

# HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 2, 2014

Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Media Center

### In attendance:

#### Board Members-

Rich Pelletier, Chair  
Steven Hahn, Vice Chair  
Paul Plater  
Nancy Egner-Denu  
Virginia Leiby (Ginks)

#### Administration-

Robert Hassett, Superintendent  
Patricia Parenteau, Assistant Superintendent  
Jean Mogan, Business Manager  
Lisa Witte, Director of C, I, A  
Mark Campbell, Elementary School Principal  
Jim O'Rourke, High School Principal  
Jennifer Crawford, HS Associate Principal  
Carol Fogarty, Administrative Assistant

Community members

#### A. Call to Order

Chair Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

#### B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pelletier led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection.

Chair Pelletier welcomed everyone to the meeting, made the announcement that the meeting was being recorded and may appear on the internet.

Chair Pelletier introduced the Board to the voice amplifiers and opened the discussion. Steve thinks they would only be needed on occasion. Rich asked what would determine when they would be needed. Ginks does not want to use them. Paul is good either way. The Board decided to try them tonight.

#### C. Recognitions

Rich relayed information he heard on a "Top High Schools of the State" broadcast. Out of 88 high schools in the state HD is 41. The criteria included student to teacher ratio, AP offerings, testing scores.

#### D. Correspondence

Paul shared with the Board information on the Couch to 5k program which starts next week at Grimes field.

#### E. Presentations

1. Common Core State Standards: Myths and Facts-Lisa Witte

Lisa Witte explained some facts about the Common Core; she began with a math example. Common Core stresses that the answer is important, as well as the method and process of getting to the answer. Common Core does not dictate curriculum or assignments. It provides the standards. Steve commented on the multidisciplinary things being covered when a student is asked to write about why they did a problem the way that they did.

Lisa also spoke about the exemplar texts that offer different types of writing. The adoption of an exemplar is a curriculum choice. Assessments for the Common Core are a concern for many. Cursive is taught in the third grade at this time. Ginks said there are a lot of reasons to teach printing and cursive. Ginks also thinks there needs to be more concentration on history, not social studies.

Ginks asked where the standards that were in place prior to the Common Core are. How do we ensure that our students are getting the best of everything?

Steve said teachers have to think a little more about what they are doing and why they are doing it. The Common Core came from the National Governor's Association. The standards are not funded with federal money. The governors' felt there was too much variation between states.

The Board thanked Lisa.

#### **F. Public Comment**

John Segedy wanted to make sure that the Board understood that 41<sup>st</sup> out of 88 was not an improvement; different criteria was used. Approving the bus routes was not listed under action items. The bus routes seem to be created to need 8 buses. Route 68 goes out to Bog road and then goes to the other side of town; that's just stupid. Bog road is later handled by 77. The way that these are designed is the problem.

Rich asked John to forward his bus route recommendations to Jean.

Changing the Ed speak is what is confusing parents. It is the administrations fault that cursive is only taught in the third grade.

#### **G. School Board Response to Public Comment**

Steve talked about ranking. To try to rank schools is an exercise in futility. NEASC looks at what the school is trying to do without comparing it to other schools.

Steve also feels that getting involved in when cursive is taught is too much like micromanaging. Rich said that being 41<sup>st</sup> is still better than being less than that. Paul does not know what the criteria was for that ranking. We need to know what criteria was used. Superintendent Hassett will forward the article to Paul. He also said that the number John was referring to was a different ranking. It depends on the criteria and who is interpreting the information.

#### **H. Board Discussion Items**

##### **1. School Board Mission Statement**

Steve provided this suggestion: *The mission of the Hillsboro-Deering School Board is to articulate and develop the educational goals of the community and to allocate community*

*resources effectively and responsibly. It strives to create with educational professionals a dynamic learning environment in which all students are inspired to realize their individual potential, learn critical academic skills, develop intellectual curiosity and moral courage, and prepare to be active citizens.*

Discussion ensued.

2. Reminder-HS Alt Program Discussion next meeting including a visit to the current modular.

This will be discussed in anticipation of approving a warrant article. It will cost about \$500k to purchase the buildings and equip them. This will save the district money over time, but needs an initial investment. Paul said that with enrollment down, the alt students should be able to fit in the emptied space.

3. Bus routes are reviewed, not approved as is stated in the policy.

#### **I. Superintendents Report**

1. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations  
Amended: Sara Paquette should read Lead Mentor with a \$750 stipend.
2. First Day of School  
Smooth start, but there was a glitch with technology. This will be addressed with a connect-ed notice to parents. We would like to have a tech audit done.
  - a. Enrollment numbers
    - i. Provided in packet. The needs of the individual kids in the preschool program are greater than last year, and the preschool is overflowing.
3. DOE-25 Financial Report for 13-14FY-Jean Mogan  
Average cost per student went down. HD picked up 9 students and tremendous budget savings. This is what sets the tuition rate, which is the revenue source. Jean offered a walk-through of this report anytime. Paul noted that the school board will be signing this without any audits of this report and without last year's audit.
4. Bus Routes-Jean Mogan  
Jean said Bus 68 is the only four wheel drive bus and does go out to the most remote locations. It is not an efficient run, but is able to get to the most remote locations. We are paying for 8 buses, but actually using 10. The routes are planned on the possibility of picking up students. The buses may not be as full as they could be, but some students may be driven in, yet they still have to be planned for. Rich asked about the students who come in on a Washington bus. If Washington does not have school the high school students including Hillsboro students are given an excused absence if they do not make it in.

#### **J. Minutes-August 25, 2014**

Motion to approve the minutes made by Ginks, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0.

**K. Public Comment**

**L. School Board Representative's Response to Public Comment**

**M. Action Items**

1. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations as modified (see addendum)  
Motion to approve made by Steve, seconded by Nancy. Motion approved 5-0.
2. DOE-24 Financial Report for 13-14FY  
Motion to approve made by Steve, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0.
3. Motion to approve the mission statement as printed made by Steve, seconded by Nancy. Superintendent Hassett asked to add "all" in front of students in the second sentence. Steve made this amendment, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0.  
Approved as amended 5-0.
4. Paul would like to motion to approve the bus routes, seconded by Ginks. Approved 3-0-2; Steve and Rich abstained.

Reminder there is a SAU meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Windsor Town Hall and the next Board meeting will be at the high school.

Paul attended a session at the NHSBA and was told that it was not necessary to come out and go back into non-public sessions when addressing different issues. The different purposes need to be stated beforehand.

**N. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Steve, seconded by Ginks and approved 5-0.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelly Gardner, Board Secretary*

Addendum

To: Members, Hillsboro-Deering School Board

From: Mr. Robert A. Hassett, Superintendent of Schools

Date: September 2, 2014

Re: Appointments, Leaves and Resignations – Teachers & Administrators

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The following resignations, leaves, and appointments of teachers have occurred since the August 25, 2014 School Board meeting:

RESIGNATIONS: None

LEAVES: None

TRANSFERS: None

APPOINTMENTS:

Jaclyn Quesnel – HDES School Psychologist, salary \$42,000, 190 days, effective 8/27/14, Alt 4 certification process for School Psychologist

Veronica Brunda – HDES Long-Term Substitute Nurse, \$173.81/day, effective 10/20/14 – approx. 1/16/15

Mentors – stipend \$500, effective 14-15 school year

HDES

Jessica Rowe

Betsy Buck

Jill Cover

HDMS

Carol Drake

Monique Amitrano

Melissa Robbins

Melissa Moultroup

HDHS

Jessamyn Irwin

Michael Boucher

Natalie Gehrig

Kelly Williams

Sara Paquette (Lead Mentor \$750 stipend)

Steve Cousens