

North Hampton School District
School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
North Hampton School - Music Room
201 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton
www.sau21.org

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

Administration: Robert Sullivan, Ed.D; Superintendent, Matt Ferreira; Business Administrator, Richard Boardman; Principal, and Tracy Griffenhagen; Assistant Principal/Director of Special Services.

Documents presented during the meeting are available through the SAU21 Office

At 6:35 p.m., James Sununu called the School Board meeting to **order**.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Tamara Le moved to approve the November 17, 2016 Public Hearing, Public and Non-Public meeting minutes as written. Second: Cindy Burke. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Motion: Tamara Le moved to approve the December 2, 2016 Public Minutes as written. Second: Gregg Duffy. Motion passed 5-0-0.

3. Correspondence/Commendations

- ✚ Commendations to Brenda Tharp who was awarded the coaches award.
- ✚ Commendations and appreciation to Mary Oliver; Music Teacher, and students for a wonderful concert.

4. Questions/Comments from Those in Attendance

- ✚ Brad Johnston of 87 Atlantic Avenue expressed his disappointment for the decision to reduce the Spanish Staff, and expressed the importance of world languages.
- ✚ Lauren de Constant of 116 Atlantic Avenue expressed her appreciation to the teachers for all that they do for the North Hampton Community and discussed the many ways a great school is developed.
- ✚ Pat Yeaton SEA Building Representative and Physical Education teacher requested that the Board take a step back with thoughtfulness before these cuts are implemented.
- ✚ Allison Boudreau; Science Teacher requested that the Board take great care when making staff changing decisions.
- ✚ Steffie Stempien voiced support to a reliable and trusted school staff.
- ✚ Lynda Schmidt; librarian expressed the importance of teaching to the whole child, maintaining a healthy school culture, and valuing our students and staff.

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- + Stacy Whittier 15 Chapel Road spoke on how each member of the staff plays an intricate part of the school community. What will the new vision look like if school enrollment continues to decrease?
- + Chris Lacroix; Grade 6 Math teacher, resident, and new parent, expressed that he has heard of the good school reputation, and encouraged the Board to make good decisions for the staff and students.
- + Trish Johnston 87 Atlantic Avenue reviewed a timeline of discussion events relating to the staff decreases, and acknowledged that towards the end, these decisions happened very quickly to the staff.
- + Nate Hooper; K-8 Phys Education spoke of caring for our school students, but we also care about our families, our homes, and we can't live on half pay. He envisioned a constant turnover of part time positions for people who will only stay until they can get a full time job, and that the positions will just be a first job resume builder.
- + Mark McFarlane SEA Representative – Inquired if the final decision had been made on December 2 when the Board had met? The Board explained that the administration and school board had met for another personnel matter at that meeting. There were no unposted meetings held about the reconsideration.
- + Marsha Zavez; Art expressed a low feeling at the school, people looking out for themselves and questioning her value after 17 years.
- + Susan Haight; Art expressed support for the staff and the amazing school with its programs. The art program includes art integration that teaches learning and thinking, where math, and science is an integral part of the program.
- + Mara Derosier; School Nurse expressed her show of support to the teachers and inquired if more time would be available to come up with a more thoughtful plan.
- + Debra Vasconcellos; School Counselor spoke of knowing for years that the staff cuts were coming. Encouraged respect, courtesy, and being a caring school family. Spoke of how business creates severance packages when people are layed off.

School Board

This issue about the decline in enrollment has been brought up and discussed in great length at school board meetings. The planning for enrollment, classroom size discussions started about three years ago, and whatever happened we were willing to maintain the integrity of the student's education. We maintained true, thoughtful, collaboration. We want stem, steam, and other positive things for our students. We are appraised of and aware of everything that goes on and getting regular updates from Superintendent Sullivan and Administration.

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Administration determined where reductions could take place. These cuts are not made arbitrarily, these areas they felt the reductions were appropriate, were determined by the levels of the students in the building and areas of instruction.

We need to address that we had 450 students in 2010, 350 expected students in the 2017-2018 years, and 320 students expected for the following school year. There is always uncertainty with the timing of cuts and challenge. We understand the frustration, and will try to improve communication.

Staff, administration, and the school board will work together with what we have. We appreciate that there is an acknowledgement that cuts are needed. We will continue to move forward in the best way that we can.

Principal Boardman acknowledged the extremely talented and dedicated staff. This decision and process is difficult because there are relationships we all care for. I wouldn't bring any of these changes forward if I didn't have the faith and dedication to continue meeting these challenges even in the face of change. We will continue to support our students, help to support our staff to support our students, and to support our community as well.

Part of the process was based on classroom enrollments by grade level. The number of sections and teacher contact time, and the other aspects of the roles that the programs play, and then considered what will the impact be? Art and World Language were reduced while still maintaining the same level of teaching. The same course work for every level and child will be the same.

Continued discussions reiterating the process of how the staff reduction and changes were determined, and reinforced the school board decision. The Board inquired:

- How the staff cuts would be communicated and determined as we move forward with our decisions.
- The process of communications as well as questioning the middle school decisions for staffing, and a vision of future decisions there.
- Inquired about a list of activities showing where the arts intercept with the curriculum.

The Board agreed to move forward with the budget as presented with the belief that we can maintain the same level of services for our students. We value how much the staff does every day with our students. We will be transparent, thoughtful, and mindful as we move forward with the budget. We will support Principal Boardman, the staff, as we continue to be the best school that we can be, and abide by the CBA.

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The Board expressed to please feel that you can voice any concerns that you have. We are open to conversation at any time.

Motion: Thomas von Jess moved to approve 2017-2018 North Hampton Budget for \$8,584,152 with a .84% increase. Second Tamara Le. Motion passed 5-0-0.

5. Education Update

a. School Council

Principal Boardman discussed parent communications, and report cards.

6. Continuing Business

a. Board Goals

Thomas von Jess reviewed the goal #1 on-going discussions on gap analysis, broader assessments, and how teachers and parents can use this information. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2017.

b. Disc Golf Update




Nate Hooper; PreK-8 Phys. Ed/Athletic Director discussed and requested by written notification of his plan to install a disc golf course at NHS, and expressed that the town's Recreation Department has agreed to take on the costs of equipment repair. The Board reviewed the summary of costs and photos where the holes will be placed on the school grounds that were also presented

Motion: Tamara Le moved to approve the disc golf course plan to be installed on the NHS grounds. Second: Thomas von Jess. Motion passed 5-0-0.

7. New Business

8. Written Reports

a. Superintendent Sullivan provided a written report. Highlights included:

-  SAU #21 Schools are closed from December 26, 2016 until January 2, 2017.
-  Total SAU #21 enrollment is 2,512.
-  Severe weather can be found online on the SAU21 website

b. Assistant Superintendent Search Update Superintendent Sullivan provided a SAU#21 Timeline for District Visits and Schedule for District Visits/Meetings.

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c. Administration Report:

Principal Boardman and Tracy Griffenhagen provided a written report.

d. Financial Report

Matt Ferreira provided the FY16 expense report and discussed that a coding error has been resolved on the Food Salary Line.

e. BUDCOM

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2016.

f. Facilities

A brief discussion involved the plumbing/sewage issues in the second and eighth grade bathrooms which has been backing up. A “T” joint may need to be replaced with a “Y” joint. This may include some tearing up of the asphalt.

g. School Nutrition

Paula Field provided a written December, 2016 School Nutrition report.

h. Town CIP Committee

Reports are posted on the town website, and that CIP activity will not resume until next year.

I. Winnacunnet Update:

Principal McGowan Principal’s Report for the Winnacunnet School Board Meeting for November 16, 2016 is provided in the packet for the Board to peruse.

j. Other

There was a brief discussion about the Walnut Avenue bus route. The bus cannot fit or turn down the road.

Matt Ferreira informed that we are moving forward with alternate transportation for students at those bus stops.

Principal Boardman agreed to notify parents to let them know that we are working towards the solution.

9. Personnel

10. Policy

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11. Signing of the Manifests – The Board members present signed the manifest.

12. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items: Thursday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Gregg Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Second: Tamara Le.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Hastings

Recording Secretary

(Approved March 16, 2017)