

Hampton Falls School Board - Regular Meeting (Tuesday, May 12, 2020)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Monday, May 18, 2020

Approved by the Board - June 9, 2020

Members present

Greg Marrow, Greg Parish, John Bailly, Jason Farias

Absent: Mark Lane

Jill Swasey joined the Board after being appointed and sworn in.

Superintendent Bill Lupini, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Executive Director of Student Services Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira, and LAS Principal Beth Raucci

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM

1. Call to Order

Procedural: A. **Roll Call**

Chair Greg parish opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m. by reading the following statement:

As Chair of the Hampton Falls School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.1 All members of the Hampton Falls School Board, have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 646 876 9923 and Webinar ID 944 7079 5800 Password 405973 or by clicking on the following website address: (listed on the agenda)

<https://zoom.us/j/91998460580?pwd=OGtIVDdORzlhbU1JaDFuK1RTYlkvZz09>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the SAU 21 Office at www.sau21.org.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-926-8992 ext. 103 or email at revans@sau21.org

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law

2. Board Vacancy and Possible Appointment

Action: A. **Resignation**

Motion to accept the resignation of Mark Lane effective immediately.

Motion by Greg Parish, second by John Bailly.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Greg Marrow, Greg Parish, John Bailly, Jason Farias

Discussion: B. **Interview for Board Vacancy**

Jill Swasey submitted a letter of interest in filling the vacancy left by Mark Lane and was present for an interview.

Jason, John, recognized Jill's involvement with past projects at the school. Greg noted her involvement with the PTO and noted that she was a great team member.

Jill addressed the Board and recognized the responsibility of serving on the school board. She acknowledged the challenges the board is facing and doesn't take it lightly. She reported that she loves the small community aspect of LAS and how important it is being invested and having a genuine interest in the community it serves.

Action: C. **Board Appointment**

Motion to appoint Jill Sawsey to fill the unexpired term of Mark Lane, expiring at the March 2021 election.

Motion by Greg Parish, second by Greg Marrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Greg Marrow, Greg Parish, John Bailly, Jason Farias

Mary Nawn, Hampton Falls School District Clerk was present to administer the Oath to Jill Swasey.

Ms. Swasey joined the meeting as a member of the school board.

3. Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **April 14, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting**

Motion to approved the minutes from the April 14, 2020 Hampton Falls School Board regular meeting.

Motion by Greg Marrow, second by Jason Farias.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Greg Marrow, Greg Parish, Jason Farias

Abstain: John Bailly, Jill Swasey

4. Reports

Information: A. **Finance Report**

Matt Ferreira reviewed the report with the board. Cost savings are being recognized due to the closures and remote learning. Resulting in approximately \$175K of unexpended funds. The March voters approved \$100k to fund the expendable trusts and additionally we will be returning the remaining warrant article funds from the gym renovation which leaves approximately \$125k to be returned to the town.

Discussion on the air handler in the gym and if the remaining money can be utilized for this project. It was learned that the warrant article can only be used for the purpose it was designated for.

Other discussions included: the expendable trusts are a legal obligation and have to be funded per vote, Tuition and Special Education costs and whether out of district placements are still happening, and cost savings being experienced due to transportation.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Procedural: A. Public Comment - Congrats to Jill.

6. Continuing Business

Information: A. **Administrative Update on Covid-19 Relative to School Closure**

Dr. Lupini reported that a large amount of time has been spent on planning end of year events but that is starting to shift to the Task Force and working groups for the return to school. Task Force group memberships and structures were published last week. We expect to publish a report by mid-June. Working groups are split into the following: Crisis Intervention, Return to Instruction, Post-Secondary, Technology and Operations. Each group is working on 3 different scenarios: return to school with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), continue remote learning with no return to school and rolling closures. The purpose is to try to provide answers as to what each scenario might look like for students, staff and parents. We have learned that the State is working on a similar report but it is not expected until June 30th. We feel that date is too late.

Dr. Hobbs reported that conversations have primarily been on end of year preparations. He is chairing the Return to Instruction Working Group. They are focusing on four items: assessing student learning progress during the remote instruction, augmenting instruction to meet students where they are when the return to school, structural supports that will be needed in terms of school schedules and staffing, and lastly professional development to help teachers with technology and integration and new teacher orientation. The committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday.

Dr. Arakelian is chairing the Crisis Response Working Team. Their first goal is to create a climate of caring for staff to work with students during this traumatic time. They are gathering resources and creating a common language as they move forward. A Special Education update was provided noting that summer school will be held remotely as no restrictions have yet been lifted to ensure a safe environment. There may be a need to provide private settings for individualized instruction in special situations. Last week the State of NH McKinney-Vento conference was held remotely with over 60 homeless liaisons attending. Some items discussed included the McKinney-Vento law during Covid-19 and local challenges currently being faced. Work is continuing on the meal distribution program throughout the summer which includes staffing. Discussed daily structures put in place to work with students remotely.

She reported on a recent staff wellness survey. The majority reported being 'good to Ok' and not 'fair to poor'. They reported being hard on themselves and trying and do everything. The administration is continuing to assist with focus on self-care and have created remote wellness events for all staff.

Some questions raised and discussed from the board was the need for extra school counselors in the fall for students and staff and where the funding would come from, summer programming and the availability of it for all students.

Matt Ferreira reported that we received notification that the CARES Act will be providing \$370K SAU-wide. Hampton Falls can expect to receive approximately \$9,000 as the funding is based on the formula for Title 1. There may be FEMA funding available which is 75% reimbursement for costs associated with the pandemic. All funding is currently held up at the federal level right now.

Meetings have been held with town administrators with a focus on understanding challenges faced by towns in regard to revenue collections. We shared with them our financial outlook including steps we are taking to decrease costs. The town expects to have a better idea after July 1st which is the date for the next property tax collection.

The SAU is working with the principals to review budget assumptions for next school year.

Mr. Ferreira is chairing the Task Force Operations Group. Jason Farias is a member of this group. They are currently gathering estimates on costs across all five working groups.

He thanked the school board for approving the continuation of the food service program. Over \$10,000 have been raised through the Gofundme account to assist with the summer meals distribution. He reminded everyone that this is for all families to help to take the burden off of preparing meals while working from home, helping with students schooling, etc.

Principal Beth Raucci reported she is a member of the Crisis Response working group for the Task Force. She reported that within LAS there is a lot of team work, a lot of support, and a very strong support system. She reported that the staff realizes that everyone including staff, students and families are hitting their limits.

Kindergarten screening will occur online after June 4th. They are planning on end of year celebration to honor 8th graders. They want to make it as special as we can.

They are organizing a time for personal items left at school on March 13th to be returned. They will be retrieving Chromebooks and getting them ready for the fall. Nothing punitive will be in the report cards coming out. Staff has learned so much about how we educate. We will move forward in a much stronger way.

Some brief comments and questions from board members included Freshman orientation, possible plans to regroup students based on CDC and the Governors guidelines, devising a strategy for next worst case scenario and some new reports in the media of the susceptibility of children to Covid-19.

Discussion: B. **2019-2020 Board Goals** - no update provided.

7. New Business

Information: A. **Federal Grant General Assurances**

Matt Ferreira provided an explanation to the Board on the general assurances which is a yearly requirement of receiving certain grants.

Information: B. **NHDOE Federal Fiscal Monitoring**

It was reported that periodic auditing is done as part of receiving federal grants. A recommendation was received regarding the updating of policies. The Policy Committee will continue to review all policies. No further action is required of the Board.

Action, Information: C. **2020-21 Lunch Price Recommendations**

Motion to approve a lunch price of \$3.10 and a breakfast price of \$1.65 respectively for the 2020-21 school year.

Motion by Jill Swasey, second by Jason Farias.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Greg Marrow, Greg Parish, John Bailly, Jason Farias, Jill Swasey

Information: D. **Electronic Sign**

The administration recommended not to move forward with this due to the current pandemic. None of the bids received were for a two-sided sign. This would have doubled the cost.

8. Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-e)

Action: A. **Roll Call to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-e)**. Not held.

9. Resume Public Meeting

Action: A. **Resume Public Meeting after the Non-Public Session**. Not needed.

10. Next Meeting Date

Information: A. **Operations Committee Meeting - Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:30 p.m.**

Information: B. **SAU 21 Joint Board - Covid-19 Update - Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Information: C. **SAU 21 Joint Board Meeting - Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Information: D. **Hampton Falls School Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

11. Adjourn

Action: A. **Adjourn the Meeting**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Motion by Jill Swasey, second by John Bailly.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Greg Marrow, Greg Parish, John Bailly, Jason Farias, Jill Swasey