

North Hampton School Board - Regular Meeting (Thursday, May 14, 2020)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Monday, May 18, 2020

Approved by the Board - June 4, 2020

Members present

Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

Superintendent Bill Lupini, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Executive Director of Student Services Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira and NHS Principal Susan Snyder

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM**1. Call to Order****Procedural: A. Roll Call**

The meeting was opened by Chair Gregg Duffy at 6:33 p.m. by reading the following statement:

As Chair of the North Hampton 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 North Hampton 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: 993 3276 5461 and Password: 466600 or by clicking on the following website address: (listed on the agenda)

<https://zoom.us/j/99332765461?pwd=YWxoTHRFTVUyek5oVWJPbGcrdDc1QT09>

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. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **April 2, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approved the minutes from the April 2, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Erin Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

3. Correspondence / Commendations

Information, Procedural: A. **Correspondence / Commendations**

Susan Snyder recognized teacher teams for some great work. Two parent nights were successfully held via zoom. The Kindergarten team and a self-care night was held with teacher panelists. The student government collected Legos, sanitized them, and distributed to Kindergarten students. The 5th grade team held an online game night and played "Cahoot" which was well-received.

She noted that a goal for this year was to hold regular presentations at the board meetings highlighting student learning but that has been difficult to do in this remote environment. She acknowledged Becca Carlson for the staff wellness survey and Tracy Griffenhagen for the special education services and meetings being held remotely.

Board member Erin Stanton recognized Mr. Szleiga for going above and beyond in prepping the grade 8 students kids for entering Geometry in high school. He has been very supportive. She also recognized Mrs. Wiernicki for encouraging her students and also supporting the parents.

The teacher parade was also mentioned and appreciated was expressed.

4. Questions and Comments from those in Attendance

Procedural: A. **Public Comment**

No comments or questions were raised at this time. Chair Duffy noted that the board will take questions during the meeting.

5. Education Update

Information: A. **School Council**

Principal Snyder Susan reported that the vision statement was finalized and approved by staff and leadership council. "North Hampton School aspires to develop caring, kind and curious students by promoting these 21st century skills: communication, critical thinking and problem solving, empathy, integrity and responsibility, learners mindset and perseverance."

Leadership council membership and how membership is determined was discussed.

A Mission statement and guiding belief we briefly discussed. The acronym PRIDE for students incorporates: Perseverance, Responsibility, Integrity, Doing the right thing, Empathy.

6. Continuing Business

Information: A. 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. He also applauded the Principals in all the schools for their work on planning end of year events while the parameters keep changing on them with constraints from legal council, the governor, etc. He said they are really trying to honor the 8th grade students and seniors appropriately.

Dr. Hobbs reported that conversations have primarily been on end of year preparations. He is chairing the Return to Instruction Working Group. They held their first meeting earlier today. They are focused 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 question was asked if teachers understand that there is leeway in learning right now. Dr. Hobbs responded that unfortunately this is a forced reality right now and a fact of remote learning.

Dr. Arakelian reported on the Crisis Response working group that she is chairing. They are focused on mental health, self care, reporting protocols, and creating a climate of caring. We need to assume the best intentions in all scenarios. This has been and is a traumatic event for everyone and it is very challenging. North Hampton School Counselor Deb Vasconcellos is representing NHS on the team.

An SAU-wide wellness survey was sent out to all staff. Overall the responses were "Ok to good" for staff well-being but admit they are hard on themselves. There is a focus to maintain well care and social emotional support. Wellness Wednesdays have been implemented with staff hosting the events. One common theme heard was for no new initiatives. Staff are consumed with the remote learning being the new initiative.

Matt Ferreira reported on the CARES Act allocations. Approximately \$370K will be received across the SAU. The North Hampton portion is approximately \$14K. The formula is based on Title 1 allocations. We are also hopeful to receive FEMA funding.

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. We plan to meet again after this date as these partnerships and communications are important.

Mr. Ferreira is chairing the Operations Working Group. They are focusing on costs involved and quantifying the financial investment with each of the three scenarios.

The SAU administration is also meeting with Principals and reevaluating next year's budgets and prioritizing expenses.

He thanked the school board for their approval in continuing the meal program throughout the summer. The GoFundme has raised over \$10K to assist with any out-of-pocket expenses and thanked everyone for their support.

Principal Snyder reported the school Technology Committee has started on the new tech plan for 2020-2024, identifying goals and working groups. A plan is in the works for teachers to get back into the school to close up their classrooms, return personal property to families and also for families to return school property. Tentatively this will happen in small groups on June 8-9-10. The grade 8 graduation has been a priority and determining what will line up with public safety has been a significant part of it. They are working intently to make grade 8 graduation special and have some surprises lined up for the students.

7. New Business**Action, Discussion: A. Tree Harvesting Proposal**

Matt spoke regarding the harvesting. Glenn Martin, property owner abutting on two side of the school property, and Nate Corbran, Tree Harvester, were both present to address the Board on behalf of the process.

A lengthy discussion ensued addressing the access via neighboring property, the time frame as to when it will occur, harvesting was last done in 1998, should be done every 10 years, of the trees ready for harvest only 30% will be cut, and the revenues it is expected to generate for the school district.

Motion to approve the proposed timber harvesting by Sweets Logging and Land Clearing.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Gregg Duffy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

Abstain: Erin Stanton

Action, Information: B. 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 Erin Stanton, second by Thomas von Jess.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

Information: C. Federal Grant General Assurances

Matt Ferreira reported that these are required to be provided to the school board yearly as part of being a recipient of federal grants. They also required the Superintendent and Board Chair to sign.

8. Written Reports**Information: A. Finance Report**

Matt Ferreira reported on year-end fiscal projections. We anticipate ending the year with approximately \$200K in unreserved fund balance which will fully fund the Special Education Expendable Trust per the March election. This will leave approximately \$150K to be returned to the town to offset assessments.

9. Personnel

Information, Procedural: A. **Nominations** - to be discussed in non-public session.

Action, Information: B. **Resignation**

Motion to accept the resignation of Leah Crohn as Kindergarten teacher effective June 30, 2020.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Nermina Peterson.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

10. Policy

Procedural: A. **Policy** - None at this time.

11. Next Meeting Dates

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

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

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

Information: D. **North Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

12. Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-b)

Action, Procedural: A. **Roll call for Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3 II (b).**

Motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 8:06 p.m.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Erin Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

Discussion: B. **Nomination T. Barnes**

Discussion: C. **Nomination S. DeRosa**

13. Resume Public Meeting

Action, Procedural: A. **Resume the Public Meeting**

Motion to adjourn the non-public session and resume the public meeting 8:24 p.m.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Erin Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

Action: B. **Recommendation: Grade 1 Teacher**

Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of Tracy Barnes for the Grade 1 Teacher position for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Erin Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

Action: C. **Recommendation: Grade 3 Teacher**

Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of Shannon DeRosa for the Grade 3 Teacher position for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Erin Stanton, second by Martin Tavitian.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson

14. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting 8:26 p.m.

Motion by Thomas von Jess, second by Gregg Duffy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Erin Stanton, Gregg Duffy, Thomas von Jess, Martin Tavitian, Nermina Peterson