

Approved by the Board - January 9, 2020

South Hampton School Board Meeting (Thursday, December 5, 2019)

Generated by Rebecca Frey on Thursday, December 5, 2019

Members present

Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

Administration Present: Dr. William Lupini, Superintendent; Walter Huston, Principal; Dave Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent; Caroline Arakelian, Executive Director of Student Services; Aline Donabedian, Director of Special Services, Matt Ferreira, Business Administrator

1. Call to Order

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Chairman Kime called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m.

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Presentation

Discussion, Information: A. Amesbury High School (Update)

Amesbury High School Principal Elizabeth McAndrews provided a report on the South Hampton Students performance at the High School. The freshman have assimilated well. Principal McAndrews reviewed the first quarter grades. Two of the 7 freshman, 3 of the 8 sophomores, 2 of the 7 juniors and 4 of the 6 seniors earned honors in th first report card. Overall the students are performing at a C level or better. Classes are not small like South Hampton, but no freshman class is over 20 students. That is helping with the transition.

Vice Chairman Gordon questioned if that class size was just for the freshman. Principal McAndrews responded that the maximum class size for most courses in all grades was 20-22 students. Principal McAndrews provided a further breakdown to show the freshman performance. Overall they were well-prepared academically coming to Amesbury. The current schedule is 4 blocks a day, but next year there will be a 6 block schedule. That will give students the opportunity to get into all the classes they want. Principal McAndrews provided the scores for the MCAS. The ELA and math were on the computer this year. For the ELA and math most of the students are meeting or exceeding expectations. The biology was not on the computer last year. Students were also mostly meeting or exceeding expectations for that as well.

Dr. Lupini clarified that all students from South Hampton met the requirements to pass. Principal McAndrews confirmed that was correct. Historically "needs improvement" has been a passing grade. Dr. Lupini questioned if there was an overall dip in scores and if it was because the tests were on the computer. Principal McAndrews confirmed there was a dip in scores across the state as a whole. The students took more time for the math component on the computer. Dr. Lupini questioned if the South Hampton students scores were similar to the whole school profile. Principal McAndrews confirmed they were similar. There were not a lot of failures across the board. Sixteen out of 28 students participated in fall athletics and 8 out of 28 for winter athletic participation. A lot of freshman came in and joined groups and sports. Making those connections help to them to assimilate. Dr. Lupini questioned what the overall school percentages were for participation. Principal McAndrews responded that 260 students out of 530 students participated in fall activities. Dr. Lupini noted that the co-curricular activities excluding athletics was low. Principal McAndrews confirmed that it was less than last spring. The current junior class is not as active. Typically, by the time students are juniors their priorities shift, and they start working for a car etc. Overall 35-40% of the student population participates in at least one extra-curricular activity.

Chairman Kime questioned if there were any holes in the curriculum. Principal McAndrews responded that they need to work with South Hampton to give 8th graders the opportunity to take placement tests. The social emotional component of moving from a small school environment to a large school environment is still the biggest challenge. If a student participates in sports or other activities, then they typically have a better transition.

Dr. Hobbs questioned if the placement test would allow them to skip algebra and go to geometry. Principal McAndrews confirmed that was correct. The 6 block schedule allows for more flexibility and choice. They have increased partnerships with Northern Essex Community College and SNHU to offer courses for college credit. Ms. Burdick questioned if the students had to take a placement test to get into the college classes. Principal McAndrews responded that they did.

Principal McAndrews noted that they had the freshman open house which included stations to make it more interactive. Parents could walk around and students were able to show them hands on stuff. They need to work on the pace for next year. Ms. Burdick confirmed that it was helpful.

3. Consideration of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. November 7, 2019 (Public Meeting Minutes)

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 public meeting.

Motion by Rebecca Burdick, second by Jim Kime.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

Abstain: Sharon Gordon

4. Reports

Reports: A. Superintendent Report

Dr. Lupini reviewed his report. The Suicide Prevention Education in schools will be a discussion point at the next legislative meeting. The requirements would be to develop a policy and provide training for teachers. The SAU has a model policy that will be on the agenda in January for the Policy Subcommittee. Dr. Lupini commented that the NHSBA will meet on January 25, 2019. It is important for one of the Board Members to go if possible. Their positions are set by who shows up to the meeting.

Information: B. Assistant Superintendent Report

Dr. Hobbs reviewed his report. Dr. Hobbs is continuing to work on debriefing from the November professional development day and gathering data for the math program review.

Information: C. Executive Director of Student Services Report

Ms. Arakelian reviewed her report. The SAU is working with families to communicate with their medical professionals directly to get reimbursement for services provided at schools.

Reports: D. Principal's Report

Principal Huston reviewed his report. The parent portal opening up this weekend and directions will be sent out. They are changing the thermostats in the building because the current ones are over 20 years old. This year they talked about putting in enhanced 911 technology. They are in process of getting more information on that.

Reports: E. Board Report

Nothing at this time.

Information: F. Finance Report

Mr. Ferreira noted that they have a deficit in the health insurance account because of staffing changes and election choices. Otherwise, everything else is pretty much on track.

Reports: G. Facilities Report

This was addressed in Principal Huston's report.

Reports: H. Board Goals

Nothing at this time.

Information: I. Other

Chairman Kime commented that they file notices in paper which costs \$50 and require a longer lead time. Chairman Kime questioned if there was a better way to notify people electronically. Dr. Lupini confirmed they could research it.

Ms. Burdick questioned if they could have people from the Winnacunnet School Board come and talk to parents and discuss the tuition. Dr. Lupini responded that they could. The SAU has done research and this is pretty common for communities when they have a choice in high schools. Barrington has 3 high school options. The default is Dover. They can also go to Oyster River or Coe Brown and parents pay the differential. The only difference with this situation is that the default school is out of state. If Winnacunnet charges less for South Hampton residents, then they have to justify to the other town voters why they are paying more. Ms. Burdick added that Winnacunnet has more offerings and that's why people have to pay more for that.

Chairman Kime commented that all they can do as a Board is try to lower the differential. Vice Chairman Gordon questioned where they could direct parents to do research on the schools. Dr. Lupini responded that both states have school profiles.

Vice Chairman Gordon questioned if there were more examples of schools that have multiple high school options throughout the state. Dr. Lupini confirmed that there was. They follow the model of one default school, and parents pay a differential for the other options. Mr. Ferreira added that an SAU is a school administration unit. It provides those services to multiple districts. Winnacunnet is a school district and South Hampton is not in that district. This is the only agreement where New Hampshire sends kids to a Massachusetts district. However, there are other agreements where New Hampshire sends kids to Vermont and Maine districts.

5. Questions and Comments from Those in Attendance**Procedural: A. Public Comment**

Stephanie Monnier Andruskevich noted that they were a family that wanted to have the option to send their kids to Winnacunnet High School without paying extra tuition. Chairman Kime commented that for 15-20 years they have not had school choice. That was established last year. They are working to try to lower the cost issue. Tuition is a large component of the school budget, and they don't have a lot of control over it. Discussions are continuing. Ms. Burdick added that it was a positive that they can even send students there. They are moving in the right direction.

6. New Business**Action, Discussion: A. School Calendar**

Dr. Lupini noted that Amesbury was not going to finalize their calendar until spring. This calendar lines up with the vacations and professional development days. They can amend later if needed.

Principal Huston questioned why there was two SAU days back to back. Dr. Lupini responded that one was for the local election and the other was the high school transition day.

Motion to adopt the proposed 2020-2021 school calendar.

Motion by Rebecca Burdick, second by Sharon Gordon.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

7. Continuing Business

Nothing at this time.

8. Personnel

Nothing at this time.

9. Policy**Action, Information: A. First Read**

Dr. Lupini commented that there was not motion needed. It was a first read.

10. Other**11. Next Meeting Dates:**

Information: A. South Hampton School Board Budget Review Meeting - Monday, December 9, 2019 at 8:00 A.M.

Information: B. South Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 4:30 P.M.

Information: C. SAU 21 Operations Committee Meeting - January 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Information: D. SAU 21 Joint Board Meeting - January 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3 (a-e)**Action, Discussion: A. Roll call for Non-Public session under RSA 91-A:3 (a)**

Motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 (a) at 5:57 p.m.

Motion by Rebecca Burdick, second by Jim Kime.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

The Board discussed SESP and personnel.

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

Motion to adjourn the non-public session and resume the public meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Motion by Jim Kime, second by Sharon Gordon.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

Action: B. SESP Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion to accept the SESP (Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association) Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented.

Motion by Jim Kime, second by Sharon Gordon.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

14. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. Adjourn the Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Motion by Jim Kime, second by Sharon Gordon.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime