

**CANDIA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021  
6:00 P.M.  
HENRY W. MOORE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

**These minutes have been approved.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Matt Woodrow, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members Stephanie Helmig, Mark Chalbeck, and Dana Buckley. Kristina Ickes joined remotely. Also in attendance were Principal, Becky Wing, Assistant Principal, John Banks; Director of Student Services, Kathryn Duncan; Technology Director, Chris Jamrog, Superintendent William (Bill) Rearick, Assistant Superintendent, Marge Polak, and Business Administrator, Amy Ransom.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Matt Woodrow led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

Per Matt Woodrow's suggestion, it was the consensus of the Board to move the Superintendent's Report to before Public Comments.

**LIAISON**

Matt Woodrow introduced and welcomed Pinkerton Liaison, Madison Butters who updated the Board on activities at Pinkerton which included:

- Club Fair
- Freshman Reception
- 500 Prom tickets sold
- Homecoming
- Senior Corn Roast
- 13% participation in fall sports
- Pep Rally

**MINUTES**

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Mark Chalbeck, to approve the September 2, 2021 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Stephanie Helmig, seconded by Kristina Ickes, to approve the September 2, 2021 non-public meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Bill Rearick stated that he did a walkthrough yesterday a visited grades 1-3.

He said since COVID-19 began, he has tracked data points daily to gauge positive cases and how the spread affects the SAU #15 communities of Candia, Auburn, and Hooksett. He said he attends the DHHS webinars as well. Bill said the state is leaving how to address spikes up to local communities, and that the Auburn and Hooksett School Boards have recently done so in creating target points. He recommended that the Candia Board make changes to their Reopening Plan to create a similar target points for when numbers rise to help mitigate the spread of the COVID virus. He said Auburn's and Candia's state if there were to be a significant rise in community transmission of COVID-19, masks would be required for all occupants of the school building. In the event of a cluster or outbreak in school, targeted masking would be implemented for a specific group of students (classroom, grade level, extra-curricular group, etc.) for a short-term period. Bill Rearick added that the DOE recently announced that school closings for anything other than weather would have to be made up.

The Board tabled voting on making changes to the Reopening Plan until after they heard public input.

Bill Rearick also spoke to testing options offered by the state. One is for asymptomatic students, and one is for students with symptoms. Both are voluntary and would need parent permission. He said in-house testing would be an invaluable service to the students.

Considerable discussion ensued relative to the target criteria and testing options. Dana Buckley, after reading a prepared statement, said the goal is to keep the school open. Becky Wing said it is nearly impossible to get substitutes and they need to repurpose staff when a teacher is out, making it all the more difficult to work on learning gaps. She said teachers are pitching in to help with cleaning due to a custodian shortage, and that Hooksett lent a custodian to Candia last week. Bill Rearick spoke to the bus driver shortage saying it is real and it is statewide. Matt Woodrow said the whole situation 'stinks', but that the goal is to keep schools open. He agreed with having target numbers similar to the other districts. Kristina said the focus is balancing safety and education. Bill said if mask-wearing were implemented for any amount of time, it would be for inside only.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Rebecca Therrien-Podunk Road

10% tested positive.

Kate Gold-Old Candia Road

Thanked the Board for all they are doing. She said she struggles with kids wearing masks all day.

Samantha Onses-Crowley Road

Need mask mitigation. The virus is real. Supports mask wearing a week or two when necessary. Wants kids to remain in school.

Jason Gustin-Crowley Road

Asked what grace period. Bill Rearick responded, saying one week so as not to create a 'ping-pong' effect.

James Baum-High Street

The only protection for kids is masks. It's a dangerous virus. This year it's affecting kids. Just want normal. Do something to protect children.

Mike Tulsa-North Road

There is limited evidence for supporting mask wearing. Proponent of keeping mask wearing optional

Sandra Trube-High St.

Read a letter signed by local pediatricians supporting a mask mandate. Personally happy Board is open to masking. Concerned with trends.

Rebecca Therrien-Podunk Road

Homeschooled last year. Masks hinder development in those with autism, processing disorders and sensory disorders. Kids have a low risk of contract and spreading the virus. Masks are only effective if dry. Masks contribute to mental health problems.

Bob Dabrowski-High St.

Any mask without a proper filter is a fake mask and wearing them is astronomically out of line.

Lindsey Croteau-Bus Driver

Kids don't wear masks correctly. Suggested the Board look into air purification system in each room.

Lori Otis-Fieldstone Lane

Teacher in different district. Teach them how to wear masks properly. Teach safety first. We keep kids warm and fed and teach them social skills. Teaches grade two and no kids complain about wearing masks.

Tom Otis-Fieldstone Lane

Agreed with the medical professionals who spoke.

Pat Moran-North Road

Mask wearing hinders the education of his children.

### **REPORTS**

Stephanie Helmig thanked Becky Wing for the 'Around Town' field trip and thanked teachers for their classrooms' submissions to the Deerfield Fair.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Goals**

Goals were reviewed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FY 2023 Budget**

The Board took no action but will do so at their November 4 Board meeting.

### **School Board Calendar**

Motion by Stephanie Helmig, seconded by Matt Woodrow, to move the Candia School Board Meeting from February 3, 2022 to February 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

### **Recording of Meetings**

Matt Woodrow stated that a warrant article for recording equipment failed, but Dana Buckley stated he still wants the Board to consider it. Bill Rearick said Hooksett meetings originally were posted online, but when found to not be in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights (no closed captioning), ended up in court. He said anyone may video meetings and put it up on their own site, but if the Board does it, they should do it within required guidelines. Chris Jamrog will research and have updated costs at the next meeting.

### **Bus Delays**

Bill Rearick stated that there were a number of bus delays at the beginning of school, but those delays have leveled off. He said after tomorrow, Candia will be short one driver. He said he sent a letter to Student Transportation-America on behalf of SAU #15 with concerns about them not meeting the terms of service. He said the response showed their efforts to recruit drivers and that it is a national issue. Bill said there is no language in the contract for provisions to pay less if the terms are not met. He said, however, that the next RFP could have such language.

## **FINANCIAL**

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Stephanie Helmig, to approve the September 6-24, 2021 manifest in the amount of \$494,843.89. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Stephanie Helmig, to approve the September 27-October 8, 2021 manifest in the amount of \$1,470,014.83. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

## **POLICIES**

Dana Buckley spoke to Policy BEDG.

After some discussion, motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Matt Woodrow, to approve the first reading of policy BEDH with the language restricting non-residents to speaking for two minutes removed.

A roll call vote was taken and with all in favor, the motion carried.

## **PERSONNEL**

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley to accept the retirement of Meg Morenz with regret. A roll call vote was taken and with all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Mark Chalbeck to accept the retirement of Mary Pacheco with regret. A roll call vote was taken and with all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Mark Chalbeck, to accept the co-curricular nominations as presented. A roll call vote was taken and with all in favor, the motion carried.

With regard to changing the Reopening Plan, Matt Woodrow stated that they hopefully won't have to do so, but the Board should have a plan in place if numbers spike.

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley, to allow changes to the 2021/2022 Reopening Plan to allow the District to shift to a mask requirement based on the following information/data points.

Town of Candia- Test Positivity Rate (7-day average) >10% for a period of 3 consecutive days

Town of Candia - Active Cases trending upward (by 20% or more for a 3 day period)

Town of Candia - New Cases (Last 14 Days) trending upward (by 10% or more for a 3 day period).

A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Sue Demanche-Brown Road and HMS Staff Member

Proud community members came together to agree to disagree in a civil manner

Sandra Trube-High St.

Agreed with Ms. Demanche. She said Pinkerton has a similar approach, but because of the high positivity rates in the counties from which their tuition students come from, they are currently wearing masks. She suggested the Board consider using those numbers as well.

Lori Otis-Fieldstone Lane

Agrees with targeted mask wearing when trends increase. It's a mitigation strategy, not a mask mandate. Criteria must be met.

**INFORMATIONAL/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

Enrollments

Cost for Air Filters

Budget

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled Candia School Board Meeting will be on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Henry W. Moore School Media Center.

There will be an SAU Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Henry W. Moore School Cafetorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy  
Recording Secretary