

South Hampton School Board Meeting (Thursday, May 14, 2020)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Monday, May 18, 2020

*Approved by the Board - June 4, 2020***Members present**

Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

Superintendent Bill Lupini, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Executive Director of Student Services Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira, Barnard Principal Walter Huston and incoming Principal Michelle Witt.

Meeting called to order at 4:32 PM**1. Call to Order**Procedural: A. **Roll Call**

Chair Jim Kime opened the meeting at 4:32 p.m. by reading the following statement:

As Chair of the South 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 South 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: 960 6239 3627 and Password: 478934 or by clicking on the following website address: (listed on the agenda)

<https://zoom.us/j/96062393627?pwd=MHNhcXp3d0dxekg4cDRyLzhZT1JUQT09>

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. Consideration of Minutes

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

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

Motion by Sharon Gordon, second by Rebecca Burdick.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

3. Reports

Reports: A. **Finance Report**

Matt Ferreira reviewed the Finance Report. We are estimating \$30-35K in unexpended funds at year-end. Additionally, some small savings are being recognized due to remote instruction. Approximately \$10K will be returned to town due to generator fund dissolving per the vote at the March election. Two expendable trusts will be fully funded that were also approved at the election in March. All this leaves approximately \$25K to be returned to the town.

4. Questions and Comments from Those in Attendance

Procedural: A. **Public Comment** - no comments were received.

5. 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. We anticipate presenting the report by mid-June in order for each building to begin their reports to have more final plans by the end of June. State guidance is not expected until late June which is too late.

He addressed the difficult situation that Principals are in trying to plan end of year celebrations. We received more guidance today from the CDC which creates further difficulties. He wanted to recognize the principals for what they are doing under these extremely difficult circumstances.

Dr. Hobbs 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.

Dr. Arakelian is chairing the Crisis Response Working Group which is focused on staff readiness, staff self care and reporting

protocols for students and staff. Their goal is to create a climate of caring and ensure clear communication to assist and reduce anxiety. 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 was for no new initiatives. Staff are consumed with the remote learning as the new initiative. They requested non-work meetings in an attempt to help ease the burden. A wellness calendar has been created offering lots of activities and ways to get together online socially. Special Education is still waiting on guidance from the State for summer programming. It was promised by mid-May but has not yet been received.

Chair Kime reported that being on the Task Force Committee has allowed him to view the very comprehensive structures being put in place. He has a lot of confidence from seeing things from the inside and seeing people rise to the occasion. The concern now is about students that started out well with remote learning but are 'hitting a wall'.

Matt Ferreira reported that we are starting to get clarity on the CARES Act funding. \$370K is being received across the SAU as a whole. The funding is based on the Title 1 formula. SH does not receive any Title 1 = \$0 from Cares. FEMA funds will be available and applied for. Bill and Matt met with SH town officials with focus on challenges town will be facing with tax revenues and collections and to convey the SD cost savings being taken by the SD. Degree of uncertainty as to the actual fiscal impact.

Mr. Ferreira reported on the Operations working group that hhe is chairing for the Task Force. They are looking to quantify an estimated cost for each of the three scenarios as well as developing an action plan. Additional costs are anticipated. They are working closely with Technology group chaired by Jason Saltmarsh and the Post Secondary group chaired by Donna Couture. The SAU is also working closely with each district Principal to re-asses the budgets for next year. Items being reviewed are enrollments, curriculum, etc. in order to prioritize potential savings. Additionally, he thanked School Board and everyone involved that have cooperatively worked to provide free meals to families and students.

A discussion was held on the various options available for any leftover money from the grade 8 class including what amount would require Board approval.

More discussion was held on the SAU-wide staff wellness survey with particular attention to South Hampton staff.

Dr. Huston noted that there are four main items happening that have been the primary focus. Staff members have been doing an incredible job putting together 'Washington DC in a Box' for Grade 8 students. A Virtual Art Show is being planned. The Grade 8 celebration plans are in the works with banners hung up in the Town Common. And a 'Return 2020' on June 4th for personal items to be retrieved and school items to be returned.

Ms. Witt reported to the board on her transition to Barnard School as Principal. She has been meeting with Dr. Huston weekly, attending Principal's meetings, and will be meeting with each staff member throughout the month of May.

6. New Business

Information: A. **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. The Superintendent and Board Chair to required to sign.

7. Personnel

Action, Information: A. **Resignation D. Rooney**

Motion to reluctantly accept the resignation of Dani Rooney as the School Counselor.

Motion by Sharon Gordon, second by Rebecca Burdick.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

8. 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. **South Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

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

Action: A. **Roll call for Non-Public session under RSA 91-A:3 (a-e)**. Not needed.

10. Resume Public Meeting

Action, Procedural: A. **Resume Public Meeting after Non-Public**. Not needed.

11. Adjourn

Action, Procedural: A. **Adjourn the Meeting**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Motion by Sharon Gordon, second by Rebecca Burdick.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime