New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Antolini School
Multi-Purpose Room
March 7, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-_ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg

PRESENT: Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Sousa; Chairman Mr. Karl Hermonat; Mr. Tim Klepps; Mr. Tom Buzzi; Ms. Penny Miller; Mr. Tony Persechino; Ms. Deirdre Tindall; Mr. Travis Bonhomme; Mrs. Kelly O'Dell Longhi; Mrs. Mary Stempien (Zoom); and Mrs Colleen Wipperman, Recording Secretary

A. CHAIR TO OPEN MEETING: 7:02

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CHAIR TO SELECT ORDER OF BUSINESS: None

D. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Email from Stefanie Audia available for viewing at the Superintendent's office. No public comment.

E. BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR'S REPORT: None

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Sousa, thanked the BOE members for their commitment to the staff and students of NHPS. He also shared a special message from Secretary Cardona, thanking Connecticut BOE members for their hard work and commitment to the children. Superintendent Sousa gave a shout out to all the volunteers that came to our schools for Read Across America including State Representative Mark Anderson.

2023-2024 BUDGET

Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Sousa made minor changes to the budget to bring the increase down to 3.63%. We are at a threshold for kindergarten enrollment, which is at 60 students. Kelly O'Dell Longhi explained that 20 kindergarten students per class was too high and that they should consider another kindergarten teacher. Board inquired about several lines on the budget which was answered by Superintendent, Jeff Sousa.

MOTION by Kelly O'Dell Longhi to add 4th kindergarten section. Second by Tony Persechino.
UNANIMOUS
MOTION PASSES

MOTION by Tony Persechino to pass the 2023-2024 budget with the revised amount for the additional kindergarten section. Second by Penny Miller.

DISCUSSION

Deirdre Tindal mentioned adding the security guard to the budget pending the survey results. Superintendent Sousa informed the board that we have approximately 244 responses to date and the deadline for the survey submission is March 10, 2023. Travis Bonhomme asked if they could also add a line for the special education needs. Board discussed a motion to rescind until they are provided the cost for an additional teacher and paraprofessional before approving the 2023-2024 school budget. Superintendent Jeff Sousa said that he could provide those costs along with the costs for special education para support. The board discussed scheduling a special meeting for next week before approving the 2023-2024 school budget.

MOTION TO RESCIND the motion by Tony Persechino to pass the 2023-2024 budget with the revised amount for the additional kindergarten section by Tony Persechino. Pull back second by Penny Miller.

Special meeting date set for Thursday, March 16, 6pm at Antolini - with option for virtual.

G. ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 21, 2023

Karl Hermonat would like to amend the minutes under Section F - *Superintendent's Report - Pupil Services -$13,618 (offset by IDA & ESSER Grants)* - typo IDA to IDEA.

MOTION by Karl Hermonat to approve February 21, 2023 minutes with amendment.
Second by Penny Miller.
UNANIMOUS

2. EXPENDITURE REPORT: None

MOTION by Penny Miller to approve expenditure report. Second by Kelly O'Dell Longhi.
UNANIMOUS

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Healthy Food Nutrition Certification

Superintendent, Jeff Sousa explained that this will be submitted no later than July 1, 2023 to the State of Connecticut along with the votes very clear and the motions read exactly as below.

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the New Hartford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION by Mary Stempien to approve the Healthy Food Nutrition Certification. Second by Penny Miller

UNANIMOUS

MOTION PASSES

The New Hartford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

MOTION by Penny Miller to approve the Healthy Food Nutrition Certification. Second by Tony Persechino.

UNANIMOUS

MOTION PASSES

I . OLD BUSINESS

2nd reading of 2023-2024 school year calendar - Karl Hermonat reminded everyone we voted on the calendar already.

J. REPORTS: None

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Karl Hermonat to adjourn 8:14. Second by Tony Persechino.

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Wipperman
Recording Secretary