

**New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Ann Antolini School
Multi-Purpose Room
December 6, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg

Present: Acting Chairman Penny Miller, Tom Buzzi, Travis Bonhomme, Tony Persechino, Mary Stempien and Deirdre Tindall.

Also present: Supt. of Schools Jeffrey Sousa, Curriculum Specialist Heather Mathes, Bakerville & New Hartford Elementary Principal Amy Kennedy and Ann Antolini School Principal Kelly Carroll.

Acting Chairman Miller opened the meeting at 6:04 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair to select order of business

Acting Chairman Miller asked for a motion to move the New Hartford Education Association out of the Consent Agenda to New Business.

MOTION: by Mr. Persechino to move the New Hartford Education Association out of the Consent Agenda to New Business. Second by Ms. Stempien.

Unanimous

Superintendent's Report

Supt. Sousa thanked all the Board of Education members for the warm welcome to New Hartford. He is planning to meet with each board member in the coming weeks. He also thanked the staff and students for the warm welcome. He is very impressed with everyone.

In an effort to meet one of the Connecticut Statutes Kelly Carroll, Amy Kennedy and Heather Mathes gave a presentation on the *Science of Reading*.

The presentation included giving a working definition of what the general state statute is requesting of all school districts. How we are meeting the needs of some of our children. Additionally to provide a course of action and recommendation so that we can provide a better education for all our students. Mrs. Kennedy gave the Board some background of where reading started and where we are now.

Supt. Sousa started the presentation by saying that on July 1, 2021 - The Right to Read Act was passed. This mandates that each local and regional board of education implement for the 2023–24 school year and each school year thereafter, a reading curriculum model or program for grades pre-kindergarten to grade three, inclusive that has been reviewed and recommended pursuant to C.G.S.10-14ii.

We, as a school district. will need to notify the Center at the CSDE as to our intention by December 16, 2022. Our intention is to apply for an extension for one year to ensure that we have sufficient resources and funding.

Public Comment / Communication

Gina Maroney, 28 Red Clover Rd, spoke about her two children who attended our schools. They were both outplaced after leaving Antolini School. When her daughter she left read on a 3rd grade level. Her son read at a possible 4 or 5th grade. She feels that they didn't get the help that they needed while attending our schools. She asked that the Board not skimp on the program. She said the outplacement costs for her children were very expensive. She also offered to be on the sub-committee if a parent was needed.

Ms. Miller read a letter received from Christine Hayward, the First Selectman's Admin. Assistant, about a presentation being held on January 9, 2023 at the Town Hall. This presentation will be led by Tom Hennick, Freedom of Information Officer for the State of Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission. He will cover the basics of adhering to the Freedom of Information Act. All members of Boards & Commissions are invited to attend.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Stempien to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Mr. Buzzi.

Unanimous

New Business

BOE Meeting Schedule 2023

Motion by Ms. Tindall to approve the 2023 BOE Meeting Schedule. Second by Ms. Stempien.

Unanimous

The 2023 BOE Meeting Schedule is available in the Superintendent's Office.

Child Nutrition Program Authorization Signature Form

Supt. Sousa asked that the Board Secretary sign the form for the CSDE School Health, Nutrition and Family Services showing him as an authorized signer for our district. The Board Secretary signed the form.

New Hartford Teacher's Contract

An agreement was made between the New Hartford Board of Education and the New Hartford Education Association for 2023-2026. The salary increase inclusive of step adjustments and gross wage increases represents a total increase of 11.9% over the 3-year contract. This increase is slightly below the state average teacher wage increases reviewed during negotiation. The subcommittee was able to avoid the time and cost associated with mediation during contract negotiations. We are very pleased to have settled on a fair and equitable contract with the teacher's union for the coming three years.

Mr. Buzzi asked for an explanation of the teacher's 30 minute lunch. Supt. Sousa explained that the teacher's will have an uninterrupted 30 minute lunch period.

Motion: by Ms. Miller that the New Hartford Board of Education approve the finalized contract as presented with the New Hartford Education Association for the three school years 2023/24 through 2025/26. Second by Mr. Persechino

Unanimous

Personnel

Supt. Sousa reported they continue to pursue looking for a replacement for the Special Education Director. He has two interim people that are experienced and retired that will be stepping into the role at a neutral cost to us. They will come in at a per diem rate to support us with state reporting functions. They are moving forward with an individual and will present a contract to them. He is hoping to have someone permanently in place by the first of the year.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Buzzi to adjourn at 6:52. Second by Mr. Persechino.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Penny Miller, Board Secretary, New Hartford Public Schools