

## Summary of March / April 2022 Board of Education Meetings

### **Cougar Pride**

KES 1st Grade Teacher, Dorothy Lomazzo shared her first grade class's Paws-itively Positive Best Buddy Program partnering with the Daniel Cosgrove Animal Shelter. Some students from the class were in the audience and two spoke about what they learned. Mrs. Lomazzo shared a video from their interview with News Channel 8 (WTNH) and a Slideshow of their Continuing Work. The students made blankets for the animals with their names on them and also raised money to donate to the shelter.

The HKHS Wrestling Team won their first Class S State Title this winter season and coaches. This is the first time in history our Wrestling Team has won this state title. Winning with a total of 267 points, we also had 4 wrestlers that won State Champs in their weight class and 7 wrestlers made it to Finals. Our very own coaches Nick Adler won Class S Head Coach of the Year and Ken Markwat won Class S Assistant Coach of the Year. HKHS wrestlers Ethan Wright, Benjamin Williams, Nicholas Glynn, Cavin Napoletano, Jacob Martone and Ryan Duncanson were recognized and presented with a certificate from the Board.

### **2023-2024 RSD17 Budget**

Several budget workshops were held throughout March and early April with the Superintendent, administrators and representatives from all district schools. We reviewed and discussed all aspects of the budget, including community input. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the gross budget of \$45,030,679.25 which was passed by the towns of Haddam and Killingworth in the May 3, 2022 referendum.

### **Audit Report**

Michelle Loso of Seward and Monde presented a summary of the 2020-2021 audit to the board and advised that the report showed no negative findings. The unassigned fund balance totaled \$606,491 and will be returned to the towns.

### **2022 HKHS Graduation & 2022-2023 Calendar**

Graduation date is set for Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and the last day of school is presently scheduled to be on June 21<sup>st</sup> as long as there are no other missed school days. Superintendent Wibhey presented, and the Board approved, an update to the school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. With a change to the days off for December vacation, the last day of school will now be June 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Policies**

The committee updated the Board on a Presentation of Proposed Policy on Weighted Grading and Calculating Class Rank, and discussed working towards Review Audit Series 2000 and a Revision to Policy 3541.40 transportation to and from school sponsored student activities.

### **Curriculum**

The committee updated the Board about English, Language and Arts (ELA) updates. The State is requiring a "Science of Reading" based K-3 reading curriculum approved by the State Center of Reading Success in the next two years. This coming year we will be implementing a new Kindergarten through Grade 1 curriculum and piloting new curriculums in Grades 2&3 with a pilot of a new reading curriculum in grades 4-8 for the following year. Additionally, a review of the District's Professional Development schedule was presented as well as a comparison of Professional Development in other Districts.

### **Communications**

The committee spoke about adding a Q&A on the BoE Facebook page regarding budget information. A Google Form was added to the Facebook page and responses were posted on the website and the facebook page in three separate FAQs.

### **Strategic Planning**

The Strategic Planning Committee reported on the workshops held with the administrative team to discuss the work of the Board on the Strategic Plan, as well as the District's Vision and Values statements. The group examined survey data, focus group, and interview data and worked on key strategic focus themes. Since then work has been done to refine the wording of the goals and objectives for clarity and purpose. A final report to the Board is planned for late May.

### **On our Website**

You can find the updated 2022-2023 school calendar on the [rsd17.org](http://rsd17.org) website under Calendars.