

**New Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting (In-Person)  
Ann Antolini Elementary School – Library  
May 14, 2024 @ 7:00PM**

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

**Also Present:** Kelly Carroll; Amy Kennedy; Michael Lynch and Heather Mathes, Ron Black, and Jay Bailey.

**ABSENT:** Board Member/Secretary Penny Miller

Chairman Timothy Klepps called the meeting to order 7:00PM.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Communications to the Board of Education/Public Comment:**

Jay Bailey of 575 Main Street handed out a letter and asked Mr. Jeffrey Sousa to read his letter aloud. Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa read the letter. A copy of this letter is attached to the minutes.

**C. Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Sousa expressed his appreciation towards all staff in New Hartford Public Schools. Mr. Sousa highlighted several students. Student representative Brooke gave an update on what's going on in New Hartford Public Schools. The Celebration of Learning is happening on June 6, 2024, from 5:00-7:00PM and the Step-Up Ceremony will be happening on June 13, 2024. Mr. Sousa gives his thanks to the Board of Selectman, Board of Finance and Board of Education who are in support of the Board of Education. Lastly, Linda Fitzgerald, who is the data manager, is retiring after 26 years.

**D. Board of Education Chair's Report:**

Chairman Timothy Klepps announced *the budget was approved by referendum on May 7, 2024.*

**Social Media Policy/Etiquette**

Chairman Timothy Klepps began by asking for Board Members input on whether this topic should be discussed with partial or full attendance. Board Member Deirdre Tindall thought all members should be present for the discussion. Frank Rodenberg mentioned a Supreme Court ruling on this topic. The purpose of this on the agenda is to review the policy and Timothy Klepps expressed that this is a learning initiative. The Board agreed to table this subject until the next meeting.

**E. Routine Business:**

**Approval of Minutes:** March 5, 2024 (Regular Meeting), March 13, 2024 (Special Meeting), March 27, 2024 (Special Meeting), April 2, 2024 (Special Meeting) and April 23, 2024 (Special Meeting).

**MOTION** by Timothy Russell to approve all meeting minutes from the March 5, 2024, March 13, 2024, March 27, 2024, April 2, 2024, and April 23, 2024, as presented. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

**AMENDED-MOTION** by Timothy Russell to approve all meeting minutes from the **March 5, 2024, March 13, 2024, March 27, 2024, April 2, 2024, and April 23, 2024**, as presented *subject* to a clerical change to the April 23, 2024, meeting minutes. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

**UNANIMOUS**  
***Motion Passes***  
**7-0-1**

**Expenditure Report:**

**MOTION** by Thomas Buzzi to approve the expenditure report as presented. Second by Kristin Young.

**UNANIMOUS**  
***Motion Passes***

**F. Old Business: None**

**G. New Business:**

- 1. Presentation for Consideration of Chlorination Systems at Ann Antolini and Bakerville Consolidated - Ron Black, President, Water System Solutions & Design, Inc.**

Ron Black has suggested two proposals, one for each school. The recommendation is to prevent contamination a new tank install. Mr. Black noted that over the years contamination levels have gone up and there are more issues when things go wrong. He recommended installing a chlorination system at the schools. Mr. Black wanted to bring to the Board of Education's attention what could be coming down the pipe to allow time to prepare for this. Frank Rodenberg questioned Mr. Black if more frequent testing can be done, instead of installing the system and what's the cost to keep these systems going. Mr. Black was asked what the implementation timeframe is, Mr. Black noted a few weeks from approval by the State of Connecticut. Mr. Black noted it has been at least two years since the last contamination. Mr. Black stated he operates 15 different schools, and 11 of them have a chlorination system. Clearly noted this is not in the budget for next year (2024/2025). This recommendation is a protection for when bacteria hits. Chairman Timothy Klepps asked for a revised proposal from Water System Solutions & Design be brought to date and have the facility sub-committee investigate this topic and do more research. Mr. Black stated it will be required within the next three years for this to be mandated to be tested around \$1,000 per well. If the test comes up positive for any bacteria you must test again. You then have 5 years to get a system in place. This is why Mr. Black has suggested getting this in budget to test for, the sooner you test, the sooner you can remediate the problem. There is a link between the chemical PFAS and areas such as industrial properties, sewage plants, trash plants, fire departments, are more susceptible to contamination because the bacteria will get into the water supply.

- 2. Policy & Regulation 4111.3 Personnel - Increasing Educator Diversity (*First Read*)**

- 3. Policy 4118.22/4218.22 Personnel - Code of Ethics (*First Read*)**

- 4. Policy 5112 Students - Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement (*First Read*) effective July 1, 2024**

- 5. Policy & Regulation 5141.5 Students - Youth Suicide Prevention and Attempts (*First Read*)**

**H. Reports**

Deirdre Tindall reported several items that were discussed at the EdAdvance Board meeting last week on May 2, 2024. The biggest news is Jeffrey Kitching is retiring. The Board approved FY 2024/2025 COLA increases. When going over the budget, originally there was a deficit although they are waiting on money owed from the state. They will look at the budget again in October and this deficit should be smoothed out. The meeting also approved the Slate of Officers for 2024/2025. When looking at the budget, Deirdre

noted that all assets were assessed so EdAdvance knows the value of their properties in the event there is a budget issue. There was a scholarship which 150 students applied for, EdAdvance gave out 4, very exciting news that one scholarship went to a student Region 7.

**I. Additional Public Comment – (For Agenda Items Only):** None

**J. Executive Session  
New Hartford Board of Education Superintendent Evaluation**

**MOTION** by Frank Rodenberg to enter Executive Session at 8:02PM. Second by Timothy Russell.

**AMENDED-MOTION** by Frank Rodenberg to enter Executive Session at 8:02PM *and to invite Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa*. Second by Timothy Russell.

**UNANIMOUS  
Motion Passes**

*Everyone in attendance left the meeting.  
The Board of Education and Superintendent Sousa remained for Executive Session.*

*Motions following Executive Session were provided by Chairman Timothy Klepps to the Recording Secretary.*

Executive Session ended at 9:14PM.

**L. Adjournment:**

**MOTION** by Thomas Buzzi to adjourn the meeting at 9:15PM. Second by Deirdre Tindall.

**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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg)

***Attachments:***

*Email from Jay Bailey*

*Letter from Jay Bailey*

*EdAdvance meeting minutes*