

**New Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
7:00PM on Tuesday, October 15, 2024  
Ann Antolini School Library**

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

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

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 Jeffrey Sousa opened his report with a quote from a conference he attended, *"Listening is the best way to pursued someone"*. Superintendent Sousa and several staff members met with Connecticut State Troopers to do tabletop exercises, Mr. Sousa noted this was a great exercise and he would like to do conduct these more often. The District Safety Team meets each year to review a document, the District Emergency Plan that is submitted to the Department of Homeland Security. On another note, firetrucks have been to each school. Three staff members (*Heather Mathes, Kim Stinson and Kathleen Tancerti*) were invited to the CSDE Performance Matters Forum Conference to present the EL Education Curriculum Implementation, on the topic of *"Doing This Together: Critical Moves in Literacy"*. Mr. Sousa read a review from Kim Stinson, a 3rd grade teacher. "Since we have implemented EL Education, I have noticed a significant difference in my student's engagement during ELA. Every student is so invested in the topics we study, and I have seen such a positive impact on their comprehension. Their extensive use of both topic and academic vocabulary in their speaking and writing is truly remarkable. They amaze me every day with what they remember not only in what we are learning, but what they learned last year, too!". There are two paraeducator positions currently open, the application is available online. Student representatives will be starting again in November. There have been some administrative changes at region 7 and Mr. Sousa's goal is to meet more often with region 7 to better align their practices and New Hartford's.

The Director of Student Services Michael Lynch presented on RULER, an approach designed to teach emotional intelligence. RULER is an evidence-based approach developed at Yale. RULER: **R**ecognize, **U**nderstanding, **L**abeling, **E**xpressing and **R**egulating. There are four anchor tools: Charter, Mood Meter, Meta-Moment and Blueprint. RULER has many positive impacts on Students, Teachers and Classrooms/Schools. RULER lesson time is built into the weekday schedule. Timothy Russell asked is there testing for certain grade levels on Social Emotional Learning. Mr. Lynch stated, yes.

**E. Board of Education Chair's Report:** None

## **F. Routine Business**

**Approval of Minutes:** September 17, 2024 (Regular Meeting)

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to approve meeting minutes from September 17, 2024, as presented.  
Second by Timothy Russell.

**Aye:** Meagan Albert; Penny Miller; Erik Perotti; Frank Rodenberg; Timothy Russell; Deirdre Tindall **(5)**

**Naye:** **(0)**

**Abstain:** Thomas Buzzi and Kristin Young **(2)**

***Motion Passes***

## **Expenditure Report:**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to approve the Expenditure Report as presented. Second by Thomas Buzzi.

Board member Penny Miller asked questions regarding several topics: overages in salaries, equipment in Special Education over expended, cost of membership fees and regarding additional funds possibly needed after mediation.

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

## **G. New Business**

**Action Regarding Tentative Agreement Reached with Local 1303-367 New Hartford Paraeducators (Executive Session)**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to enter Executive Session at 7:43PM to discuss the Tentative Agreement with Local 1303-367 Paraeducators and to invite Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa to join.  
Second by Deirdre Tindall.

**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 7:56PM.**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to approve the Tentative Agreement with Local 1303-367 New Hartford Paraeducators for a 4-year term starting on July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2028. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

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

## **H. Old Business**

- Policy & Regulations 4115 - Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support - *2nd Read*

**MOTION** by Deirdre Tindall to approve Policy & Regulation 4115 - Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support. Second by Penny Miller.

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

- Policy & Regulations 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate Policy - *2nd Read*

**MOTION** by Deirdre Tindall to approve Policy & Regulation 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate Policy. Second by Penny Miller.

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

- Policy & Regulations 3171.1 - Non-Lapsing Education Fund - *2nd Read*

**MOTION** by Deirdre Tindall to approve Policy & Regulation 3171.1 - Non-Lapsing Education Fund. Second by Penny Miller.

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

- Policy & Regulations 0521 - Nondiscrimination - *2nd Read*

**MOTION** by Deirdre Tindall to approve Policy & Regulation 0521 - Nondiscrimination. Second by Penny Miller.

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

## **I. Reports None**

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

## **K. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Penny Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:01PM. Second by Timothy Russell.

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

Respectfully submitted by,  
Elizabeth Domas, Recording Secretary

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[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc\\_QM3rfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg)