

**New Hartford Board of Education Meeting**  
**September 20, 2022**  
**Ann Antolini School/Multi-Purpose Room**

**Board Members Present:** Interim Superintendent Dr. John Tindall-Gibson; Chairman, Karl Hermonat; Travis Bonhomme; Tom Buzzi; Tim Klepps; Penny Miller; Tony Persechino; Mary Stempien; Deirdre Tindall and Dana Finello, Recording Secretary

**Not Present:** Kelly O'Dell Longhi

**School Staff/Guests:** Kelly Carroll, Principal; Amy Kennedy, Principal, Bakersville Consolidated; Heather Mathes, Curriculum Director; Barbara McClean, Director of Student Services

**I. Chair to Open Meeting**

Chairman Hermonat opened the meeting at 6:59pm. Members were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Chairman's Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**III. Board of Education Chair's Report**

The Chairman met with the Board of Finance and was happy to report that there was a budget surplus of \$400.

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

1. Residency Matter – Supt. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. Mr. Josh Stoughton signed an agreement that complies with the Board's policy on tuition. If Mr. Stoughton isn't moved in as a resident by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, they will pay quarterly tuition in advance and Mr. Stoughton's daughter will be allowed to attend school during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester
2. Opening of School – Supt. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. Teachers & staff opened schools enthusiastically and successfully. Open houses were very-well attended and successful fire drills were conducted at New Hartford and Bakersville schools. There was also a lockdown drill at Antolini School. The AC unit in the gymnasium and multi-purpose room control system went down and is only seven years old. Because of the complexity of the system and needing a custom unit, a quote of \$10,000 was given and the office is working on getting an insurance claim. Some of the Board members asked if the Interim Supt. can get some other quotes from different companies since the unit isn't that old to see if it can be fixed for less money and to recheck the warranty on the original unit if it is not covered by insurance.

3. Contract Negotiations – Supt. John Tindall Gibson gave a brief update. Contract negotiations are done every three years for teachers and the next time-frame is for this year, 2022. The team for negotiations is Penny Miller, Tony Persechino, Mary Stempien and Charlie Neale, liaison to the Board of Finance. Also on the team is the Board attorney and Interim Superintendent John Tindall-Gibson. The Teachers Team is composed of three teachers and their representative. The first meeting will be held in two weeks and there will be another two meetings after that to see if an agreement can be reached by the end of October.

## **V. Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Penny Miller and seconded by Tom Buzzi to table the financial report.

### **Miller/Buzzi – The Motion Passed Unanimously**

1. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Penny Miller and seconded by Tony Persechino to approve the minutes of August 16, 2022 and August 25, 2022.

Abstained: Chairman Karl Hermonat

### **Miller/Persechino – The Motion Passed Unanimously**

2. Personnel Activity – Supt. John Tindall-Gibson gave a brief update. The position of a new school psychologist has now been filled by Mr. Christian Plourd. He is a great find and asset to the school.

3. Financial Report

The financial report was reviewed.

A motion was made by Penny Miller and seconded by Mary Stempien to approve the financial budget.

### **Miller/Stempien – The Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **VI. Communications to the Board**

The Chairman stated he received five emails from parents (Tim Russell (2), Ryan Kulig, Rebecca Welsh, and Kristen Kosiba) regarding their concerns on various school issues that they would like to see reviewed. (See attached emails).

## **VII. Public Comment**

There were no public comments to report.

## VIII. New Business

1. School Security & Safety Plan - Chairman Hermonat asked Dr. Tindall-Gibson to give an update on this topic. Dr. Tindall-Gibson discussed the current school security & safety plan manual which is quite comprehensive and is updated each year in October. There is a committee that reviews the plan and makes revisions and/or improvements for safety.

He stated that the committee was comprised of the Supt., BOE Chair, Director of Student Services, Principals, New Hartford Resident State Trooper, First Selectman, Police Officers, Fire Marshall, Chief Deputy Fire Marshall, School Medical Advisor, Head Nurse, School Psychologist, Head Custodian, District Administrative Assistants, Bus Company Representative, New Hartford Fire Department Representative, EMS Representative and the Emergency Management Director. This committee will meet in two weeks and go over the current status.

Dr. Tindall-Gibson also stated that he was an observer to a lockdown drill at Antolini School and was extremely impressed by the implementation and the thoroughness of the execution of the drill. Procedures and training that staff go through at Antolini is outstanding and drills are held once per month. Improvements for safety are a high priority for all involved to protect students and staff.

Discussion ensued about adding a Resource Officer and wanted to see this added to next year's budget. There was other discussion about adding additional resources for students in math and reading to help bridge the gap from the COVID-19 distance learning.

Chairman Hermonat suggested that the Board form a School Safety Sub-Committee to bring in experts and other people who work in the field to bring their ideas and suggestions to the table to help with the revisions and/or improvements to the School Security & Safety Plan Committee that will convene in two weeks.

The Board also concluded that it would be worthwhile to have Supt. Judy Palmer to attend the next BOE meeting based on her schedule, to discuss how her Safety Committee came to the decision of hiring an SRO and to discuss Region #7 School Safety & Security Plan to get some insight for New Hartford Schools.

Board member Deirdre Tindall stated she would like to see a list of safety items at the next meeting, including school windows and other components of the facility to determine what we can be doing to be even more efficient for safety in our schools.

2. Authorized Signatures Change Form for Child Nutrition Programs

A motion was made by Tom Buzzi to approve the Authorized Signatures Change Form for Child Nutrition Programs and seconded by Tony Persechino.

**Buzzi/Persechino – The Motion Passed Unanimously**

### 3. Update, Discussion and Action on New Superintendent Search

Penny Miller gave a brief update to the Board. Those who haven't sent back their non-disclosure forms must do so ASAP. Application deadline will expire on September 22, 2022. David Erwin from CES will review resumes to select candidates for first interviews on October 3, 2022.

### IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chairman Hermonat to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm and seconded by Penny Miller.

**Hermonat/Miller – The Motion Passed Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dana A. Finello, Recording Secretary

