

South Hampton School Board Meeting (Thursday, June 4, 2020)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Thursday, 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 and incoming Principal Michelle Witt.

Absent: Principal Walter Huston

Meeting called to order at 4:38 PM

1. Call to Order

Procedural: A. Roll Call

Chairman Jim Kime opened the meeting at 4:39 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. 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
The roll call was taken.

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Consideration of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **May 14, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 14, 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 YTD reports included. No significant variances from last month.

Approximately \$60K at this current fiscal yearend less the funding of the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust leaves approximately \$25K to be returned to the town.

A brief discussion was held on summer projects learning that no capital projects are planned. A plan is being developed for the repair of the gym roof as a potential warrant article. ARM will be contacted to perform an evaluation of the roof, create specifications, and manage the process. Approximately \$5-6K for ARM's consulting fee. The Roof Expendable Trust could be used for this expense. The board was in agreement that the roof repair project should move forward.

4. Questions and Comments from Those in Attendance

Information, Procedural: A. **Public Comment**

A letter was received from South Hampton resident Pete Di Stefano and requested to be part of public record. It was noted that Dr. Lupini and Matt Ferreira have already responded to Mr. Di Stefano's questions. (The contents of the letter can be found at the end of the minutes.)

5. Continuing Business

Information: A. **Update on COVID-19 relative to School Closure**

Bill reported the Task Force and Working Groups are continuing.

A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 15th to update the Joint Board on the Task Force findings. Briefings for Staff and the Community are tentatively scheduled for June 16th. We will not have any final answers but plan to address questions and provide recommendations as to what we know at that time. Original planning was for 3 different scenarios. We have determined that there are certain items that are not scenario dependent. We need to ensure there is a robust technology infrastructure in all schools with equal upload and download speeds. We need to plan on the possibility of remote instruction. We need a better schedule with real measurements of grading and reporting, minimum expectations for asynchronous learning and teacher planning time. We need to take another look at the calendar to build more professional development time at the beginning of the school year for teachers to better prepare.

We are also taking the same approach with South Hampton - Amesbury High School graduates that we are doing for Winnacunnet graduates with respect to the Post Secondary Group and the supports we will provide to the students as they move on from high school.

6. New Business

Information: A. **2021 Deliberative Session Date** - Matt Ferreira reviewed the dates.

Information: B. **2021-22 Budget Development Timeline**

A plan has been developed to deliver the budget to the school board by November 23rd and then to the South Hampton Town Budget Committee by December 16th.

Information: C. **2020-2021 DRAFT Meeting Calendar** - The meeting calendar was reviewed for the upcoming school year. The South Hampton Board meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. It was noted that Joint Board updates will be scheduled as necessary throughout the summer.

7. Personnel

Action: A. Summer Hiring

Motion to authorize the Superintendent to hire staff with contracts during June, July and August and to bring the names of the new hires to the August and/or September board meeting for ratification.

Motion by Rebecca Burdick, second by Sharon Gordon.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

8. Next Meeting Dates:

Information: A. **Joint Board Meeting and Update - Monday, June 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Information: B. **Joint Board Policy Committee Meeting - Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

Information: C. **South Hampton School Board Meeting - Thursday, August 6, 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**

The Board acknowledged the Grade 8 Graduation that was held online on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Many thanks were expressed to everyone involved. Positive comments were received from parents and the community for the event as well as the numerous other activities that occurred for the students. It was amazing to see the community come together to honor the students during the pandemic. A brief discussion was held on the 8th grade gift to the school.

The board expressed their thanks to Dr. Huston and wished him the best moving forward with his endeavors.

Ms. Michelle Witt was welcomed as the new principal and will begin on July 1, 2020.

The board again expressed how very proud they are of the school, and everything done by parents, staff, and the community for the graduating students.

Motion to adjourn the meeting 5:18 p.m.

Motion by Sharon Gordon, second by Rebecca Burdick.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Sharon Gordon, Rebecca Burdick, Jim Kime

Public Comment Received:

May 7, 2020

South Hampton School Board and SAU 21,

I hope that you are all safe and doing well. I would like to start by apologizing for being unable to join meetings via video Zoom or by telephone. There seem to be technical issues that are making this impossible. I want to thank SAU 21, and specifically Rhonda Evans, for doing an amazing job of district wide communication during this pandemic. Superintendent Lupini, I know you already know this, but you have assembled quite a team. I have been impressed by Doctors Hobbs and Arakelian. My daughter will be fortunate to be under their leadership. Bill, you have demonstrated exemplary leadership during this time of uncertainty. Matt, thank you for organizing the GoFund Me page. No child should ever have to go hungry. I have a few bullet points and a question: Amesbury, MA School Board passed their FY 20-21 School budget that included a \$500 per South Hampton High School student increase. Approximately \$15,000.00 school budget increase. The 70 Methuen and Haverhill, Ma school choice students will be covering their \$400,000 special needs budget shortfall. School Committee and Finance Chair, Mel Webster, has floated the idea of moving financial resources from the high school to K-8 in Amesbury. Amesbury, MA is experiencing student attrition issues. The Amesbury Middle Class of 19 was 25 students out of district, while this year's 2020 middle school graduating class is an additional 40 students. So potentially the South Hampton tax payers will be investing more money for less high school services. Lastly, my question is: Principle McGowan will be on the SAU 21 update this Saturday. Will Principle Elizabeth McAndrews be joining him? Thank you Principals Huston and Witt for last week's participation. Stay Well, and thank you for your service. Sincerely, Pete Di Stefano 19 Woodman Road South Hampton NH 03827-3606 (M) 8475331750