

New Hartford Board of Education
Regular Meeting – February 15, 2022
Ann Antolini School – Multi-Purpose Room @ 7:00 pm
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dcQM3rf2>

Present Chairman Karl Hermonat, Vice Chairman Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Board Secretary Penny Miller, Travis Bonhomme, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Mary Stempien, Tony Persechino

On Zoom – Deidre Tindall

Others Present Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, Bakerville & New Hartford Elementary School Principal Kelly Carroll, School Psychologist Jen Harris, Director of Student Services Barb McLean, Curriculum Specialist Heather Mathes and several members of the town.

As some of the public attending came into the meeting unmasked, Chairman Hermonat had to remind them a few times to put on a mask.

Chairman Hermonat opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

New Business

Motion by Chairman Hermonat that with the expected expiration of the current statewide mask mandate on February 28, 2022, unless the wearing of masks and/or appropriate face coverings in schools are required by federal or state law, effective February 28, 2022, or other such date set by binding state or federal authority for the expiration of such mask mandate, through June 30, 2022, the wearing of such masks or face coverings in the New Hartford Public Schools shall be optional. The Board acknowledges that under current federal order, masks remain required on school transportation at this time. Second by Mr. Buzzi.

Discussion followed. Superintendent Murphy said that he would be sending a letter to the parents with an update on the Mask Requirement and specific COVID-19 protocols the schools have been utilizing over the past two years. This letter also contained an update on the district's current COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

He also said as it is a federal law – masks will still be required on all buses.

Unanimous

Public Comment / Communication

Letters were received from CT-62 State Representative Mark W. Anderson, Tim Russell, Tina Rogers and Brian Coates. Copies can be viewed with at the Superintendent's Office or with the Town Clerk.

Public comment was presented by Tim Russell, 77 Evergreen Crossing; Rebecca Welsh, 45 Maillet Lane; Damon Bean, 251 Cedar Lane; Jesse Campbell, 38 Maple Hollow Rd; Tim Goff, 50 Birdsvie Avenue; Anissa Zucker, 10 Kellogg Road; Kristen Kosiba 40 Windsor Lane; Bill Marcano, 96 Arrowhead Drive; Indie Cardwell, 81 Burwell Road; Marcus Rogers 82 Hidden Hill Road and Melody Zucker, 10 Kellogg Road. The comments can be viewed on the YouTube link listed above.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Murphy presented the New Hartford Public Schools budget for 2022-2023.

Motion by Mr. Klepps to approve the 2022-2023 New Hartford Public Schools Board of Education budget in the amount of \$9,045,782. Second by Ms. O'Dell Longhi.

Aye: Hermonat, Miller, O'Dell Longhi, Klepps, Bonhomme, Persechino, Stempien, Tindall; Opposed: Buzzi.

Motion passes

Motion by Mr. Buzzi to approve the 2022-2023 New Hartford Public School Capital Budget in the amount of \$250,000. Second by Mr. Klepps.

Unanimous

Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Miller to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Mr. Persechino

Aye: Hermonat, Miller, O'Dell Longhi, Klepps, Bonhomme, Persechino, Stempien, Tindall; Abstained: Buzzi.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Miller to adjourn at 8:58 pm. Second by Ms. Stempien

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Penny Miller, Board Secretary