

**New Hartford Public Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting**

December 1, 2020

6:00 pm/Virtual Meeting

Access Meeting/Listen Only

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85859445620?pwd=WlU5aU1jUzg0TDh5ZEVySkc2U2Y1UT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5944 5620

Passcode: nhps2020

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

Guests: Brian Murphy, Kelly Carroll, Amanda Shaw, Heather Mathes, Laura Polakow, Barbara Mclean

A. Chair to Open Meeting- Tim Goff opened fully virtual meeting at 6.01pm

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. Math Night/December 9, 2020

Mr. Murphy opened the report, by informing the Board that there will be a Math night on December 9th which will be led by Heather Mathes. The purpose of the meeting, is to provide information and an overview to parents of the new Illustrative Math Program. As mentioned in a previous meeting, this new program aligns with the Connecticut Math Standards. A link for parents to join the meeting will be provided in the Friday folder.

2. School Improvement Plans

Principals Kelly Carroll and Amanda Shaw presented their schools Improvement plans to the board. These are put together by each school's leadership teams and align with the Superintendents district goals.

Ms. Carroll presented the school improvement plan for New Hartford Elementary School and Bakerville Consolidated School. The goals for the primary school are:

1. **Reading-** Students will read and comprehend complex literacy and information texts independently and proficiently. (CCSS Reading Anchor Standard 10)
2. **Mathematics-** make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. (CCSS Standards for mathematical practice)

3. **Climate**- The school community has a shared vision and plan for promoting, enhancing and sustaining a positive school climate. (National School Climate Standard 1)
4. **Technology**- Utilize technology to expand educational opportunities for all students.

Principal Amanda Shaw presented the school improvement plan for Ann Antolini Elementary school. The goals for this school are:

1. **Reading**- Students will read and comprehend complex literacy and information texts independently and proficiently. (CCSS Reading Anchor Standard 10)
2. **Mathematics**- make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. (CCSS Standards for mathematical practice)
3. **Climate**- The school community has a shared vision and plan for promoting, enhancing and sustaining a positive school climate. (National School Climate Standard 1)
4. **Technology**- Utilize technology to expand educational opportunities for all students.

Each plan also explained the schools learning objectives and provided data which showed academic and climate results as well as student and parent surveys over a three-year period.

E. Public Comment/Communication to the Board of Education

Tim Goff read aloud an email that was received on November 25th. Each board member received a copy prior to the meeting. The letter from Susan Lundin, expressed her personal concern for the apparent passive nature of the Board specifically related to expenditure reports and line item reviews. The letter also requested the Board further address the possible consolidation of Bakerville and Ann Antolini Schools. Tim responded to the letter by stating that the content of the letter could not be further from the truth. He said that the Board is open to constructive ideas, opinions and criticisms from the community; however, went on to say the destructive criticism toward the board and its members will not be tolerated.

F. Consent Agenda

Motion by Penny Miller to approve the consent agenda and review the expenditure report.
Second by Tom Buzzi.

Motion passes.

1. Approval of Minutes-November 17, 2020

2. Expenditure Report

Penny asked Mr. Murphy if the recent data he shared with the board which showed the districts COVID related costs were shown on the expenditure report? Mr. Murphy explained

that these costs were applied to the maintenance line item and health supplies; however, as stated previously, the district did receive grant money from the state for COVID costs which is why the previous information shared regarding this costs are different. Mr. Murphy confirmed that approximately \$36,000 was received in grant money.

Motion- to approve consent agenda after review.

Unanimous.

G. New Business

1. BOE Meeting Schedule -2021

Tim opened a discussion to the Board regarding the times the 2021 meetings should be held. Before the pandemic, meetings were in person at 7:00 p.m. Since then meetings have been named "*special*" meetings and have been conducted virtually at 6:00 p.m.

Motion-by Penny Miller to approve the 2021 BOE calendar with January 19th -April 20th being held at 6:00 p.m. and from May 18th through the remainder of year, the time will be 7:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at Ann Antolini school unless virtual. Second by Tom Buzzi.

Unanimous

H. Adjournment-

Motion by Penny Miller to adjourn meeting at 7.24 p.m. Second by Tony Persechino.

Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

**Laura Fritch
Recording Secretary**

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Lundin <suelundin@charter.net>

Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 10:25 AM

To: Tim Goff <gofft@newhftd.org>

Subject: Public Comment

New Hartford Board of Education ~

To begin, I request that this public comment, along with any other correspondence you may receive, be read aloud at the December 1, 2020 meeting. Just because this is a virtual meeting, it should follow the intent of in-person meetings.

I am very concerned about the passive nature of the members of this Board. Reports are given without any questions from the members of this Board. Motions are made and approved without any discussion or questions from the Board. Even though it is part of the consent agenda, there are no requests to review the financial report. It makes me wonder how many actually read it seriously. We can't go on with these ever rising budgets being rubber stamped with little or no discussion and no push back on increases proposed. The members of the Board should read the proposed budget with an eye for why certain items are in the budget and why there are increases in line items. As an example, 2 years ago the proposed budget was approved during the initial meeting it was presented without much discussion. Last year, the 2020-2021 proposed budget was approved at the 2nd meeting. The BOE should certainly keep the students at the forefront but so should the taxpayers be part of the equation. Yearly budgets should not be rubber stamped.

There has been no serious consideration or discussion around consolidation of the 2 primary schools into Ann Antolini school. There used to be 600+ students there and with current enrollment at least 200 students less than that, there is no excuse for that to be ignored. Why isn't there a joint committee with representation from both the BOE as well as taxpayers to seriously look at this. As the chairman of the BOE, you could disseminate a request to taxpayers to get volunteers for this committee and select a balance of interested respondents to be on the committee. The consolidation of the schools does not need to occur during the 2021-2022 school year but rather 2022-2023. This would allow for thoughtful consideration by the committee as well as the required public hearing on the subject. A non-binding referendum is not required nor should one interfere with the process. I challenge the Board to do the right thing fiscally.

In addition to the reading of this Public Comment during your next meeting, I request this to be attached to the minutes and be publicly available with the posted minutes.

Thank you ~ Sue Lundin

Sent from my iPhone