

**New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
January 19, 2021
6:00 pm/Virtual Meeting
Access Meeting/Listen Only
Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83874343939?pwd=cnlNSGkxaXp6Mk00MDkrcTBNa2N4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 838 7434 3939

Passcode: 2fj9fX

Present: Tim Goff, Karl Hermonat, Penny Miller, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps, Tony Persechino, Heather Tomala, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Mary Stempien

Other: Barbara Mclean, Amanda Shaw, Heather Mathes, Laura Polakow, Kathyryn Boughton, Jennifer Harris, Kelly Howard, Chris Barbaret, Stephanie Lapointe

A. Chair to Open Meeting- Tim Goff opened fully virtual meeting at 6.05pm.

B. Pledge of Allegiance – The board joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Chair Select Order of Business- No change to the order of Business.

D. Superintendent's Report

1. Budget Priorities and Assumptions 2021-2022

Mr. Murphy presented the 2021-22 budget assumptions to the Board. In opening Mr. Murphy explained that ½ billion dollars in State grant money to support schools during the current pandemic was passed in the recent covid relief stimulus package and he remains cautiously optimistic that these funds will matriculate to the New Hartford Public Schools during this fiscal year. The allocated amount and timing of when this will be available is still unclear. Other key points in Mr. Murphy's presentation were; an anticipated projection in next year's enrollment, special education costs, transportation, technology and personnel expenditure.

Copies of the 2021-2022 assumptions and projections were included in each board packet and the full budget will be presented at the next board meeting on February 2nd.

E. Public Comment/Communication to the Board of Education-

One letter was submitted to the board by Mr. Aulay Carlson which pertained to school capacity. This was emailed to board members and Mr. Murphy prior to the meeting.

F. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes-December 1, 2020

2. Expenditure Report

3. Personnel

Mr. Murphy requested a motion from the board to approve unpaid leave for the remainder of the school year for Cindy Johnston, Tutor at Ann Antolini school due to medical reasons.

Motion- By Penny Miller to approve unpaid leave to Cindy Johnston for the remainder of the school year. Seconded by Kelly O'Dell Longhi. Motion Passes.

Unanimous

Motion- by Penny Miller to approve the consent agenda which in closes the meeting minutes' from December 1 2020 and expenditure report. Seconded by Tom Buzzi.

Unanimous.

G. New Business

1. Budget Timeline 2021-2022

Tim Goff gave a brief overview of the budget timeline. The official town of new Hartford budget timeline is still to be determined however Tim highlighted the Board of education dates as follows-

- January 21, 2021- Budget Assumptions
- February 2, 2021-Full budget presentation
- February 16, 2021-Review of each line item and possible approval of budget by BOE.
- March 2, 2021--Final review of budget if not approved at last meeting. Forward to board of finance.
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H. Adjournment

Motion- made by Tim Goff to adjourn meeting at 6.53pm. Seconded by Penny Miller.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Fritch
Recording Secretary

Aulay Carlson
455 West Hill Road
New Hartford, CT 06057

17 January 2021

To the Board of Education:

The BoE received \$8,351,516.00 this year. The BOE has 1150 school seats in this town with a school population of 400. That is a cost of \$7,262.0 per seat. The cost for 400 students then is \$2,904,875.0 and the cost for the empty seats is \$5,446,641.0. So almost five and a half million for nothing. If all the students were put into Antolini School, that school would still be only 65% full. Perhaps you will now try to argue that you need the three schools for social distancing. The Antolini School can hold 650 students. You can "social distance" 400 students in a school that holds 650 students.

The Board of Education has created a school system that is three times larger than needed. You have added teachers as the student population has declined. You have added to the teaching staff, 22 aides to support under-performing teachers. Now you have 55 teachers teaching a little over 400 students. If you were in business and had an under-performing employee, would you hire a helper for him or would you replace him?

Based on the yearly state tests, about half the students do not meet grade level standards in math and English. Based on the test scores over the last ten years the school management has demonstrated chronological incompetence and since the Board has taken no action the Board has demonstrated the same level of incompetence.

You, the Board of Education cost the town of New Hartford millions of misspent dollars every year and over the last ten years somewhere between 40 and 50 million dollars. This is money that should be going to repair our roads and other town needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aulay Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'A'.

Aulay Carlson