

Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Board of Directors Meeting – 6:15 p.m.
Hampden Academy, Library – 6:15 p.m. Executive Session
Hampden Academy Library – Regular Meeting

The Regional School Unit No. 22 Board of Directors met at Hampden Academy on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Heath Miller called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. Call of the Roll

Board Members present were: Faye Anderson, Jessica Barnes, Jayne Dyer, Rob Frank, Lester French, Allan Gordon, Jessica Hamilton, John Holmes, Tania Jean-Jacques, Colleen Jolley, Chris Labonte, Heath Miller, and Jillian Sarnacki-Wood.

Absent: Kenyon Humphrey, Jacob Brown, Stephanie Clisham

III. Executive Session

6:17 p.m. - Motion to enter Executive Session to consider the expulsion of a public school student pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(B), French moved, Holmes seconded, unanimous
6:49 p.m. - Returned from Executive Session.

Transition to Public meeting in Library

Board Members present were: Faye Anderson, Jessica Barnes, Stephanie Clisham, Jayne Dyer, Rob Frank, Lester French, Allan Gordon, Jessica Hamilton, John Holmes, Tania Jean-Jacques, Colleen Jolley, Chris Labonte, Heath Miller, and Jillian Sarnacki-Wood.

Absent: Kenyon Humphrey

Arrived late: Jacob Brown (8:06)

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 20, 2021

Dyer moved, Holmes seconded, and the Board voted favorably to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 20, 2021.

Opposed:

Abstain: Jessica Hamilton, Colleen Jolley, Jessica Barnes

VI. Adjustment to Agenda

A. Minutes from the Oct. 26th Community Relations meeting have been added to the Board's folders.

- B. Move X. B Fall Athletic Team Recognitions prior to VII.
- C. Remove XIII B. BEA - Regular Board Meetings and 13C BEDB-R - Agenda Board Meetings (Regulation) from policy considerations.
- D. Remove XVII - Executive Session

VII. Persons Desiring to Address the Board - Sign in required per policy BEDH-Public Participation in Board Meetings.

Policy BEDH - Public Participation in Board Meetings and IJL - Instructional and Library Materials Selection was reviewed prior to public comment.

A. Public Comment

The following individuals addressed the Board of Directors:

Dave Barrett, Hampden; Beth Kilgore, EA22; Brooke Miller, Winterport, Amy Curtis, Newburgh; Leah Kresge, Winterport; Dana-Jo Smith, Hampden; Michael Smith, Hampden; Shawn McBreairty, Hampden.

VIII. Board Chair Report

- A. School Board Governance and Operations Policy Review
Board Committee assignment preferences

Policy BEDH Public Participation in Board Meetings was reviewed prior to public comment.

Board member Anthony Liberatore, DMD was thanked for his years of service to the Board of Directors.

New board members Jessica Barnes and Colleen Jolley were welcomed to the Board of Directors and look forward to serving the community and the students of RSU 22.

Board of Directors committee assignments 2021-22 were discussed. Board members were requested to email the chairman of the board the committees they wish to be assigned to over the next 7-10 days. New board members are welcome to attend any committee meetings over the next couple of months and will then be assigned to a committee.

IX. Personnel

- A. Resignations
- B. Nominations - Transfers

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, Holmes moved, French seconded, unanimous
Tricia Richardson, Gifted and Talented teacher K-8

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, Holmes moved, Dyer seconded, unanimous
Olivia Maynard, Grade 5 teacher at Weatherbee, Weatherbee

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, French moved, Dyer seconded, unanimous
Stephanie Fiske, Basketball Coach Girls A Team, Wagner Middle School

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, Holmes moved, Dyer seconded, unanimous
Cody Veilleux, Boys Basketball A Team, Wagner Middle School

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, French moved, Dyer seconded, unanimous
Tyler Ross, Boys Basketball A Team, Reeds Brook Middle School

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, Dyer moved, French seconded, unanimous
Devon Davis, Boys Freshman Basketball, Hampden Academy

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, Dyer moved, Jolley seconded, unanimous
Lindsay Todd, Cheering Coach, Wagner Middle School

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Nickels, Dyer moved, Hamilton seconded, unanimous
Corinne Carey, Cheering Coach, Reeds Brook Middle School

Superintendent Nickels announced the following transfer:

Joseph West has transferred from night-time head custodian at Hampden Academy to district maintenance.

Guy Rolfe has been transferred to night-time head custodian at Hampden Academy.

X. Superintendent of Schools

A. Reading of the Essential Behaviors and Outcomes Proclamation

Read by John Holmes

B. Fall Sports Teams Recognitions

Hampden Academy Varsity Volleyball team was recognized for receiving the 2021 Sportsmanship Award. Head Coach Brittany Layman was named Coach of the Year. Ron Simmons, Athletic Director at Wagner Middle school announced that the Wagner boys' soccer team received the 2021 Sportsmanship Award.

C. RSU 22 Student Clubs and Activities Presentation

Principals presented an overview of clubs and activities hosted in their buildings or sponsored by the school.

D. COVID Protocols 10 Week Update

School physician Dr. Rucker, Dr. Barrett and Health and Wellness Coordinator Brittany Layman as representatives of our RSU 22 Medical Advisory panel, presented information on RSU 22's comprehensive data dashboard weekly review process and its outcomes. RSU 22 is pleased that unlike many neighboring districts, our school system has remained open without school or sports team shutdowns this year.

E. Winter Sports Protocols and Procedures

Athletic Director Fred Lower, Health and Wellness Coordinator Brittany Layman and Superintendent Nickels presented information on the development of Winter Sports protocols that include required masking, pooled testing participation and reduced spectator levels in our indoor facilities. The protocols have been developed in conjunction with input from our RSU 22 Medical Advisory team, regional Superintendent collaboration and athletic league meetings.

F. Superintendent Report

1. A Doodle Poll was sent so that board members' schedules can be accommodated. The date range would be between December 1st-9th ahead of the December 15th Board meeting. An action item will be brought to the December board meeting to seek approval on the RSU 22 Strategic Plan to be initiated in 2022 forward. Currently December 1st and 2nd have the most responses.
2. FOIA - Freedom of Access Act's received by RSU 22 was reviewed. The district has seen a substantial increase in requests. Superintendent Nickels presented information on the number of requests received to date, the processing requirements and the fulfillment challenges faced by RSU 22.
3. Information was presented regarding board members visiting schools student council meetings. Board member Labonte will facilitate this.

G. Assistant Superintendent Update

1. As of this year the NWEA is now the official state standardized test. There have been a few different state tests in recent years (Maine Educational Assessment, Smarter Balanced, Empower ME to name a few). RSU 22 always chose to use the NWEA in addition to those so that we would have a nationally normed referenced test which allowed us to measure student progress not just against the region or the state but against the nation. When the state continually changed the official standardized tests made it difficult if not impossible to track longitudinal data. NWEA allowed us to measure student progress over a period of years but just as importantly, it gave immediate feedback to teachers regarding student progress, strengths and weaknesses.
2. Clarification was given regarding the difference between curriculum (what is taught) and what is student choice. Every school promotes individual reading by students due to the direct correlation between independent reading and academic success.

H. Monthly Financial Report

The district has 72% of our school year remaining and 63% of our fiscal year remaining. Our budget expenditures are on track.

I. Student Board Representative Report

The student members met this past month with Superintendent Nickels. Student representative Clisham reports that she had the opportunity to participate in the United States Senate Youth Program. She was nominated, applied and has completed the interview process. She will hear the beginning of December if she will be chosen as of the two students representing the State of Maine. A student survey is being drafted and results should be ready to present at the December board meeting. Student

representative Brown spoke enthusiastically regarding his involvement in the HA Drama presentation Mamma Mia. He encouraged individuals to attend if they had not previously done so. It was also reported that numerous colleges and universities have visited Hampden Academy and students have had the opportunity for on the spot acceptance.

XI. Questions of Board Members

A clarification was requested on LD 993, an act to retroactively grant sick leave days to public school employees affected by Covid-19. In addition, a question was asked as to when the district could re-evaluate Covid-19 protocols. Based on current data and trends that is not a possibility at this point. The district will continue to monitor.

XII. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee (Exhibit)

A report is included in the Board's Google folder

B. Budget Committee

C. Athletic Committee

D. Building Committee (Exhibit)

A report is included in the Board's Google folder

E. Negotiations Committee

F. Education Committee (Exhibit)

A report is included in the Board's Google folder

G. Policy Committee (Exhibit)

A report is included in the Board's Google folder

H. United Technologies Center Board

I. Behavioral Review Committee

J. Dropout Prevention Committee

K. SPRPCE Board

L. Community Relations Committee

M. Equity in Education Committee (Exhibit)

A report is included in the Board's Google folder

N. Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee

XIII. Policy Consideration (all with exhibit)

A. Discuss and act on the first reading BE-School Board Meetings - Removed.

B. Discuss and act on the first reading BEA-Regular Board Meetings. After discussion Policy BE - School Board Meetings would be combined with BEA - Regular School Board Meetings. Holmes moved, French seconded and the Board voted favorably to approve.

Opposed:

Abstain:

- C. Discuss and act on the first reading BEDB-R-Agenda-Board Meetings (Regulation) - Removed

- D. Discuss and act on the first reading JKAA-Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion. Approval for temporary enactment. Holmes moved, French seconded and the Board voted favorably to approve.

Opposed:

Abstain:

- E. Discuss and act on the first reading JLCB-Immunization of Students. Approval for temporary enactment. Holmes moved, Dyer seconded and the Board voted favorably to approve.

Opposed:

Abstain:

- F. Discuss and act on the second reading DJ - Bidding/Purchasing Requirement. Holmes moved, French seconded and the board voted for approval and adoption.

Opposed:

Abstain: Rob Frank

- G. Discuss and act on the second reading GBGB -Workplace Bullying. Holmes moved, Dyer seconded and the board voted for approval and adoption.

Opposed:

Abstain:

XIV. Old Business

- A. Update on district net energy billing project

The Borrego/Brooklin, Maine Solar project for which the district contracted and anticipated net energy billing benefit has been terminated due to missed milestones. Our energy consultant, Competitive Energy Services CES, has notified the district and has proposed an alternative net energy billing project through Brookfield/Medway Hydro. The project has been reviewed by both the Building Committee and is under review by legal counsel. It is anticipated that Superintendent Nickels will sign on the district's behalf prior to December 1st pending legal approval.

9:27 Motion to extend meeting 30 minutes. French moved, Holmes seconded, roll call. All in favor with the exception of one opposed.

Opposed: Kenyon (absent when vote was taken - recorded as a no vote)

Abstain:

- B. Overnight field trips

The board discussed field trips both within the continental U.S. as well as international travel. Concerns were raised regarding international travel and mitigation protocols.

The board expressed comfort in continental U.S. travel as long as safety protocols

were followed. It was suggested that trip insurance be purchased if airfare was needed. In addition, looking at cost comparisons between airfare and chartered bussing. Dyer moved, Hamilton seconded and the Board voted favorably to approve travel within the continental U.S.

Opposed:

Abstain:

XV. New Business

A. Discuss and act on Board Vote to Approve Closure of the Newburgh Elementary School

The vote to close the Newburgh School is seeking to confirm the multi-year understanding that the district has forged with the Town of Newburgh: upon the maturation of the Energy Efficiency qualified zone academy bond (QZAB) in January 2022 the school would be sold to the town for \$1.00. The district would then be afforded a leaseback option to continue to use the school for related purposes, in our case the continuation of Pre-K programming. A clarification was requested regarding the cost sharing. It would become a 50/50 split. Frank moved, Holmes seconded and the board voted favorably to approve.

B. Discuss and act on School Calendar Adjustment

A calendar adjustment may be in order related to December 23, 2021. When the calendar was first developed, RSU 22 recognized that students had missed significant school and wanted to maximize instructional time. It has recently been reported that RSU 22 is the only school in the region to be planning a school day for December 23, 2021. Tuition students coming from other districts do not have scheduled transportation due to the holiday. The Board is being asked to consider adjusting the calendar so that December 23rd would be a vacation day and to add a corresponding school day in June; the 14th to the 15th as the last student day. The 16th and 17th would be teacher inservice days. (Unless, of course, the district does not use its allotted three snow days). French moved, Holmes seconded and the Board voted favorably to approve.

Opposed: Hamilton

Abstain:

XVI. Communication and Correspondence

A. Set Meeting Dates

XVII. Executive Session *Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(E) - Removed*

XVIII. Other Business

- A. To see what action, if any, the Board wishes to take on business required by items that are part of this agenda.

XIX. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn, Holmes moved, Dyer seconded, unanimous. Adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regan Nickels
Superintendent

Education enables all students to learn the skills, acquire the knowledge, and develop the attitudes necessary for them to reach their potential as citizens who can meet the challenges of a changing global society. We believe that:

- all citizens in our communities share the responsibility to educate our children and themselves,
- our schools are community support systems and should welcome and encourage all members of our communities to participate, and
- our schools will have a supportive and empowering atmosphere for all students and community members.

Please notify the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 862-3255 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if you require any assistance in order to fully participate in this meeting.

The meeting is filmed and will be available for public viewing **on the district website.**