

**Hinsdale School Board Meeting
Hinsdale School District
SAU Conference Room
Via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84536081100?pwd=TFBEb3BzOWo4SmhTdDZhY1diRTBmZz09>

**February 10, 2021
6:15 PM**

Board Members Present: Sean Leary, Kaylah Hemlow, and Julia Kilelee

Holly Kennedy remote attendee from her residence due to pandemic and increase COVID 19 cases in the school community. She was not accompanied by anyone else at the time of the meeting.

James O'Malley remote attendee from his residence due to conflict with work. He was not accompanied by anyone else at the time of the meeting.

Administration Present: Ann Freitag, Principal; Joseph Boggio, Principal

Administration attending remotely: Wayne Woolridge, Superintendent; Tom O'Connor, Business Administrator; Deborah Child-Trabucco, Director of Technology; Catlin McLaughlin, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Patricia Wallace, SPED Coordinator HES; Karen Thompson, K-12 Director of Personalized Learning.

S. Leary called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM

S. Leary reviewed the guidelines for holding the zoom meeting.

Minutes

J. O'Malley – MOVED to approve the public and non-public minutes of January 27, 2021, and the public minutes of February 3, 2021, K. Hemlow SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0-0 MOTION passes.

New Business

Discussion of School District Meeting:

S. Leary updated the Board with the following information regarding the School District meeting.

The Board had a joint meeting with the Hinsdale Board of Selectmen and determined that School District meeting and Town meeting will be held on May 1, 2021, at 9:00 am, more information is pending.

COVID-19 Discussion:

S. Leary MOVED to go into non-public session according to RSA 91 -A:3 II (a) (b) (c) at 6:19 pm; K. Hemlow SECONDED. Roll Call -S. Leary– yes, H. Kennedy- yes, K. Hemlow - yes, J. O’Malley-yes, and J. Kilelee- yes. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

Remote Board members conference through their phones.

Out of non-public session at 6:44 PM.

W. Woolridge started COVID- 19 discussion by requesting Principals to share their experience, assessment, and how buildings are functioning.

J. Boggio shared with the Board at HES; 7 students presented COVID- 19 symptoms and have been asked to get tested or stay home for 10 days. Staffing is an ongoing challenge. On 2/10- 8 positions needed filling with only 5 people to replace, leaving 3 positions gap. Case managers were utilized to fill the positions.

During the break, additional furniture will be moved from the classrooms to accommodate physical distancing.

Onsite temperature screening is functioning as planned.

A. Freitag shared with the Board at HMHS; currently, 3 students have been asked to get tested or stay home for ten days. Staffing is a challenge. Currently there are five and half teachers teaching remotely which requires additional staffing, coverage is in place and is working out with everyone pitching in and helping out. Parents are really happy and appreciative of the ongoing communication from the district.

Board discussed the “COVID 19 Transmission and impact on local schools” article provided by the school nurses.

K. Hemlow reviewed the following key points mentioned in the article:

- * Recent studies showing that K-12 schools are at low risk for spreading COVID- 19
- * NH DPHS recommends schools minimize out-of-school learning to the extent possible and maximize in-person learning as resources and staffing allow.
- * Because schools provide a structured environment that supports adherence to community mitigation measures, even amid high levels of community transmission, schools have been able to operate safely with minimal risk to other students, staff, and surrounding communities. CDC recommends that K-12 schools be the last settings to close after all other mitigation measures have been employed and the first to reopen when they can do so safely.

K. Hemlow shared with the Board, at the time the plan was implemented one positive case seemed like a lot, and the entire district going to remote learning made sense. Now we have more experience with contact tracing and, have better safety protocols in place. She feels the district

plan at this point is dated and suggested modification to reflect the kind of world we currently live in.

S. Leary reviewed the discussion held regarding the trigger number during the October Board meeting that H. Kennedy provided. S. Leary pointed out during that meeting the Board reviewed trigger numbers at the state level, county level, and local level. At that time, a discussion was held regarding possibly going to remote learning if the local trigger number exceeded 12-15. According to the police chief's report, the highest number we have witnessed so far is 17, which was during the Christmas holidays. S. Leary mentioned, if we had followed the trigger number strategy, we would have gone remote maybe once. S. Leary mentioned he is open to updating/amending the current plan. S. Leary pointed out if the plan is updated, the new plan should be modified in detail with input/ discussion from staff and union members.

H. Kennedy shared her input and mentioned she is in favor of modifying the plan to be a data-driven approach. H. Kennedy suggested strictly following contract tracing guidelines and proactively posting updated/detailed information on the school website for parents and the community.

J. O'Malley shared controlling the population at HES is easier than HMHS. He suggested in the event of a positive case we should consider closing the grade level instead of the entire school at HES level.

J. Killee shared her input and agreed with K. Hemlow concerning the time the original plan was approved we were not anticipating facing this situation in February and March and agrees it is certainly time to make changes.

W. Woolridge discussed his input and that he would appoint a task force and bring recommendations and suggestions for the Board to the next Board meeting.

A discussion was held regarding implementing the interim plan until a new plan is finalized.

After discussion following motion was made:

K. Hemlow – MOVED to approve in the event of positive COVID-19 case, district to go remote by building only the school affected would be closed until the Board is presented with an updated plan. SECONDED J. O'Malley. VOTE: 5-0-0 MOTION PASSED.

The suggestion was made to send a communication to parents to inform them of the change and remind them of quarantine expectations if traveling out of state.

Final Reading of Policy JICC, JLCD, JLCD-F1, JLCD-F2, JLCD-F3, JLCD-R:

After review, the following motion was made:

J. O'Malley – MOVED to accept Final Reading of Policy JICC, JLCD, JLCD-F1, JLCD-F2, JLCD-F3, JLCD-R. SECONDED J. Killee VOTE: 5-0-0 MOTION PASSED.

First Reading of Policy EBBB, JLCH, JLCI:

After discussion following motion was made:

**J. O'Malley – MOVED to accept First Reading of Policy EBBB, JLCH, JLCI. SECONDED
K. Hemlow VOTE: 5-0-0 MOTION PASSED.**

Other Business:

S. Leary acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Hinsdale Federation of Teachers Union making the Board aware that the opinions expressed during citizen's comment sections of the last Board meeting are not opinions of membership.

Further discussion to be followed during non-public sessions.

Financial Report: T. O'Connor reviewed his report with the Board. The question was asked regarding the impact on banking operations due to the closure of the TD branch in Winchester. T. O'Connor explained it would have a minimum or no impact as the district primarily uses the Brattleboro TD location to conduct its banking business.

Curriculum Report: C. McLaughlin reviewed her report and article on the Apprenticeship Model with the Board. Board members provided input and feedback. C. McLaughlin suggested scheduling a work session meeting in March to review Strategic Plan. Due to the nature of the document and comprehensive details Board agreed with the suggestion.

Technology Report: D. Trabucco reviewed her report with the Board and shared the long wait is over, District received 110 laptops that were ordered last summer. The IT department will work on getting them set up and hopes to have them ready for students after winter vacation. Board was very excited to hear the news.

Principal's Report:

HMHS: A. Freitag reviewed her report with the Board. A. Freitag also informed the Board Suicide Prevention Training Link was provided to staff and is required to complete that by April 1.

A discussion was held regarding the recent School Emergency Operation Plan review. S. Leary mentioned the importance of staying in communication and keeping the line of command open with emergency management, as well as other stakeholders who are part of making our school safer.

HES: J. Boggio reviewed his report with the Board.

Superintendent's Report: W. Woolridge reviewed his report with the board.

S. Leary requested K. Thompson to update Board on the recent STEM grant Hinsdale School is expected to receive.

K. Thompson explained that the \$250,000 “Out of School Time Career Pathways Program” STEM grant she had written months ago was approved. A total of 16 schools nationally and only four schools in NH are scheduled to receive this grant. K. Thompson mentioned that the Hinsdale District is one of them and that is very impressive. The Hinsdale District will receive \$50,000/ year totaling \$250,000 award over five years. K. Thompson explained this grant will assist students in attaining credentialing and high-tech manufacturing in STEM-related fields. This grant will allow our students in grade K-12 to gain skills and knowledge toward an industry-recognized credential. K. Thompson explained, for younger grades, it may include a monthly career theme, where someone who works in a STEM field talks to students and provides some interactive activities. For older students, the program will focus on hands-on experiences, like working with local STEM-focused businesses, such as G.S. Precision, that can teach them the skills to be qualified for the job after graduation.

On behalf of the Hinsdale School District, S. Leary expressed his gratitude to K. Thompson for her hard work and dedication.

J. O’Malley pointed out this is a benefit of being an independent District and suggested establishing an ELO/Advisory Committee.

Committee Reports:

Personal Committee- H. Kennedy shared with the Board, the committee approved the support staff contract.

Health and Wellness- No updates

Town Budget Committee- H. Kennedy shared with the Board, the committee had a budget hearing last week, the warrant was recommended by the committee.

Staff Development- No update

Legislation/ NHSBA- J. O’Malley shared two articles with the Board “Voices of Leadership” and “10 Laws for Great Governance”.

Emergency Management- No update

Windham Career Center- No update

HASP Advisory Board- K. Hemlow shared with the Board, the committee met on 2/10/21. The meeting reviewed the new Career PathWay Grant the district was awarded. K. Hemlow shared risk assessment test was completed and in compliance. M. O’Malley has after school program service for in-person and remote middle school students.

Selectmen- S. Leary shared with the Board that Town and District meetings will be held on May 1, 2021.

Facilities Maintenance- J. O'Malley shared with the Board, the committee is scheduled to meet next week and will discuss digital signage and shared that with social distancing about 135 can be accommodated in HMHS Gym and about 25 on the stage. These are measured out numbers with current guidelines.

Community Connections- No update.

Behavioral Support Team- K. Hemlow shared, the committee will meet in April.

Joint Loss Committee- No update,

Citizens Comments:

W. Woolridge addressed the question regarding district stands on House Bill 20.

K. Hemlow MOVED to go into non-public session according to RSA 91 -A:3 II (a) (b) (c) at 7:58 pm; J. Kilelee SECONDED. Roll Call -S. Leary– yes, H. Kennedy- yes, K. Hemlow - yes, J. O'Malley-yes, and J. Kilelee- yes. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Hemlow MOVED to go out non-public session according to RSA 91 -A:3 II (a) (b) (c) at 8:31 pm; J. Kilelee SECONDED. Roll Call -S. Leary– yes, H. Kennedy- yes, K. Hemlow - yes, J. O'Malley-yes, and J. Kilelee- yes. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

S. Leary MOVED to seal the non-public minutes.

J. Kilelee. SECONDED. Roll S. Leary–yes, H. Kennedy- yes, K. Hemlow- yes-, J. O'Malley-yes, and J. Kilelee- yes. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Hemlow MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. J. Kilelee SECONDED. VOTE: 5-0-0, MOTION PASSED.

I attest that this is a true copy of the minutes:

_____ approved on _____
Palak Patel

_____ approved on _____
Ann Marie Diorio