New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Special Meeting
VIRTUAL ONLY
Monday December 15, 2025 @ 6:00PM

PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Sousa; Chair Timothy Klepps; Vice Chair Kristin Young

Board Members: Thomas Buzzi; Penny Miller (Secretary); Kirby Morante; Jon Puz; Frank Rodenberg; Timothy Russell

ABSENT: Erik Perotti

Timothy Klepps, Chair of the NHPS Board of Education, called the **special** meeting to order at 6:02PM.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Public Comment

C. Discuss and Take Possible Action on Funding for School Utilization RFP Proposal from Silver Petrucelli & Associates

You may visit the NHPS website for more information. the Request for Proposal can be found here: https://www.newhtfd.org/district1/request-for-proposals

The Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectman all approved the award of the School Facility Utilization study to Silver Petrucelli & Associates. The cost of the School Facility Utilization study is $48,500. The Board of Finance has approved $20,000 from the town side and requested the Board of Education fund the remaining amount, to use $28,500 from the Board of Education non-lapsing account.

There are specific efforts of the RFP, effort number 1 is to retain the current facilities and effort number 2 is to reduce total number of facilities. There may also be additional suggestions provided as well, are there any other alternatives? Superintendent Sousa stated there will be more information about the process of the study and the next steps at the next Board of Education meeting, after he meets with Silver Petrucelli & Associates after the Boards approval to fund the study.

MOTION by Penny Miller to consider the use and approval of $28,500 from the non-lapsing account to fully fund and award the School Facility Utilization Request for Proposal to Silver Petrucelli & Associates. Second by Timothy Russell.

Timothy Russell asked for clarification, what would the remaining balance be in the non-lapsing account? The non-lapsing account would be drawn down to *approximately* $188,500. The current timeframe anticipated to complete the study is 6-8 months. Frank Rodenberg questioned Mr. Sousa on the sentiments of other Towns who have used this firm. Superintendent Sousa stated he received very pleasant reviews and feedback from others who have used Silver Petrucelli & Associates. Thomas Buzzi expressed his concern about spending money to revisit an issue discussed previously, 10 years ago. He noted in the most recent budget, items such as: White Memorial, TAG and Music were cut from the budget to save a similar amount of money. Penny Miller questioned, how soon Silver Petrucelli &

Associates will begin the study. Mr. Sousa will have a meeting to discuss a timeframe of the deliverables, and have more to report at the January meeting on the next steps. Kirby Morante questioned if a similar study was completed 10 years ago, when consolidation was previously voted on. Chairman Timothy Klepps expressed there had been no study previously, which is why the "*joint task force*" has created. There is a lot more going into the process this time around. Mr. Klepps also mentioned this study would be required by the State for any grant funding for renovations that may need to be completed, especially the enrollment study. Timothy Klepps made it clear not confuse the study, the intent of the study is not to have Silver Petrucelli & Associates find a way to close a school, but rather find a way to maximize the potential of what there is today, that is in the district; by looking at what future upkeep will be for the schools and take into account future enrollment projections. There may be renovations that are suggested, or closing a school, but there will be further discussion and not just with the Board of Education, but also the Board of Finance and Board of Selectman. Silver Petrucelli & Associates will make suggestions, then it will be up to the Town to have the discussions as to what they choose to do with the information provided.

Aye: Timothy Klepps; Penny Miller; Kirby Morante; Jon Puz; Frank Rodenberg; Timothy Russell; Kristin Young
***Naye*:** Thomas Buzzi
Abstain:

(7-1-0)
Motion Passes

D. Adjournment

MOTION by Timothy Russell to adjourn the meeting at 6:19PM. 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

Attachments:

Virtual Meeting Attendance

(4) Communications from:
Champeau Family
Julie Connelly
Ryan Parman
Steve Seltzer