

Hinsdale School Board Work Session
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
A-1 Pizza, Winchester, NH
5:30 PM

Present: April Anderson, Holly Kennedy, Kendra Gardner, Jeana Woodbury, Kayla Hemlow.

Administrators Present: David Ryan, Jane Fortson (until 6:22 PM)

April opened the meeting at 5:43 pm and asked if there were any citizen comments. There were none as no citizens were in attendance.

April asked for a motion to go into non-public session under NH RSA 91-A:3, II “(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected”, and (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.

Kayla made the motion to enter non-public session, Kendra provided the second. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed, 5-0-0.

The board entered non-public session at 5:44 pm.

The board returned to public session at 6:22 pm.

The board discussed the superintendent search committee and who from the community can fill the space vacated by one of its members. There was discussion of how to fill the spot since there were no letters asking to join. The board agreed to allow the committee to move forward without filling the space. All agreed by consensus.

April asked the board to consider moving the December board meeting a week earlier due to a conflict in her schedule. She explained that she had a personal matter to attend to on December 13 and would like to move the meeting to December 6 at 6:00 PM. Board members did not have an issue and it was agreed that the rescheduling would take place.

The board discussed members attending the Select Board meetings and requested members to email fellow board members if the assigned person is going to be absent. There was a question about holding joint meetings with the select board again and Holly indicated it was up to the board chairs.

The board had a lengthy discussion of norms and reached consensus on the following six:

1. Be respectful to all speakers.
2. We listen to understand and not to respond.
3. We will be fully present at the meeting by becoming familiar with materials before we arrive.
4. We will be attentive to how our physical and verbal expressions affect others.
5. Each of us is responsible for respectfully airing disagreements with each other in a timely manner rather than sharing them with others.
6. We will be responsible for examining all points of view before a consensus is accepted.

The board discussed changing the table arrangement in the conference room to be more of a conference style table as opposed to a horseshoe. They all agreed it would be better if they could see each other while they are speaking as it presents a more professional tone to the meeting. There was conversation about how members will hold each other accountable to the newly articulated norms and when they are being broken, how to respectfully call attention to it to the board member. As an example, April asked board members to help her during the meetings with making sure that everything is going correctly and to help her adjust if it is not.

Jeana made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Holly. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ryan, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools