

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hudson School Board Meeting
January 29, 2008
Accepted Minutes

Present: Mr. David Alukonis, Chairman
Mr. Lars Christiansen
Mr. Richard Nolan
Mr. Gary Rodgers
Mrs. Brenda Levesque
Mr. Randy Bell, Superintendent
Ms. Mary Ellen Ormond, Asst. Superintendent for curriculum
Mr. Normand Sanborn, Business Administrator
Dr. Irene Sousa, Director of Special Services
Ms. Laura Gould, Student Rep.

A. **Call to Order:** Mr. David Alukonis, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm.

B. **Presentations to the Board**

Boston University, Project Management Program

Gina Westcott and Faisal Usta addressed the Board regarding the project management program. This is an ongoing project since March 2007; Ms. Ormond has met with 3 organizations regarding management training. BU would set a program tailor made for the district. This would give us skills to manage daily projects as well as long term projects. The district has been meeting for several months to work out training details, and to develop a partnership with BU. This is a unique opportunity and will be a benefit to the district. BU's goal is to transfer skills of project management on an actual upcoming project. This will be a great opportunity to practice learned skills but still have BU to back us with needed insight. The Board felt this was very important and would have a positive impact on the district; it would bring everyone together and increase morale and job satisfaction.

BU would also provide a recurring role in years to come -- help monitor, measure and return on our investment, a partner with recommendations and support on project management. This would expand communication from the district through the community – a great benefit.

Brief recess 7:58-8:00

Richard Lutz and John Conrad; Career & Technical Center

John Conrad from Buildings Trade addressed the Board regarding an organization he would like to be associated with. No Place like Home is affiliated with the Grace Community Church. They build houses for the homeless; they have already built homes for Katrina victims as well as a home for a family in Goffstown, NH.

Mr. Conrad would like the district to take on this house building project with all of his classes. The organization raises all the funds needed to build the homes and accepts donations from businesses. Currently the organization has raised \$15,000 for the project and the homeowners put in \$15,000 towards the home. They have a house design as well as a floor plan already and are checking on sources for materials. Could start framing very soon, all finish work will be done on-site. It is possible that the students could travel down with the house through the organization (not through school). The National Guard will transfer the house as a maneuver. No Place Like Home takes on all liability and inspections. Mr. Conrad hopes to start working on the home soon and have it complete by June, and could start another project (locally) next fall. The Board requested to have a company spokesperson come to the Board to answer questions regarding liability. The Board was all in agreement to move forward with this project.

Mr. Lutz spoke at a Chamber Meeting recently. Program review done on the Tech Center and spoke about recommendations.

What is the direction that the Tech Center should go in, review programs – start, end, modify. Effectiveness of all programs, enrollment in classes – trends. Skill of students, Alumni – secondary enrollment and employment. Set up internships. Currently our students have 46 choices between Hudson, Milford and Nashua, Hudson has 18 programs. All programs must connect with academic classes example: math used in both. The chamber is willing to take on students after school and get school credit (but no pay) for 30 hours. After the 30 training hours student must get paid.

There is a career show on Thursday, January 31 from 12:30 to 2:00.

Trying to create farm/marketing – students will create an analysis for a business report, job shadow and apprentice. Would also like to have a garden stand this summer as well as a 4H fair.

May 16 is Career day at AHS all 5th graders will attend (formerly held at Nottingham West).

Paul Interbitzen, District Moderator addressed the Board. The district meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 9 am. He requested warrant speaker assignments be e-mailed to him prior. ROTC will do the colors. This should be a quick meeting. Mr. Bell stated he would have prepared information regarding public kindergarten if questions arise.

Brief Recess 7:20-7:29

C. Public Input

There was no public input.

D. Requests of the Board

DECA Field Trip Request

NH State DECA Competition. This overnight trip is scheduled for March 5-7; students will miss 2 days of school. The event will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Nashua. Some events are held late in the evening easier if the students stay on site.

Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the over night trip request to attend the DECA competition to be held March 5-7. Students will miss two days of school, second by Mr. Christiansen. Motion passes 5-0.

E. Reports to the Board

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bell addressed the Board. NECAP test results have been released. There has been substantial movement from Level 1 to Level 2 and from Level 3 to Level 4. Next week's Board meeting limit to Deliberative preparation and negotiations and "items in the fire".

Mr. Bell and Ms. Ormond will attend the Curriculum Assessment conference on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Mr. Bell asked the Board for their support on Project Management Training.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ormond addressed the Board regarding NECAP test results. Student achievement is part of the district strategic plan, have created student achievement committee; building administrators have been working hard. Have tried to interpret test results and decide where we need to go, want to add a district assessment test. Some interventions are beginning to work and are moving us toward student achievement goal. Writing scores have improved dramatically, higher than the rest of the state at the elementary level.

These results are the third data point with NECAP testing. High School test results will be released later February.

Mr. Rodgers addressed the Board regarding the purchase of AED (defibrillators). It has been proposed to purchase 8 units at \$856.00 per unit (cabinet included) total cost approximately \$9,000. The Fire Department will train people to use the unit (3 per school); they will also offer a review of CPR to those who need recertification. This is a Facility item and will come out of that item line.

F. Committee Reports

There will be no Policy Committee meeting this week.

G. Correspondence

Letter to Environment and Agriculture Committee

Information, no response as of yet. This bill states animals must be able to turn around in the stalls.

Letter from Local Government Center

NH Retirement System

This letter has been sent to the town as well. Hope to work on this cooperatively.

Zone A Conceptual Plan from Team Design

Conceptual plan, feasibility shows it is possible to build a 500 student school on the Zone A property.

Irons in the Fire List

Information, will take this up at the next meeting.

H. Recommended Action

1. Business Affairs - Minutes - Recommended Action:
Draft minutes – January 7, 2008
Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the draft minutes of January 7 as presented, second by Mr. Christiansen. Motion passes 5-0.
2. Manifests - Recommended Action:
Manifests are available to be signed.
3. Financial Report (for information only)
Mr. Sanborn addressed the Board. Have been conservative on investments. Transfers are being done in a timely manner.
Anticipated Fund Balance: \$425,168, \$200,000 in reserve.

I. Old Business

Preparation for Deliberative Session – Deferred to next meeting (2/4/08)

World History Course Proposal

Ms. Ormond addressed the Board. This is a sound proposal, regardless of the student's choices core requirements won't change. This will provide students with choices and students usually do better.

Mr. Nolan moved to approve the World History course changes as proposed, second by Mr. Rodgers. Motion passes 5-0.

Plan for Presentation of Alvirne Master Plan

Several options have been presented the Board has narrowed it down to 2 options. Now they must present these options to the people, pick a couple or all.

Some examples are:

Including it in the Annual Report, posting it on the web-site, develop a video; develop a presentation package, cable TV, Community TV.

Consensus to move forward with this.

Contract with Boston University

Mr. Nolan moved to enter into a contract with Boston University Corporate Education Center for Project Management Training, and waive the bid and purchase process, for the 2007-2008 school year at a cost of \$25,000, second by Mr. Rodgers. Motion passes 5-0.

J. New Business

Meeting Schedule for Staff Nominations

Tentative schedule:

February 10 – tenure teachers

March 10 – process of tenure teachers

March 17 – first year teachers

Final formalization by the first week in April.

The Board will set a definite schedule at next weeks meeting.

2008-2009 School Calendar

Mr. Bell addressed the Board. This calendar follows the district policy; vacations have been verified with area schools, may be some differences regarding Christmas vacation. Mr. Bell has presented this calendar to administration as well as the union.

Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the 08-09 school year calendar as presented, second by Mr. Nolan. Motion passes 5-0.

Declaratory Judgment on Kindergarten

The Board has already sent a position paper to the state, stating the district will not start kindergarten in the fall. The district's legal counsel will review this as well.

Every one has been working on this, will have written information for meeting next week. Will have opinions and conclusions for the district. All information will be passed along to the Board.

Parent Advisory Committee

Ms. Ormond addressed the Board. This will be a partnership between the district and parents. Also feel PTO reps could be part as well as teachers and administrators. Discussed the need for structure with this committee.

The Board was in favor of this, will come back to the Board.

K. Board Member Comments:

Ms. Gould: Thanks for having Jazz band perform at the Lions event. Announced that she has been accepted at UNH, University of Vermont as well as Northeastern with scholarships as well.

Mr. Rodgers: Jazz Band performed at Lions event, great job.

Mr. Christiansen: No comments

Mr. Nolan: Was also at the event, Ms. Gould was elected VP (Installation of Officers).

Mr. Alukonis: Town Deliberative session this Saturday, District the following week (Feb. 9), there is ten elected positions open for the district. Next week Workshop meeting at the SAU.

L. Non-Public Session:

Mr. Nolan moved to enter Non-Public Session at 9:05pm under RSA91-A: 3I (A) (C) second by Mr. Rodgers.

Chairman called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Christiansen- yes, Mr. Nolan-yes, Mrs. Levesque-yes, Mr. Rodgers-yes

Mr. Alukonis-no.

Motion passes 4-1.

No actions were taken by the Board

Mr. Nolan moved, second by Mr. Rodgers to exit Non-Public Session.

Mr. Christiansen- yes, Mrs. Levesque-yes, Mr. Nolan-yes, Mr. Rodgers-yes

Mr. Alukonis-yes.

M. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Murray