

**Hampton Falls School Board Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Lincoln Akerman School - Library**  
**8 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls**  
[www.sau21.org](http://www.sau21.org)

**School Board Members present:** Frank Stifter; Chair, Greg Parish; Vice-chair, Robin Moyer Ratigan, Wayne Skoglund and Pamela Miller.

**Administration present:** Robert Sullivan, Ed.D; Superintendent, Barbara Hopkins C.A.G.S.; Assistant Superintendent and Mark DeBlois; Principal.

**Absent:** William Hickey; Business Administrator.

1. Frank Stifter called the meeting to **order** at 6:04 p.m.

The Board agreed to add an item to the calendar: Other items suggested by the Board to add to the agenda for the next meeting.

## **2. Reports**

a. Superintendent Sullivan provided a written report and discussed:

- Appreciation was expressed to the maintenance and custodial staff for maintaining the school grounds and facilities during the extreme weather conditions during the month of February.
- A snow removal unanticipated expenditure report is being compiled and will be finalized at winters end.
- The SAU #21 unofficial enrollment as of January 31, 2015 is 2,582.

Information and updates were provided for the Board's perusal:

- "Advancing New Hampshire Public Education": (<http://anhpe.org>) from New Hampshire School Administrators Association.
- Official Ballot Law Information (SB2) includes HB524, HB689, and SB242
- Legislative Bulletin, February 20, 2015; A Brief Summary of Education segment taken from the New Hampshire School Boards Association.
- New Hampshire's Career and Technical Education Success Beyond the Classroom has been forwarded by Margaret Callahan, Principal of the Seacoast School of Technology (SST)

Assistant Superintendent discussed:

- Continuously improving the parent resources link on [www.sau21.org](http://www.sau21.org)
- Joan Boaler workshop has received approximately \$3,000 in donations resulting in free admissions to the program. Middle and High School teachers have the opportunity to attend an additional seminar the following day.

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Jo Boaler: Professor of Mathematics at Stanford University will be speaking about “growth mindset in mathematics education” on Thursday, April 2, 2015 from 7:00 8:00 p.m. at Exeter High School Auditorium. See <http://youcubed.stanford.edu/teaching-strategiesbrain-science/> to review a five minutes talk by Jo Boaler on Brain Science.

Frank Stifter volunteered to share his engineering skills and participate in the Keepers Program; a summer engineering science camp that is geared for grades 2-5, and will take place July 13-17, 2015.

**b. Principal**

- Current student enrollment is 254.
- On March 3, 2015 students from Jim Cutting’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade class spoke before the Environment & Agriculture Committee their reasoning for making the red-tailed hawk the official New Hampshire bird of prey. A motion was passed 10-7. The bill will now be sent to the Full House for consideration.
- The upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and the NECAP Science (grades 4 & 8 only) schedules are in place. There will be a Smarter Balance Pep Rally prior to the students taking the assessment. Over the span of 2 weeks, approximately 16 hours will be needed to complete the testing. Practice tests are available and teachers are currently practicing with students in the classrooms. Information will be sent to parents at the beginning of next week.
- DI teams will meet on March 14, 2015.
- Basket Bonanza Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2015 at 5:00 p .m.

Future Agenda Items include:

- Kelly Trottier will return to update Blizzard Bag information during the March meeting.
- Kindergarten programming conversations will continue during the April meeting.

**c. Financial**

Bill Hickey provided the FY15 reports.

The Board requested information in regards to:

- Line items: consulting, electric fee contract or lock in rate, heating oil, costs involving heat pumps and things that are associated with heat pumps.
- What will be done with the remaining renovation budget that we have? The majority of the renovation is earmarked for one of the roofs and the snow removal costs?
- Consulting follow up - \$20,000 was encumbered. The encumbered money is holding so that when the invoice came, then the money would be available.

The next facility meeting will be scheduled for next week.

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**d. Facility**

A. Lajoie provided a written facility report and discussed:

- February was busy with snow removal, ice dams, roof leaks, and shoveling. Contractors were hired for the safe removal of snow on the roofs. Keeping a watchful eye on the connecting hall in the art gallery for any leaks.
- Monitoring the boiler room to prevent the air compressor from freezing up. Looking into putting a blower heater in the boiler room.
- Servers are affected by the cold weather. Zach Lamare is able to shut them off at home. To help with the hot, cold and dust conditions of the boiler room where it is currently located, thoughts are to move the server to another location – the room in the back of the library.
- Monitoring the snowy pileup beside the lower windows and all the rooms involved has secondary access to an exit.

Alan Lajoie agreed:

- Follow up with Steve Burns of ARM Roof Consultants to be prepared when the budget is approved.
- Investigate the costs for a steel metal roof with a beveled edge that could prevent future leaks, ice dams and also for a comparison system to minimize these situations.

Other:

- Get a quick read on what the renovation time line needs to be or are we already behind the eight ball?
- Inquire if Eckman has the same renovation timeline in effect considering the winter damages may have created other available jobs.

**3. Minutes – Reviewed.**

**4. Continuing Business**

**a. School Board Calendar – Update**

**i. Review of Goals**

The Board agreed to maintain duplicate calendars for consistency.

February – Send an annual letter to the community from the Board. Board authorization is needed to allow a letter to be sent. (This year the community letter will be in March).

March 25 Workshop – Grade 8 exit interviews along with finalizing a date for the exit interviews and parent surveys.

April - Contact election officials, teacher offers /contracts, review upcoming impact fees for the month, recap of the goals, kindergarten, parent surveys and blizzard bag presentation

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May - Goal settings.

Updates for curriculum

- What are we evaluating when we talk to a teacher? How the curriculum is deployed and how it is accessed? Continue the monthly meet and greets.
- Coordinate questions for teachers to get a better set of data from the teacher.

The next work session scheduled is Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 6:00 p .m.

**ii. Community Email** [www.hamptonfalls.org./las/](http://www.hamptonfalls.org./las/)

- We use the web site for recent events, for the deliberative session, snow man events, basket bonanza and sugaring off events, attaching our LAS section of the town newsletter.
- There is a list for the parents and a list for the general distribution. (LAS parents receive more information than the community list.
- Parents of graduates will be placed on the community list and not on the LAS list unless they opt off the community list as well. This helps the community list to grow.
- Add the monthly agenda and add the next month agenda items from the Board.

**b. Merrill Property Bond** – Update by Superintendent Sullivan

“An overview of the process needed for converting the existing tax exempt bond that the District sold to the Bond Bank to a taxable bond that would bear interest at the same rate. This approach works because the Bond Bank is not a taxpaying entity and because the amount of the involved bond is not large enough to threaten the tax exempt status of the Bond Bank’s bonds (of which the District is a part).

The approach will involve the District (refinancing) its current tax exempt bond with a taxable bond in the same amount and with the same interest rate. This can be authorized by the School Board under RSA 33:3-d (no District vote is required) after a properly noticed public hearing. For the bond counsel to issue an opinion to bond bank and the District with respect to such a bond, the following actions are necessary:

1. Notice of public hearing with evidence of publication in newspaper of circulation in District at least 7 days before the hearing.
2. Minutes of public hearing.
3. School Board resolution authorizing refunding
4. Properly posted/published notice of school board meeting
5. Debt limit certificate from DRA.
6. Certificate regarding District’s outstanding net indebtedness.
7. Certificate of District Clerk

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The bond counsel will prepare the necessary documentation, including the resolution (referenced in #3 above) and will be reviewing the above materials (hearing notice, time schedule etc.) to answer any questions that you may have.”

The fees for this work would be approximately \$2,000 to \$3,500.

This will be presented during the April meeting with a Public Hearing in May. Any questions can be directed to Bill Hickey at the SAU21 and answers can be presented at the April meeting.

Superintendent Sullivan agreed to follow up is this in an interest bearing account?

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Review of Parent Survey**

The Board agreed to distribute the surveys at an earlier time than last year.

Principal Deblois agreed to email the results of the 2014 survey along with the list of questions used.

The Board agreed to continue this conversation during the March 25<sup>th</sup> Work Session and have the information available for the April Board meeting.

### **b. Grade 8 Exit Interviews**

The Board agreed to address Grade 8 Exit Interviews at the March 25<sup>th</sup> Work Session and to finalize a date to interview the students on the March 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.

### **c. Personnel – Job Share Positions**

Amy Roy respectfully requested an extension to job share as Library Media Specialist for the 2015-2016 school years.

Cathy Jeffrey respectfully requested an extension to job sharing the full time Spanish teaching position for the 2015-2016 school years.

## **6. Public Comment of Agenda Items**

Larry Smith Is the School eligible for any FEMA funds? The state has advised the town to keep tract of snow removal bills, in the event that reimbursement monies are available. NH Homeland Security inquired from all the NH schools if they spent any anticipated extra funds due to snow removal from the first snow storm?

The Board agreed to follow up with Chief Lord.

Don Janik Expressed appreciation to Wayne Skoglund from the public side. Thank you for watching the budget and also thank you for your work as Hampton Falls Representative for Winnacunnet High School, town and LAS affairs. Additional appreciation for time and effort spent trimming shrubs and repairing pot holes in the driveway at LAS.

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Blizzard bags - expressed possible time and stress difficulties for parents who also work from home on snow days and then have to address blizzard bag assistance.

Alan's List - Does the list of priorities include the roof? In regards to converting the existing tax exempt bond on the Merrill property, what is the positive change or no impact on change that you are suggesting? And, inquired of a full accounting of the monies and projects, and any money returned to the taxpayers for presentation at the Public Hearing.

**7. Voting on Agenda Items.**

**Motion:** Greg Parish moved to approve Amy Roy for the continuation of the job share position of Media Specialist for the 2015-2016 school years. Second: Pam Miller. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**Motion:** Greg Parish moved to approve Cathy Jeffrey for the continuation of the Job Share Spanish teaching position for the 2015-2016 school years. Second: Robin Moyer Ratigan. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**Motion:** Wayne Skoglund moved to approve the February 5, 2014 public minutes as written. Second: Robin Moyer Ratigan. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**Motion:** Greg Parish moved to authorize Frank Stifter; Board Chair to send the standard School Board Information Letter to the tax payers about the warrant articles and the ballot. Second: Pam Miller. Motion passed 5-0-0.

A Work Session is scheduled for March 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

**8. Signing of the Manifest – The Board members present signed the Manifest.**

**Motion:** Wayne Skoglund moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Second: Pam Miller. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Hastings

School Board Recording Secretary

(Approved April 2, 2015)