

**New Hartford Board of Education
Special Meeting – August 16, 2022
New Hartford Town Hall**

Present: Acting Chair Penny Miller, Members: Tom Buzzi, Travis Bonhomme (in at 7:02), Tim Klepps, Tony Persechino, Mary Stempien, Deirdre Tindall (via Zoom).

Also present: Interim Superintendent of School Dr. John Tindall-Gibson, Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, Ann Antolini School principal Kelly Carroll, Bakerville & New Hartford Elementary Schools principal Amy Kennedy, Director of Student Services Barbara McLean, Curriculum Director Heather Mathes, Colleen Wipperman, Josh Stoughton and Kathryn Boughton, reporter Republican American.

Absent: Karl Hermonat and Kelly O’Dell Longhi

Acting Chair Penny Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair to Select Order of Business

There were no changes to the agenda.

Superintendent’s Report

Interim Superintendent / Introduction / Transition Update

Supt. Murphy introduced Dr. John Tindall-Gibson as the Interim Superintendent. Mr. Murphy will be working with Dr. Tindall-Gibson over the next few days to bring him up to speed with our schools.

Start of 2022-2023 School Year

Supt. Murphy said the staff is ready to go in this new school year. There will be 3 professional development days before the start of school. We are in a good position with teachers. After the last board meeting, Ms. Karen Pfeffer, the library media specialist, resigned and will be going to another school district. She did a wonderful job while here working with our children. The new library media specialist will be Lindsay Bugryn. Additional new staff is Mark Pollutro, custodian Ann Antolini School; Julie Cyr, Part-time Clerical Aide/Ann Antolini School; Stephanie Baba, Tutor and Helen Crump, Tutor. Other changes are: Ross Fenner moved to New Hartford Elementary School as custodian and Marissa Waseleski moved to New Hartford Elementary School to become the secretary there.

One of the two school psychologist positions has not been filled. There are over 50 unfilled school psychologists’ positions available in Connecticut. Supt. Murphy said this is a very critical and important position. To ensure that all the needs of our students are met we have partnered with Region 7 and they will share their social worker with us. That person will be at

Region 7 for 3 days and with us for 2 days. This will be only for this year. We had partnered with CJR for a 3-day/week social worker but that will now be a 5-day/week position for this coming year. The money we had for the school psychologist will cover the cost of having a 5-day/week social worker. This money will also cover the shared social worker from Region 7. We have sub-contracted with EdAdvance for them to provide the testing mechanisms for those children that need it. That school psychologist will be posted in January. Two staff members have also requested extended maternity leave. Sara Mauro, part-time Music Teacher (out until February) and starting in December Veronica Marquis, Physical Education Teacher has asked to be out for the rest of the school year.

Supt. Murphy said in Capital we received the 90 Chromebooks. All students have their own Chromebooks. Electrical work has been completed at Ann Antolini School. The six security doors at Ann Antolini School will be installed before the start of the school year. Furniture replacement will be received next week. Painting of certain classrooms has been completed. Two parking lots at Ann Antolini School have been paved. Supt. Murphy said he spoke with First Selectman Jerram and he is hopeful that Antolini Road will be paved this year. The schools have never looked better.

Replacement of the boiler at New Hartford Elementary may be done the end of August or beginning of September. It was supposed to be done last summer but because of COVID it got pushed back a year.

There are 438 students enrolled for this year. This is over last year's figure.

Supt. Murphy said this is his last board meeting and he wanted to thank the board for all their support. He said it has been a tremendous run over the last 7-1/2 years. We have successfully faced several challenges over the last few years. He is very proud of the programming focused on student achievements and the exceptional educational teaching opportunities that have increased over the time he has been here. He said this couldn't have happened without the board's leadership and support. The board has always supported him and the children of New Hartford. He said that he will miss working with the board. He also said thank you to his administrative board.

Acting Chair Ms. Miller said on behalf of herself and the board that we certainly have enjoyed working with Mr. Murphy these past 7-1/2 years. He came to us as a new Superintendent and we trained him well so that he will be successful in his new Superintendent's role in Woodbury. We gave him all the tools to be successful. He saw us through some trying times with COVID, closing schools and the mask issues. He stepped up to the plate and did a fantastic job. Other members of the board also wished him well.

Public Comment / Communication

A letter was received by the board from Josh Stoughton who owns property at 140 Whitbeck Rd, New Hartford regarding his daughter continuing to attend school in New Hartford. Mr. Stoughton said he bought property in New Hartford because of our good school system. Last year his daughter attended Kindergarten and he hoped that she could continue to attend school here. Though he owns property on Whitbeck Road the family lives in Torrington. This

letter will be answered by the superintendents Dr. Tindall-Gibson and Mr. Murphy. Mr. Stoughton's letter is available at the Town Clerk's office.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2022 and June 23, 2022**
- 2. Expenditure Report**
- 3. Personnel**

Motion by Mr. Bonhomme to pull the Personnel section. Second by Mr. Buzzi.

Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Buzzi to approve the minutes of the June 7th and June 23rd, 2022 minutes and the Expenditure Report. Second by Mr. Klepps.

*Aye: Klepps, Buzzi, Persechino, Stempien, Tindall and Miller; Abstained: Bonhomme.
Motion passes.*

Motion by Mr. Bonhomme to approve maternity leave for Sara Mauro. Second by Mr. Buzzi.

Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Bonhomme to approve extended maternity leave for Veronica Marquis. Second by Mr. Buzzi.

Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Buzzi to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Second by Mr. Klepps.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Penny Miller, Board Secretary

Available at the Town Clerk's office
Josh Stoughton's letter