New Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education Special Meeting
Town Hall Senior Center
Wednesday December 17, 2025 @ 5:00PM

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

Board Members: Thomas Buzzi; Kirby Morante; Erik Perotti; Jon Puz; Frank Rodenberg; Timothy Russell

Also Present: David Erwin (*Facilitator for the Board Retreat, works for EdAdvance*) and Michael Lynch (*Director of Student Services*)

ABSENT: Penny Miller (*Secretary*)

Timothy Klepps, Chair of the NHPS Board of Education, called the **special** meeting to order at 5:06PM.

1. New Hartford Board of Education Retreat & Orientation

2. New Business

a. REVISION - Policy 5151 - Students - Child Identification Gifted and Talented *(1st Read) *Recommended*

b. NEW - Policy 6172.1 - Instruction - Gifted and Talented Students Program *(1st Read)*

c. NEW - Policy 5131.111 - Students - Video Surveillance Cameras in Schools *(1st Read) *From CABE*

d. REVISION - Policy 6161.3 - Instruction - Comparability of Services *(1st Read) *Outdated*

e. REVISION - Policy 3323 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Soliciting Prices/Bidding Requirements *(1st Read) *Outdated from 2006*

3. Old Business

a. NEW - Policy 0523 - Mission Goals Objectives - Equity and Diversity *(2nd Read) *Recommended*

MOTION by Timothy Russell to approve Policy 0523 - Mission Goals Objectives - Equity and Diversity. Second by Frank Rodenberg.

Thomas Buzzi is against this policy. Timothy Russell asked what are the disadvantages of not approving this policy. Superintendent Sousa said the Board would have to lean on other policies in place. Mr. Sousa informed the Board, there have been no previous conflicts or issues regarding this matter. Discussion was had about additional reporting; Mr. Sousa stated the information is already reported to meet other requirements. Frank Rodenberg sees the policy as redundant but feels there is no harm. Timothy Klepps referred back to the Non-Discrimination policy, when was the last time said policy was reviewed or last visited. Timothy Klepps feels there is no need for a second policy, but rather some ideas from this policy can be combine with policies already in place. Erik Perotti feels this policy is important, and recommends the Board have said policy. Timothy Russell feels this policy should be tabled; Kirby Morante agrees.

MOTION-WITHDRAWN by Timothy Russell.

MOTION by Timothy Russell to table Policy 0523 - Mission Goals Objectives - Equity and Diversity and have the further review by the Policy Sub-Committee, to request review and discussion on aligning/condensing criteria of this policy into other existing polices. Second Kirby Morante.

Aye: Timothy Klepps; Kirby Morante; Timothy Russell

Naye: Thomas Buzzi; Erik Perotti; Jon Puz; Frank Rodenberg; Kristin Young

Abstain:

(3-5-0)

Motion Fails

MOTION by Kristin Young to approve/pass Policy 0523 - Mission Goals Objectives - Equity and Diversity then revisit this Policy at a future Policy Sub-Committee meeting. Second by Erik Perotti.

Kirby Morante feels if all the facts are not known, how can Board Members make a decision with information unable to be determined at this time.

Aye: Erik Perotti; Frank Rodenberg; Kristin Young

Naye: Thomas Buzzi; Timothy Klepps; Kirby Morante; Jon Puz; Timothy Russell

Abstain:

(3-5-0)

Motion Fails

b. NEW - Policy 4118.4 / 4218.4 Rights, Responsibilities and Duties Electronic Mail *(2nd Read)*

MOTION by Timothy Russell to approve Policy 4118.4 / 4218.4 Rights, Responsibilities and Duties Electronic Mail. Second by Thomas Buzzi.

UNANIMOUS

Motion Passes

c. NEW - Policy 4118.232 / 4218.232 - Personnel - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace *(2nd Read)*

MOTION by Frank Rodenberg to approve Policy 4118.232 / 4218.232 - Personnel - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace. Second by Jon Puz.

UNANIMOUS

Motion Passes

d. NEW - Policy 5131.601 - Students - Medical (Palliative) Use of Marijuana *(2nd Read)*

MOTION by Thomas Buzzi to approve Policy 5131.601 - Students - Medical (Palliative) Use of Marijuana. Second by Timothy Russell.

UNANIMOUS

Motion Passes

e. NEW - Policy 5141.213 - Students - Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone) *(2nd Read)*

MOTION by Frank Rodenberg to approve Policy 5141.213 - Students - Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone). Second by Jon Puz.

UNANIMOUS

Motion Passes

f. NEW - Policy P5141.231 / 4118.234 - Students - Psychotropic Drug Use *(2nd Read)*

MOTION by Timothy Russell to approve Policy P5141.231 / 4118.234 - Students - Psychotropic Drug Use. Second by Jon Puz.

UNANIMOUS

Motion Passes

4. Adjournment

MOTION by Timothy Russell to adjourn the meeting at 8:39PM. 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:
Refer to November 11, 2025 Meeting