

**New Hartford Board of Education
Special Meeting – January 20, 2022
Ann Antolini School – Multi-Purpose Room @ 7 pm
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg**

Present Chairman Karl Hermonat, Vice Chairman Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Board Secretary Penny Miller, members: Travis Bonhomme, Tim Klepps, Tony Persechino and Mary Stempien. Via Zoom Deidre Tindall

Absent Tom Buzzi

Because of Zoom connectivity issues the meeting started at 7:12 pm.

All members in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hermonat asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Christine Carangelo, a Special Education Para-professional for over 25 years, who passed away on January 9, 2022.

Chair Select Order of Business

No changes

Chairman Hermonat thanked Supt. Murphy, the administration, teachers and staff of the New Hartford School System for how they are dealing with COVID. It has been 2 years dealing with this and they all have put in extra time and to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Superintendent's Report

Budget Priorities and Assumptions 2022-2023

Superintendent Murphy said at the February 1st BOE meeting the budget will be presented. At the February 15th meeting any questions regarding the budget will be addressed then. The full list of Assumptions & Priorities for 2022/2023 can be viewed at the Supt. Office or with the Town Clerk. Some of the Assumptions are as follows:

- State and Federal financial support of education may not increase. The biggest support that the state does give is the Education Cost Sharing Grant which is slightly over \$2 million dollars and will probably not increase. This payment goes directly to the town to help offset education costs.
- District enrollment will decrease slightly and increase in the school year 2023-2024.
- Special education costs continue to increase.
- There may be a reduction of 1 teaching position due to smaller Kindergarten enrollment.
- There will be an increase part time primary schools Health Teacher schedule by .5 to deliver additional social-emotional lessons.
- Salary accounts will increase due to negotiated employee contracts.
- The Board of Education continues to budget the annual tuition costs for CREC Magnet School students. Currently there are 17 students @ \$4,600 (average cost).
- Continue to support Oak Hill Program at Antolini School. That lease money goes directly to the Town of New Hartford.

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Ms. Miller asked if all the classroom teachers have Promethean boards. Supt. Murphy replied that currently 80% of all teachers have one. When Supt. Murphy was asked if the Specials teachers will be getting them, he replied, currently it just the classroom teachers and school libraries that have them. Chairman Hermonat asked if we have a need for more Chromebooks. Supt. Murphy said additional Chromebooks will be purchased next year to replace those that are at the end of life.

Mr. Klepps said with the anticipated reduction of a teacher and with the influx of people moving into town are there other indicators to be looked at. Supt. Murphy said over the last few years there have been 8 or 9 additional children additional over the birth certificates 5 years ago.

Mr. Klepps asked about any new mandates. There have been a lot of hardships with education because of COVID. Supt. Murphy responded they are looking at new requirements for reading next year. It's not a tremendous hit to the budget but it is one that is unfunded. He doesn't think there will be any major mandates that will be a big hit to the budget.

Mr. Klepps continued by saying he would like to know the numbers when we talk about the Special Education outplaced students and those attending CREC schools. Supt. Murphy said currently we have 4 outplaced students. Next year we are projected to have 3. Mr. Persechino asked about a remote learning school. Supt. Murphy said the state is looking into having a state-run remote school. They are waiting for more information. The Commissioner of Education will be sending out standards to the districts. Individual families may be able to participate not through the local district but through the state level.

Some of the Priorities are:

- Continue to improve safety measures in schools (replace classroom doors).
- Provide adequate funding for instructional materials for teachers and students.
- Provide funding for transition of students to Bakerville Consolidated, New Hartford Elementary and Antolini Schools
- Continue Social/Emotional program in district. (Ruler Program)
- Continue to implement grade level interim Math/ELA assessments across the district to improve student achievement
- Continue collaboration with regional vertical math committee. This was on pause but will be re-initiated
- Continue funding for Talented and Gifted program for 4-6 graders at Ann Antolini School. Mrs. Pfeffer does a great job with this program.
- Continue Advanced Manufacturing Program 5th and 6th graders in partnership with Goodwin University. We are the only school district with 5th & 6th graders in this program. This is run through our media program with Mrs. Pfeffer.
- Continue Unified Sports Program in the district
- Continue to enhance the capacity of the district's outreach communication plans

Public Comment / Communication

As no one attended there was no public comment. Also, there was no communication to the board.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Klepps asked that the minutes for the December 7th and 16th meetings be pulled.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mr. Klepps to approve the Expenditure Report. Second by Ms. Stempien.

Unanimously passed

Mr. Klepps said there weren't any changes to the minutes. His comment is that on the December 16th meeting he can't support the line of questioning. He supports the interview process but not the questions that were asked of each of the potential candidates. In his opinion they were pointed, debatable questions. Nothing was asked about the person, their role on the board, what they knew about the board, or how they would act on the board. It seemed to be about masks and the closing of Bakerville School not about the children and what we are here for. Ms. O'Dell Longhi said she disagreed and that many of the questions came from CABE. Chairman Hermonat said he understands Mr. Klepps point but what is his objection. Mr. Klepps said that CABE had a lot of questions about why you wanted to be on the board, what you knew about the board, how you act as a board member, etc. He said in his opinion, as we went through the interview process, we asked every candidate the same questions. It has nothing to do with the candidate voted in. They were asked debatable questions instead of how best they would serve the board. Ms. O'Dell Longhi said the mask topic has been the hottest topic at the forefront of our meetings and, of course, we would ask that question. You had a person running for the board who at a previous board meeting read his letter in opposition to masks. I think that will draw some uncertainty for some board members. Of course, I'm going to ask him where he stands on masks. I don't want to put someone on this board and have yet another person who is going to bring up this topic and get our focus away from the children and their education. She feels that is a line of questioning that should come into the interview process. Mr. Klepps said he agreed with her but the questions that were asked were about aligning with your position instead of who was the best person. The questions that were asked is the problem.

MOTION

Mr. Klepps made a motion to accept the minutes of December 7th meeting. Second by Ms. Stempien.

Aye: Hermonat, Klepps, Miller, O'Dell Longhi, Persechino, Stempien, Tindall

Abstained: Bonhomme

Motion passes

Ms. Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 16th meeting. Second by Ms. Stempien.

Aye: Hermonat, Miller, O'Dell Longhi, Persechino, Stempien; Opposed: Klepps;

Abstained: Bonhomme, Tindall

Motion passes

Reports

The following policies were reviewed for a 2nd reading.

1. Review Policy 5113.2(Students/Attendance/Excused Absences/Truancy)
2. Review Policy 5144.2(Students/Exclusionary Time Out Settings)
3. Review Policy 3542.41 (Business/Non-Instructional Operations Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel)
4. Review Policy 1110.1(Community Relations/Parent Involvement)

MOTION

Ms. Stempien made a motion that Policies 5113.2, 5144.2, 3542.41 and 1110.1 be approved. Second by Mr. Persechino

Unanimously approved

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The following policies were read for the 1st time.

1. Review Policy 6159(Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program)
2. Review Policy 5113(Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal)
3. Review Policy 5131.911(Bullying Prevention and Intervention)

New Business

Chairman Hermonat said the new board member orientation for Travis Bonhomme and Deirdre Tindall was held on January 10th.

New committee assignments have been made and can be viewed in the Supt. of Schools office and the Town Clerk.

Chairman Hermonat went through the Budget Timeline leading up to the referendum.

Chairman Hermonat said there was a conflict between our April 5th meeting and the Board of Finance public hearing on the budget.

MOTION

Ms. Miller made a motion to change the April 5th meeting to April 13th at 7 pm. Second by Ms. Stempien.

Unanimously approved

MOTION

Ms. Stempien made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Second by Ms. Miller

Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted, Penny Miller, Board Secretary

Attachments:

Assumption & Priorities

BOE Committee Assignments

Budget Timeline