

Hinsdale School Board Meeting
SAU Conference Room
July 29, 2025
6:00 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83981747011?pwd=iqWf1UHUF4vLrz3pPiwQ8MRs49Aalq.1>

Meeting ID: 839 8174 7011

Board Members Present: April Anderson, Kaylah Hemlow, Kendra Gardner, Wayne Dingman, Marc Sprague

Administration Present: Jane Fortson, Business Administrator; Anna Roth, HMHS Principal; Dr. David Ryan, Superintendent; Justin Therieau, Director of Technology; Karen Thompson, Director of Academics and Career Readiness; and Patty Wallace, Director of Student Services, Nathan Boudreau, Facilities Director.

Administration Participating Remotely: Dr. Molly Bremner, HES Principal.

Minutes Recorded by: Anna Roth, HMHS Principal, Dr. David Ryan (non-public minutes)

Call to Order:

A. Anderson called the special meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Citizens' Comments:

A. Anderson opened Citizens' Comments for 30 minutes.
There were no citizens attending.

Federal Grants Discussion

Dr. Ryan and Jeanne Sturges updated the school board on the allocation of all federal grants. The district is receiving the funds this week after a period of uncertainty and news that the funds were being held, which is why SLT wanted to inform the board and had scheduled this special meeting prior to being informed that the grants would, indeed, be released. Planning is needed for the following year since part of the new federal budget is a reduction of Title II-V grant funds, and we will need to determine how we will make up those losses, especially for funding HASP. 21st Century grant funding is from Title IV Part B which is a select grant fund, while Title I and IDEA are congressionally approved and cannot be eliminated without Congressional approval. All other Title grants are eliminated. A small team had met on July to discuss Title II and IV and develop some contingency plans for FY27, and Jeanne Sturges shared the following information using a one page explanation document that she created:

1. Title II-A and Title IV-A are the two grants that we thought about contingencies for, Title II-A is instruction/curriculum development, Title IV-A is supplemental needs- -3 categories (well-rounded education, safe & healthy schools, effective use of technology).
2. Title II & IV grants get funded in a two-year cycle, we get funded every year but there is a one year overlap, each year we develop an application for the state, we use anticipated numbers based on the prior year
3. Consolidated application for IDEA was approved, we'll be receiving 41% this week

4. We've gotten about half of our Title I funds
5. Select funds (II & IV) were supposed to be released today so we are waiting
6. Remaining balances come on or around September 1
7. For next year, we wanted to brainstorm which activities might not be funded by Title II or IV and might need to be moved into the operating budget or designated for other grants. Our ideas are not final in any way but represent our current thinking and will need to be involved in the budget development process. Some activities we are recommending be eliminated, as there are competing interests and we will need to make some hard decisions. Ultimately voters will decide with respect to activities moved into the operating budget.

Interior Lighting Proposals

Nate started looking into energy audits last year, a couple of companies came in to assess our energy use, LED lighting was brought up, we've had 3 companies present to our Facilities committee, Nate has gone back and forth with them regarding their proposal, board members received copies of proposal packet, we would be getting a lease which would be paid for by the savings we will get on our energy bill, projection that it will take 8.59 years to pay back the lease at HES, 4.4 years for SAU, 6.23 for HMHS, no increase to the budget, would need to bring a tax exempt purchase to the board, recycling any fluorescent bulbs is part of this quote, new fixtures are equipped with sensors for dimming & daylight harvesting, Wayne was here for the presentation as well and really liked what they had to say

1. So we could not cut our budget line for electricity (April): not until we pay off the lease
2. How long are the bulbs good for (Kaylah): projection is 100,000 hours
3. Replacement cost (Kaylah): 8 year warranty, all of the components are modular so we would not need to replace the entire fixture if one part is broken
4. Can you do the repairs/replacements in house (April): yes
5. Are these bulbs daylight color (April): they are selectable, company will come in and work with us, there is a color we are looking for that is best for students
6. Page 8 projected cost, estimated savings, what is the lease purchase cost (April): interest if we do the loan, if our savings are more that would result in the interest being less over the life of the loan
7. When will installation happen (April): they would need time for production, they install at night and said it would take 6-8 weeks to install the whole campus
8. So these numbers are based on our kwh usage now; what would happen if our usage goes up (Marc): there is a bottom line savings regardless of usage so even if our usage increases some, we will still have a savings
9. The company manufactures their own equipment but I can see they're fairly new; what happens if the company closes or something happens (Kendra): I think they've been around longer than that but maybe under a different name, owner himself came to give the proposal and said he's been in business 30+ years.

Wayne made a motion to accept the proposal for LED lighting, Kaylah seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Engagement Letter from the Auditors

Jane Fortson stated that they have the same auditor as last year because she's already been assigned and familiar there are things already in place. We have the governance letter in hand

that basically engages the auditing firm with the work, and typically we have you sign it after the fact but we are ahead of the game this year. With your signed approval we can get them started.

Wayne made a motion to accept the engagement letter, Marc seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Non-Public RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (c)

Wayne Dingman made the motion to enter into non-public session, seconded by Marc Sprague. The motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote and the board entered non-public at 5:52 PM.

Kaylah Hemlow made the motion to exit non-public session, seconded by Wayne Dingman. The motion passed 5-0 and the board entered back into public session at 5:59 PM.

Other Business

Kendra Gardner made the motion to accept the resignation of HES School Nurse Tiequa Franklin, with regret. The motion was seconded by Wayne Dingman and passed, 5-0.

Kaylah Hemlow made the motion to approve the FY26 high school tuition rate of \$17,852 for the best interest case that was presented by Dr. Ryan in non-public session. Wayne Dingman seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0.

Dr. Ryan gave an update on planning for the Hinsdale Goes Back to School event that is taking place on August 18 from 5:00 - 7:00. Dr. Ryan explained that the Brattleboro Rotary was unable to meet in time to approve a \$2500 donation request and would like to be involved in next year's event. All other plans are moving forward with a lot of volunteers and donations at the ready.

Adjournment

Kaylah Hemlow made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Marc Sprague. The motion passed, 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

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

David Ryan, Ed.D.

Approved on _____