

FINAL

SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

William E. Norris Elementary School

Town Hall; First Floor Meeting Room

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Attending: Jon Lumbra; Margaret Larson; Dylan Mawdsley (by videoconference); Kim Schott

Not Attending: Julianne Tauscher

Administration: Superintendent Bonneville; Business Administrator Mickey Buhl; Pupil Services Director Heroux; Principal Pluta; Assistant Superintendent Rickson

Guests: Jennifer Johnson

Documents Reviewed

Draft minutes, June 14, 2023

September Principal's Report

August/September Superintendent's Report

Cafeteria Update

Draft FY24 District Improvement Plan

Draft FY24 Superintendent Goals

I. **Call to Order:** Jon Lumbra, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

II. **Routine Matters**

- A. Approval of Minutes (06/14/2023) - Ms. Larson moved, and Ms. Schott seconded, that the June 14 minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Public Comment - Parent Jennifer Johnson expressed concern about classroom mold and inquired about remediation plans.
- C. Circulation of Warrants - NA
- D. Announcements/Correspondence - None

III. **Reports**

- A. Principal's Report - See attached.
- B. Superintendent's Report - See attached.
- C. Chair's Report - Mr. Lumbra reported that this committee has not yet met.
- D. Hampshire Regional School Committee - Ms. Schott reported that this committee has had its annual reorganization meeting.
- E. PTO - Principal Pluta reported that FY 24 fundraising initiatives have been planned.
- F. School Council - Principal Pluta reported that she will recruit council members at the end of September.
- G. Collaborative for Educational Services Update - Deferred.
- H. Select Board Update - Mr. Lumbra reported that the budget process will begin the first Tuesday in November.

IV. Budget

- A. Year End Transfers - Business Administrator Buhl provided a status update on the 2023 budget closing. His office has been experiencing reduced staffing. The current focus is payroll; the office is entering into a payroll agreement with Harpers. Long-standing problems have been identified. Other work, e.g., grant issue resolution and closing the 2023 books, has been put on hold.
- B. Other - None.

V. New Business

- A. Annual Cafeteria Update - See attached.
- B. Discussion of District Nurse Leader - Superintendent Bonneville reported that the newly hired District Nurse Leader will receive a stipend for situations involving coverage. She will also assist the school physician; develop wellness policy; and oversee SNAP benefits.
- C. Presentation of Draft District Improvement Plan and Draft Superintendent Goals - Superintendent Bonneville presented a high-level summary of the draft plan and her draft goals. Discussion deferred.
- D. Initial Discussion on Proposed Expansion/Replacement of the Norris Elementary School - Mr. Lumbra led a discussion on expansion models for the Southampton school. Comments and questions raised included but are not limited to whether the town wants to be a K-12 district (this is going to be a ballot question) and different financing models. Ms. Schott moved that the Committee make a request to the Select Board for a one-time appropriation of \$50,000 to confirm growth projections and space and physical plant requirements. Phase II of this initiative would aim to identify the associated requirements to accommodate such growth. Ms. Larson seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Other - None.

VI. Ongoing Business

- A. Other - None.

- VII. **Executive Session:** *M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.*

Mr. Lumbra moved for the Committee to go into Executive Session and that Superintendent Bonneville and Attorney Roche be included. Ms. Larson seconded this motion which was approved unanimously at 8:56 pm.

- VIII. **Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Eckhof

Superintendent's Report for HRSD: August/September 2023

- **Central Office changes:** While we have someone out on extended medical leave, we've been most fortunate to have Camie Lamica, our new District Treasurer, take on additional responsibilities, along with Dee Thorne, a temp employee. Since Donna Giffune (Director of Health Services) decided not to work for our district, we will use part of her salary to offset these additional costs associated with the leave. Mickey Buhl and Nicole Heroux have been working diligently to learn the ropes and are wonderful assets to our team. Office morale has improved drastically. Five interviews for ASCIA occurred on August 8th by a committee of administrators, SC members, and staff. Our goal is to offer the position to someone by August 10th in order for all 5 school committees to approve the appointment on August 15th.
- **Technology:** We have a new IT Director from Suzor IT, Blake Mallett. Blake will be housed in the central office and will be here every day. Equipment has been ordered for our technology infrastructure upgrade, and due to back orders, this will most likely be fully completed in the Fall. Wifi upgrades have been made. Multi-step authentication process is a necessary prerequisite from our insurance carrier. While this can be a bit annoying, if we have any cybersecurity issues whatsoever, we will be covered. More info to follow.
 - Timeline: Firewall/ security component completed in September
 - Finalize WiFi, including adding outdoor wifi, caf, and auditorium- October
 - Switches may not be completed until next summer due to backlogs
- **AP Scores** were recently released and the percentage of students who scored a 3 or better improved significantly- up by 16%! 92 students took 157 AP exams, and 72 of the 92 students scored 3 or better. These are the highest scores we have had over the past 5 years. Congratulations to our AP teachers for these incredible scores, especially in English Literature and Chemistry. While AP teachers most certainly are to be commended, I'd like to recognize that these are our HRSD collective scores, and everyone has played a role in getting our students to achieve at this level.
- **Preliminary MCAS scores** were just released to principals on August 8th and are currently embargoed. We are examining scores and student growth percentiles individually but will be analyzing them at the district level in October.
- **MCAS scores raised:** Starting with the Class of 2026, students will need to meet higher MCAS score requirements to graduate. Scores for English and math will need to be at least 486 (from 472), and 470 (from 220) for STEM tests
- **Recognizing longevity:** Since teacher start dates vary at every school (by 1 day or 2 days), we will not hold a convocation. While I would love to have an opportunity where all staff can get together, I recognize that principals need time to meet with their faculty, and the teachers need time to set up their classrooms. While I would generally recognize longevity at our convocation (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30+ years of service to HRSD), I would like to recognize and thank the following individuals at this time:
 - **5 years of service:** Evelyn Snyder (NHRES), Beth Illingsworth (HS), Janet Baron, (HS), Ryan McCarthy (HS), Samantha Bernier (Norris), Tricia Goyette (Norris), Brian Gilman (WES/ ATD), Megan Florek (ATD), Eva Jurgensen (ATD), Evelyn Snyder (ATD), and John Wickline (ATD)
 - **10 years of service:** Bonnie Greenwood-Menendez (NHRES), Melanie Downie- Rubeck, (HS), Lindsey Sojkowski (HS), Leann Fanion (CO), Amanda Lapointe (Norris), Susan Rapoza (Norris), Jennifer Sorcinelli (Norris), and Pamela Berube (ATD)
 - **15 years of service:** Stuart Clark (NHRES), Sarah Jablonski (HS), Cynthia Domina (HS), Breda Huntley (HS), Bridget King (Norris), Linda Braastad (Norris), Shelby Marowitz (WES), Sarah Overstreet (WES), and Anne Gelbard (ATD)
 - **20 years of service:** Michael O'Connell (NHRES), Laura Dupree (NHRES), Michael Braidman (HS), Scott Green (HS), Louis Potorski (HS), Sunday Burke (Norris), Erica Bell (Norris), and Kelly O'Connor (WES)

- **25 years of service:** Kimberly Hallett (HS), Eric Scammons (HS), Denise Perkins (Norris), Pamela Piper (Norris), Jennifer Thomas (WES)
 - **30 years of service:** Tonya Aitken (HS), Kim Bush (HS), and Johanna Keefe (Norris)
 - Our HRSD employees with the **most years of service** are Tina Baker (ATD) with 42 years, Warren Smith (HS) with 36 years, Karen Tetrault (HS) with 33 years, Joan Bushey (NHRES) with 33 years, and Steven Silva (Norris) with 31 years! Your passion for teaching and love of HRSD is truly commendable. Thank you!
- Under the Healey-Driscoll administration, permanent funding for **universal free school meals** was passed in the state budget. Congressman Jim McGovern is working tirelessly to increase reimbursement levels so schools can serve locally grown, scratch-cooked meals that taste good and that students actually want to eat. No child should be hungry in school. Qualifying parents will still be encouraged to fill out free/reduced lunch forms in September for additional reimbursements to our schools.
 - An administrative leadership **“retreat”** is scheduled for August 21-22. Topics to be discussed include the FY24 budget process and timeline, Title IX, MCAS scores, district initiatives, and collaboration.

Norris School
Principal's Report
School Committee
9/14/23

Welcome Back!

K-6 returned on August 30th
and Preschool Sept. 7

New Staff

Jenny Finnie, gr. 6 Math
Lisa Winter-Art
Rachel Chaput-Merriam Preschool Para
Stephanie Sawyer-Para, Neurodiversity Program
Jessica Spaulding-Leveille-Para, Gr. 4
Sarah Giouard-SLP

Safety Grant Update-We applied for a safety grant after the police department conducted a threat assessment. We needed \$70,000 in upgrades. The grant announced the amount possible to apply for was approximately \$55,000. We were awarded \$28,000. With that amount we went back to the proposal and narrowed our focus to an alarm system and panic alarm to the police department. The total comes to \$28,000 which will include; blue strobe lights for outside to indicate a lockdown/emergency, a panic button which will notify the police department, and a school alarm system.

In room #19 We started to smell evidence of mold like we had two years ago. We decided to follow the recommendations from the mold remediation company from the previous incident and removed the

classroom rug and replaced it with flooring. We will be looking into doing that in grades K-2. Cost was \$5,000

Fire Inspection issues and Cost- Door adjustments \$1,294, elevator keys made for the lockboxes \$45, range hood cleaning and certificate \$330.

We put on hold but needs to completed:

- Exit light for library and emergency light outside main hallway back entrance.
- Stage elevator out of service needs repair. Approximately \$9,000

Fire Drill-Our first fire drill was conducted on 9/5/23. There were no issues and all staff and students followed our fire evacuation protocols.

The PTO held the Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 6th. It was a fantastic event that was very well attended. There were many staff volunteers as well as high school student volunteers.

September Enrollment 2023			
Grade	September 2021	School of Choice Out of District Drop Ins	Sept. 2023
Pre K	16	25 2	25
Pre K	16	27	27
Kindergarten	63	62 10	62
Grade 1	61	65 8	62
Grade 2	57	58 3	67
Grade 3	67	57 8	58
Grade 4	54	62 7 1	60
Grade 5	77	53 4 1	61
Grade 6	58 77 8 1 54 469 486 48 2 3 471		
Totals: Total Enrollment	476		

Celebrations

5 years of Service Award

Tom Leveille

10 Years of Service Award

Amanda Lapointe

Sue Rapoza

Jennifer Sorcinelli

15 Years of Service Award

Erica Bell

Linda Braastad

Bridget King

Bob Smith

Pauline Webster

20 Years of Service Award

Sunday Burke

Mikki Carmichael

30 Years of Service Award -Johanna Keefe