

**New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting (In-Person)
Ann Antolini Elementary School – Library
Tuesday June 4, 2024 @ 7:00PM**

PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa; Chairman Timothy Klepps; Vice Chairman Thomas Buzzi; **Board Members:** Meagan Albert; Penny Miller; Erik Perotti; Frank Rodenberg; Timothy Russell and Kristin Young.

Also Present: Kelly Carroll; Amy Kennedy; Michael Lynch and Heather Mathes.

ABSENT: Board Member Deirdre Tindall

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

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Order of Business**
- C. Communications to the Board of Education/Public Comment:** None

D. Superintendent’s Report:

Student representative Brooke gave a report. Mr. Sousa announced Kara Normand (Paraprofessional - Tutor) is retiring after 19 years with New Hartford Public Schools. There was discussion regarding the Data Systems Specialist, this is a full-time (Paraeducators Union) position, the position is work is during school year hours (8:00-4:00) at an hourly rate of \$28.83. Superintendent Sousa asked for the Boards approval of the job description for the Data Systems Specialist.

MOTION by Penny Miller to approve the Data Systems Specialist job description. Second by Thomas Buzzi.

**UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes**

Educator Evaluation Plan:

New Hartford Public Schools is adapting the Connecticut Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Models 2024, with review on a yearly basis. Amy Kennedy and Heather Mathes did a PowerPoint presentation of what the committee has developed. Some changes are a higher focus on educator growth and profession learning, multi-tiered support and the removal of the rating scale system. This evaluation is an assessment of performance in relation to teaching and learning in a collaborative process. This plan was created by PDEC (Professional Development and Evaluation Committee) to better evaluate and support educators. **The school districts shall submit their Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan prior to August 1, 2024.**

MOTION by Timothy Russell to adopt the leader and educator evaluation plan as presented. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

**UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes**

**E. Board of Education Chair’s Report:
Social Media Policy/Etiquette**

Chairman Timothy Klepps voiced he would like to table this discussion for next meeting, he would like this to be a full board discussion, one board member is not present, and the discussion is not an urgent matter. The Board agreed to table this subject until the next meeting. Chairman Klepps also made the Board aware he met with Mr. Sousa to go over his evaluation that he put together with Board Members comments.

F. Routine Business:

Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2024 (Regular Meeting)

MOTION by Thomas Buzzi to approve meeting minutes from May 14, 2024, as presented. Second by Kristin Young.

***Aye:** Meagan Albert, Thomas Buzzi, Timothy Klepps; Erik Perotti, Frank Rodenberg, Timothy Russell and Kristin Young*

Naye:

***Abstain:** Penny Miller*

**Motion Passes
7-0-1**

Expenditure Report:

MOTION by Thomas Buzzi to approve the Expenditure Report as presented. Second by Kristin Young.

***Aye:** Meagan Albert, Thomas Buzzi, Timothy Klepps; Erik Perotti, Frank Rodenberg, Timothy Russell and Kristin Young*

Naye:

***Abstain:** Penny Miller*

**Motion Passes
7-0-1**

G. New Business:

1. Becky Tyrell - Meal Prices 2024-2025:

Becky Tyrell from EdAdvance the Director of Nutrition and Food Services has made a recommendation to increase the cost of breakfast from \$1.75 to \$2.25 and increase the cost of lunch from \$3.00 to \$3.50.

MOTION by Penny Miller to accept the recommendation by EdAdvance to increase meal prices (breakfast from \$1.75 to \$2.25 and lunch from \$3.00 to \$3.50) for the year 2024-2025. Second by Thomas Buzzi.

Discussion: Board Members asked Becky Tyrell several questions. Breakfast for students will not be free. Becky Tyrell noted that the reason for the increase is to cover the cost of the program. The meal prices in 2013-2014 are the same as they are today. The cost of lunch for adults is \$5.25.

**UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes**

2. Asbestos Abatement Design Plans

The Board has been given a proposal to have EnviroMed design a plan to remove the asbestos. Once the plan is designed, bidding can begin for each school. Timothy Klepps voiced that there needs to be more research and a plan in place for what this would cost, before spending the money to have the plans designed. Discussion was also had about possibly doing one school at a time. Very important to note, currently there is no danger to the children, there are no unsafe conditions within any of the schools. The Board decided to table this discussion, it appears more information is needed before this can fully be considered. The Board agreed rough pricing should be investigated before moving forward.

H. Old Business:

1. Policy & Regulation 4111.3 Personnel - Increasing Educator Diversity (Second Read)

MOTION by Frank Rodenberg to approve Policy & Regulation 4111.3 Personnel - Increasing Educator Diversity. Second by Penny Miller.

Aye: Meagan Albert, Timothy Klepps, Penny Miller, Erik Perotti, Frank Rodenberg, Timothy Russell and Kristin Young

Naye: Thomas Buzzi

Abstain:

**Motion Passes
7-1-0**

2. Policy 4118.22/4218.22 Personnel - Code of Ethics (Second Read)

MOTION by Erik Perotti to approve Policy 4118.22/4218.22 Personnel - Code of Ethics. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

Aye: Meagan Albert, Timothy Klepps, Penny Miller, Erik Perotti, Frank Rodenberg, Timothy Russell and Kristin Young

Naye: Thomas Buzzi

Abstain:

**Motion Passes
7-1-0**

3. Policy 5112 Students - Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement (Second Read) effective July 1, 2024

MOTION by Penny Miller to approve Policy 112 Students - Ages of Attendance/ Admissions/ Placement. Second by Timothy Russell.

Aye: Meagan Albert, Timothy Klepps, Penny Miller, Erik Perotti, Frank Rodenberg, Timothy Russell and Kristin Young

Naye: Thomas Buzzi

Abstain:

**Motion Passes
7-1-0**

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

MOTION by Kristin Young to approve Policy & Regulation 5141.5 Students - Youth Suicide Prevention and Attempts. Second by Penny Miller.

UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes

I. **Reports: None**

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

K. **Executive Session:**
Superintendent Evaluation and Contract
New Hartford Board of Education Evaluation

MOTION by Penny Miller to enter Executive Session at 8:25PM *and to invite Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa*. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

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 Board Secretary Penny Miller to the Recording Secretary.

Executive Session ended at 9:17PM.

MOTION by Thomas Buzzi to extend Superintendent Sousa’s contract for three (3) years starting July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027, at an increase of three (3) % for the 2024-2025 calendar year. Second by Timothy Russell.

Discussion: Penny Miller voiced that while Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa is doing a great job, Ms. Miller couldn’t support a 3% increase in salary. When Mr. Sousa was hired, Ms. Miller supported his salary that was higher than the previous Superintendent. However, with the recent budget increase of 5.8% and contract negotiations starting, Ms. Miller was concerned that the town cannot support an additional increase in the Superintendent salary.

Aye: *Meagan Albert, Thomas Buzzi, Timothy Klepps; Erik Perotti, Frank Rodenberg, Timothy Russell and Kristin Young*

Naye: *Penny Miller*

Abstain:

Motion Passes
7-1-0

L. Adjournment:

MOTION by Thomas Buzzi to adjourn the meeting at 9:22PM. 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-ZlomWmjG81dcQM3rfg>

Attachments:

NHPS Leader/Educator Evaluation Plan

NHPS Educator Evaluation Plan

Becky Tyrell - Meal Prices 2024-2025

EdAdvance Schools Meal Prices for 2023-2024 w/ Suggested Increases

School	Bkfst Price	Suggested BKFST	Lunch Price	Suggested Lunch
Region 7	\$1.90	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$3.75
Bark	-	-	\$3.05	\$3.50
Botelle	\$1.75	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$3.50
Colebrook	\$1.85	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$3.50
New Htfd	\$1.75	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$3.50
Hartland	-	-	\$4.50	No change
Shepaug	\$2.25	No change	\$3.75	No change
R12 Elem	-	-	\$3.50	No change
Region 20		2.00 / 2.50		\$4.00 / \$4.50
SJPTGA	\$2.00	No change	\$3.50	No change
Winchester	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50
Gilbert	\$2.00	No change	\$3.75	No change
Explorations	\$2.00	No change	\$3.50	No change
Region 14 (changed 2023)	\$1.75 / \$2.25	\$3.25 / \$3.75	No change	No change
Region 16	\$1.50- \$2.00?	No change	\$3.00/\$3.25/\$3.50	No change
Region 1				
HVRHS	\$2.00	No change	\$3.50 - \$4.00	\$4.00 all
Salisbury	\$1.75		\$3.00	\$3.50
No. Canaan	?		\$3.10	\$3.50
Cornwall	-	-	\$3.50	No change
Kent	?		\$3.50	No change
Sharon Center	?		\$3.50	No change
Kellogg	?		\$3.50	No change