

New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Special Meeting (In-Person)
Ann Antolini Elementary School – Library
Wednesday March 27, 2024 @ 6:00PM

PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa; Chairman Timothy Klepps; **Members:** Meagan Albert; Deirdre Tindall; Frank Rodenberg; Kristin Young; and Recording Secretary Elizabeth Domas.

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Thomas Buzzi; Board Secretary/Member Penny Miller; Board Member Timothy Russell.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Interview Potential Candidates for the Board of Education Vacancy
(Invitation to Executive Session will be extended to Candidates for Purposes of Discussion)**

Adam La Faci from 22 Turnbull Road and Erik J. Perotti from 27 Church Street were interviewed as potential candidates for the Board of Education vacancy.

3. Executive Session

MOTION by Kristin Young to enter Executive Session at 6:45PM. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

Executive Session ended at 7:10PM.

Board Members who voted for **Adam La Faci:** Frank Rodenberg; Kristin Young

Board Members who voted for **Erik J. Perotti:** Meagan Albert; Timothy Klepps; Deirdre Tindall

4. Vote to Fill Unfinished Term Position

MOTION by Deirdre Tindall to fill the Board of Education vacancy with Erik J. Perotti. Second by Kristin Young.

UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes

5. 2024-2025 Budget

The Board of Finance gave orders to the Board of Education to cut \$100,000. The recommendation from Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa is to cut a Kindergarten teacher, 1.0 FTE (1.0 FTE = Full Time Equivalent). Additionally cut a .6 FTE, Spanish is not in curriculum alignment, this Spanish curriculum is the same that 7th grade students receive in 6th grade. The new 2024-2025 budget increase is in the amount of \$416,469.27. Discussion was had on class sizes, regarding kindergarten students due to the difficulty in projecting the numbers of students being enrolled and the cut of a full time teacher. There was a projection of 60 kindergarten students last year. A total of 54 students would be within the Boards policy. Kristin

Young would like to get better at these projections, it was noted this is a tough situation to be in.

MOTION by Kristin Young to approve the proposed budget cuts of 1.0 FTE Kindergarten teacher and .6 FTE Spanish Teacher. Second by Deirdre Tindall.

Aye: Timothy Klepps, Frank Rodenberg, Deirdre Tindall, Kristin Young

Nay: Meagan Albert

Abstained:

(4-1-0)

Motion Passes

The previous Capital Expenditures increase amount was \$285,515 which has been reduced to \$128,515. The Board of Finance motioned to fund the \$157,000 grant money from the general fund, therefore, to remove this from the Capital Expenditures. Action was taken by the Board of Finance to remove the \$130,000 Excess Cost Grant (ECG) from the Board of Education budget, even though there is a Statute (**CGS 10-76g**) requiring the Board of Education to receive the funds. The Board of Finance requested more time to discuss this matter with auditors and understand the ECG before making a decision, therefore they voted to keep \$130,000 ECG in place for now on the town side for this budget and told the Board of Education to remove this from their budget. The Board of Education increase is a 4.42% with \$130,000 ECG applied to the Board of Education budget and an increase of 5.80% without the \$130,000 ECG applied to the Board of Education budget.

MOTION by Kristin Young to request Chairman Timothy Klepps send an email to the Board of Finance regarding the placement of the \$130,000 Excess Cost Grant in the budget. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

UNANIMOUS

Motion Passes

6. Adjournment

MOTION by Deirdre Tindall to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

UNANIMOUS

Motion Passes

*Respectfully submitted by,
Elizabeth Domas, Recording Secretary*

Recorded Regular and Special Board of Education meetings will be posted to:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg