

# Summary of April 2024 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

## **Cougar Pride**

HKMS Principal Dorothy Ventura introduced teachers Mike Baklik and Matt Thomas, along with students Alexa Lopez, Alex Stahl, and Annie Webster. The students discussed the Leadership Conference they attended in March, discussing the event's activities and what they learned.

## **Superintendent's Report**

The Finance department rebuilt the Superintendent's budget book into a fully linked version containing three years of actuals.

A preliminary PEGPETIA grant award was received for \$22,263, which will fund 16 new viewboards. The funding is anticipated to be received in June.

An anonymous donor paid off all food services delinquent balances in the district, totaling \$3,500. This same donor has extended this generosity in the past but never to this degree. Messages were sent to the families who had past-due balances.

Our employee exit survey was updated to meet new legislative requirements. The exit survey includes questions about why the certified educator is ceasing employment, whether or not the certified educator is leaving the profession, the certified educator's demographics, and the areas in which the certified educator taught or served.

## **Student Representatives' Report**

Madison Moriarty reported on the following end-of-the-year events at the High School:

- April 15th National Spanish and French Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- April 17th is the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place on April 17th
- April 23rd Eighth-grade Visit
- April 25th Art Show at the Westbrook Outlets
- April 26th Junior Prom
- May 3rd-4th Bye, Bye Birdie High School Musical
- May 31st Senior Prom

## **High School Graduation Date**

The Board officially approved the date of Graduation to be June 14, 2024.

## **Security Audit Report**

Director Whittaker received the final security audit report, and many of the recommendations have been included in the proposed budget.

## **Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee**

Corey Roberts reported that the committee discussed PDEC teacher evaluation, staff attendance update, end-of-year Superintendent review, and the controller staff position.

### **Curriculum Subcommittee**

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board on the Special Education audit results report from New Solutions that was presented to the Curriculum Committee at the April meeting. A presentation to the full Board is scheduled for May or June.

### **Finance and Facilities Subcommittee**

Prem Aithal reported that the committee discussed the monthly and quarterly financial reports, auditor contract, bond premium, insurance brokerage, budget debrief, and a master plan update. He also reported that the board will hold a special meeting on May 23rd to discuss the Master Plan.

### **Policy Subcommittee**

Hamish MacPhail reported that the committee reviewed the policies presented for the first reading. The committee also discussed exploring a code of conduct and a timeline for a policy refresh cycle.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Lisa Connelly reported that the committee talked about the budget. They reviewed the FAQs and the article for HK Now. At the May meeting, a representative from CAFE is scheduled to be present, and the meeting will start at 5:00 pm. The committee discussed staff recognition messages.

### **2024-2025 Budget**

The Board of Education's Proposed Gross Expense Budget for FY25 is \$49,818,029, an increase of \$2,162,321 or 4.5% passed in both Haddam and Killingworth.

### **Master Plan**

A special meeting will be held on May 23rd regarding the Master Plan. More information can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/rsd17.org/masterplanproject/home?authuser=0>