desire from families for less screen time based work and more creative opportunities that are not screen based.

C. Superintendent's Report

There was discussion around extending the school day for grades K-6. Those conversations will ramp up upon return from the break, so decisions can be made soon, and plans in place for the 2nd semester will start on January 25. Negotiations were successful and the union agreement has been ratified. Negotiations for the coming school year will begin again in a few weeks.

D. COVID Updates

There was lots of positive feedback about having the remote week following the break, from both families and staff alike. The latest remote week is January 4-8. The next round of COVID surveillance testing will occur on January 6. Staff will voluntarily sign up if they want to participate. Again, continuing to discuss school date extensions as we are seeing more and more schools are safe places and there is community-based transmission of the virus and not school-based. COVID fatigue is a real thing, and the trauma suffered from this pandemic is something that needs to be addressed. Staff wellness, especially around stress, is a topic of conversation that is ongoing to make sure they are supported. According to Angie Ladeau, there are 14 students returning to IP for Semester 2, from being remote learners.

E. Antiracism Task Force

The next step is for the Internal Task Force to review the draft policy and procedures received from Righting Wrongs, LLC. Once they review the draft it will be rolled out to Admin and then community for review.

F. Tuition Payment Request

The Board received a tuition payment request from the Buckleys to pay tuition for attendance at the New England Classical Academy. There was a motion made to deny the request following the executive session, with the caveat to urge the family to pursue their right to an appeal.

Motion: Colleen Spence

2nd: Beth Roy

Vote: 5-0-0

G. Ratify Contract

Ratifying the Master Agreement between the Union and the Hartland School Board for the FY20-21. It is an undertaking trying to get a universal contract passed that serves three districts well and consistently. There were some changes in the area of personal days for religious holidays, unification of a defined school day, and setting a curriculum rate of \$30/hr for summer work rather than paying a per diem rate.

Motion: Scott Richardson

2nd: Colleen Spence

Vote: 5-0-0

VI. **Setting the Next Agenda:** Next meeting on January 11 @ 6:00 pm

Public Participation, FY22, Principal Report, Supt Report, COVID, Antiracism Take Force.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: Colleen Spence

2nd: Beth Roy

Vote: 5-0-0

Radar List:

- Community Engagement
- Social/Emotional
- Engagement, Preparation, Variety
- Special Education (504, targeted plan, structural deficiencies)
- Physical Plant (security)
- Proficiency Based Education
- Process (stick to role as a board)

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. Moody