

# Summary of February 2024 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

## **Accolades**

Board Chair Suzanne Sack acknowledged and congratulated the HKHS Robotics team, who competed in their 3rd competition, the HKHS musicians who were accepted into the Southern Regional Festival, Shylee Emigh and Caitlin Kukta for having their film accepted into the Eastern Connecticut State University's high school film festival, as well as Jennifer Beermuender and Judy Nacca for providing insights to other districts on their state-approved reading program.

## **High School Opportunities Book**

The Board discussed the HKHS Opportunities Book, which has been updated to align with all new state graduation requirements and overall aesthetic improvements. The Board also acknowledged the hard work that Assistant Principal Adam Apicella put into these updates and the overall scheduling process. The Board unanimously approved the newly updated Opportunities Book.

## **Hearing Officer Selection**

The Board voted to appoint Elisa Barlett, Steve Sedor, Kyle McClain, and Michael Mackniak as impartial hearing officers if there is an insufficient number of Board members available in an expulsion case. Legal counsel has vetted all hearing officers and they will also undergo an internal vetting process before sitting on a hearing.

## **Budget Transfer Requests**

Financial Director Ben Whittaker reported on two budget transfers brought to the Board for approval. The transfer 2024-1 pertains to Professional Services from salaries and 2024-2 pertains to equipment purchases from training. The Board briefly discussed the transfers and how they will be reflected in the 2023-2024 budget. The Superintendent will provide a follow-up with further details to the Board next month.

The Board discussed policy 4111.3: Increasing Educator Diversity Plan and requested additional information to determine if the Board will need to approve the plan before submission to the Department of Education by March 15th. Prem Aithal also requested that it also be included in the Strategic Plan.

## **Master Plan Update**

Director Whittaker provided the Board with a status plan update for the Master Plan. He noted that Arcadis was asked to prepare a one-page update that will be supplied to the Board next month. He then gave a summary update on options 8, 9A, and 9B. Director Whittaker reported on the contract term lengths ending with Tecton and Arcadis. The Board discussed the information presented and requested additional information for options 8, 9A, and 9B, which will be further discussed. The Board will convene to discuss when the additional information is received.

### **Personnel & Evaluations Subcommittee**

Corey Roberts reported that the committee had discussed the upcoming Nurses' Negotiation, the Superintendent's 2023-2024 goals, the Superintendent's Mid-year evaluation, and the P&E Subcommittee goals and work schedule for the year.

### **Finance & Facilities Subcommittee**

Prem Aithal reported that the district will request an extension for one additional month. The auditors plan to present their findings to the Board in March.

Shawna Goldfarb reported that the committee discussed goals, Master Plan updates and processes, and the security audit process.

### **Policy Subcommittee**

Hamish McPhail reported that the committee is currently updating policies based on legislative and statutory updates and looking to create a plan to update policies so that there is a refresh cycle and best practices.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Lisa Connelly reported that the committee discussed goals and upcoming budget communications. She requested that any community questions regarding the budget be sent to the committee.

### **2024-2025 Budget**

The Board has begun the process around the 2024-25 school budget. This includes presentations by the Superintendent and all administrators, as well as joint town meetings and workshops. The Board has met with Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance from each town to discuss budget details. The Community Input Meeting will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the HKHS auditorium.

### **On Our Website**

RSD17 2024-25 Budget information may be found at: <https://www.rsd17.org/district/budget-information>.