

North Hampton School District
School Board Public Community Forum
Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
North Hampton Town Hall
237 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton
www.sau21.org

School Board members present: James Sununu; Chair, Cindy Burke; Vice-Chair, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, and Erin Stanton.

Administration present: Dr. William Lupini; Superintendent, Dr. Ronna Cadarette; Assistant Superintendent, Matt Ferreira; Business Administrator, and Dr. Erik Anderson; Principal.

Absent: Tracy Griffenhagen; Assistant Principal/Director of Special Services.

At 7:04 p.m., James Sununu called the School Board Public Community Forum to **order**, introduced and welcomed Dr. William Lupini who is our new SAU #21 Superintendent.

Mr. Sununu noted that the purpose of tonight's meeting is expressly a parent communication forum instead of our regular business meeting.

2. School Board / Community Forum

a. Improving Communication

James Sununu reminded that improving communication is also a Board goal to increase the opportunities for more dialogue within our school community, as well as our overall town community. We encourage the community to have contact with the Board and will continue to have more of these meetings in the future.

b. Issues affecting North Hampton School

Kindergarten

Dr. Anderson informed that NH Legislation Bill HD1499 will become law on August 17, 2018. Dr. Anderson assured that the North Hampton kindergarten program does not need to be adjusted to date. A statement of purpose is in-tact, we will continue with guided reading, Foundations math program, and play-based / free choice activities that are also included within the current curriculum. More information will be forthcoming as we move forward implementing NH Legislation Bill HD1499.

Middle School Structure

Dr. Anderson reviewed the middle school synopsis. It started with increased reductions in enrollment. As a result, middle school staffing was reduced, looping of middle school grade class-schedules were introduced, and mid-year 2017 grades 7 – 8 schedules were

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re-designed. Throughout these changes, teachers were involved with the process – attending the students scheduling needs.

Small School Schedule

- ✚ Dr. Anderson reviewed an outline of the middle school schedules, and teacher assignments.
- ✚ We find that our largest class size is presently 49 students, with our smallest class size being 31 students.
- ✚ Maximum number of classes that teachers are required to teach in one day in New Hampshire middle schools are as many or up to four classes with two prep times.

Comparatively speaking, other smaller schools also use these schedules with no adverse effect on students. The size of the school drives the model of the 7th and 8th grade sharing of teachers. This is not a unique situation.

James Sununu opened the Public Community forum for discussion.

Consistency and Predictability

Using a grade model and a discipline model, we will deliver consistency and predictability while we move forward.

Service Learning

Community service always exists in a disciplinary model. Staff and students can find time to explore ideas and opportunities to be involved in this learning process. Work with community, based on what your schedule looks like, and work out a long-term plan.

Mission Statement

James Sununu explained the idea of going back to a middle-school, three-teacher, per-grade plan. This teaming is very successful, and it is budget driven. We are not frugal as the rating data for North Hampton is very high within the state. We are spending in the right areas but there is no unlimited spending. We are managing the staffing size, we increase the budget where and when it is needed.

Over the past few years, enrollment studies were conducted for North Hampton School. The Board planned for the budget and student reductions, information was clearly discussed during Board meetings that these changes will happen. This was not a

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comfortable topic to speak about and there was some staff resistance on the matter. Reductions were made at the middle school. Future classes are decreasing as they come along. The middle school population decreased from 160 to 120 students which resulted in a 20% student drop-off rate.

Would like to see combined decision making, help to drive the decision making, groups understanding what the mission statement is, what are the norms and police each other around those norms, and then a re-examination of how we work together.

Everyone plays a role. The Board empowers the administration to carry out what they have been tasked with. The Board role is to be attentive to see that things are working, and the vision is being carried out with shared productivity.

Holocaust

Dr. Cadarette explained:

- ❖ Teachers make the decisions on what to integrate into the curriculum, through literature, materials decisions, or common researching, etc. Some things are embedded into curriculum competencies.
- ❖ Administration does not dictate what must be done, teachers can deliver competency education with broader concepts, students can demonstrate skills across the curriculum learning. We cover the competencies, with more advocacy.
- ❖ As student's progress along the grades, using the New Hampshire standards, New Hampshire competencies, the resources to do that will be different, integrated, and may not always be covered just in the 8th grade.
- ❖ The notion of doing the same things every year may not always happen, it is important to keep staying fresh, and keeping teachers fresh.

Shared Government

A brief discussion included a re-boot with shared government.

Surveys

A brief discussion took place about recent parent and teacher surveys used to gather a measure of success.

School Traditions

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Regarding the continuation of Service Learning, Holocaust, and We-Talks within the curriculum.

- ❖ We Talks – (Oratorical), did not happen in the 2017-2018 school year but no instruction was given to teachers to stop this. The discussion of the options was held with the 8th grade team.
- ❖ Teachers generally make this decision. This could be a conversation between middle school staff and administration to explain why these things didn't happen.
- ❖ Our school is having a hard time managing change.
- ❖ Parents can come into the school with their questions right away. Be proactive and become involved in these conversations. Ask why this is not happening. What do we need to do to continue these?
- ❖ Being careful of holding on to some of these traditions, prepare students for the world to come, the world is changing. Adapt and make the changes. Past students did not have the 1-1 computers, but 2018-2019 middle school students will.

Heard It Through the Grapevine

- ❖ Careful with the grapevine that is taking so much away from us. Don't wait until the end of the year to voice concerns or question information that you may have heard and may not be true.
- ❖ If anyone hears of bothersome or worrisome things, then go to the administration and inquire, some are not accurate, and reach out to the administration to find the facts. The grapevine is not helping us.

Other

- ❖ Involving volunteers to make up committees.
- ❖ Future Programs can include school day-time field trips such as a Star Island Field Trip.

Motion: James Sununu moved to adjourn the School Board Public Community Forum at 9: 16 p.m. Second: Cindy Burke. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Submitted by Maureen Hastings, Recording Secretary (Approved August 16, 2018)