New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting (In-Person)
Tuesday, September 17, 2024 @ 7:00PM
Ann Antolini Elementary School - Library

PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa; Chairman Timothy Klepps; **Board Members:** Meagan Albert; Penny Miller; Erik Perotti; Frank Rodenberg and Deirdre Tindall.

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Thomas Buzzi; Board Members Timothy Russell and Kristin Young.

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
Superintendent Sousa shares a quote he feels resembles the New Hartford community, by Booker T. Washington "*Those who are happiest, are those who do the most for others*". Mr. Sousa thanks First Selectman Daniel Jerram and the Board of Finance Chairwoman Kerry Guilfoyle in addition to many other staff members, the Board of Education Board Members and residents of New Hartford. The staff welcomed 433 students. Recently, open houses began at all three schools, for students and families. He reported 14 days into the school year, things going well.

E. Board of Education Chair's Report: None

F. Routine Business

Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2024 (Regular Meeting)

MOTION by Frank Rodenberg to approve meeting minutes from August 20, 2024, as presented. Second by Penny Miller.

UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes

Expenditure Report:

MOTION by Penny Miller to approve the Expenditure Report as presented. Second by Erik Perotti.

UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes

G. New Business
- Policy & Regulations 4115 - Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support - *1st Read*

This plan has already submitted and approved, which will be starting in October.

• Policy & Regulations 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate Policy - *1st Read*
There is currently a committee and policy in place, the purpose of this is to bring it up to date.

• Policy & Regulations 3171.1 - Non-Lapsing Education Fund - *1st Read*
Minor changes, remove "regional school district", this allows the Board to put up to 2% of the budget into a non-lapsing account.

• Policy & Regulations 0521 - Nondiscrimination - *1st Read*
Minor changes made.

H. Old Business

• Policy & Regulations 4112.5/4212.5 Personnel - *2nd Read*

MOTION by Frank Rodenberg to approve Policy & Regulation 4112.5/4212.5 Personnel. Second by Deirdre Tindall.

UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes

• Policy & Regulations 5144.12 Students - *2nd Read*

MOTION by Frank Rodenberg to approve Policy & Regulation 5144.12 Students. Second by Erik Perotti.

UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes

Frank Rodenberg expressed his desire to keep the apology letter under classroom-based strategies. Deirdre Tindall agreed to believe keep this as an option. Erik Perotti noted some children may choose to express through writing. CABE suggested taking this away because they thought it may take away the spirit of sitting children down to discuss what happened. Chairman Timothy Klepps asked questions regarding detentions. Penny Miller questioned if number 4 under school level rules should be left in, this could say "all students". There was discussion back and forth regarding the wording of number 4. Mr. Sousa noted that student voice is critical, therefore he did not suggest striking this for the Boards consideration.

AMENDED-MOTION by Frank Rodenberg to approve **and amend** the policy to leave in number 3 R5144.12(e), writing an apology letter in and to change item number 4 in R5144.12(b) school-level rules to strike middle, junior high and high schools, and change the wording to read "for 6th grade students enrolled in the school" in Policy & Regulation 5144.12 Students. Second by Erik Perotti.

UNANIMOUS
Motion Passes

I. Reports

EdAdvance
Board Member Deirdre Tindall gave an update. Lisa Carter, the Assistant Executive Director, is a former principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent and Annette Miserez-Dillon

is the Director of Special Education. Education. EdAdvance is thrilled to have them both as members of the Executive Team. Deirdre reported many districts have turned to the EdAdvance professional learning teams to provide back-to-school professional development sessions on a wide range of topics. Thousands of educators have engaged with EdAdvance to learn more about the implications of artificial intelligence in the K-12 learning space through the Chat EDU podcast and AI training sessions.

MOTION by Penny Miller to add a status update to the agenda by Superintendent Sousa to give a brief overview of the ongoing negotiations. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

Aye: *Timothy Klepps, Penny Miller, Erik Perotti and Frank Rodenberg (4)*
Naye: *Meagan Albert and Deirdre Tindall (2)*

Mr. Sousa updated the Board of Education on the current negotiations. Currently they will be moving to mediation, they have had a few sessions with the administration group. The negotiations have been polite, civil and great communication from all employees.

J. Public Comment - (For Agenda Items Only): None

K. Adjournment

MOTION by Penny Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:43PM. 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