

DEERFIELD SCHOOL BOARD  
DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL –LIBRARY - 66 NORTH ROAD  
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM

Members/Participants: Kendra Cohen; Chair, Ellen O'Donnell, Zach Langlois, Danielle Palmer, Nate Oxnard (6:05pm), Supt. Patty Sherman, Principal Kristen Withee, Recording Secretary Trish Lafond

1. Call to Order – Ms. Cohen, Chair

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Cohen led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments

Bobby-Ann Dostie was excited that the different high schools came to present to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade families, but wondered why more grade levels weren't included. She informed the board that on November 19, 2023 the 6<sup>th</sup> grade would be hosting the Turkey Trot race as a fundraiser for the field trip.

Greg Whitmore questioned a line on the school board's invitation to the high school presentations that stated this year's 8<sup>th</sup> graders would have some form of high school option.

4. Agenda Review- Ms. Cohen, Chair

Later in the meeting Chair Cohen added a second Public Comments.  
Add "c" under nonpublic session.

5. Immediate Business

A. FY 25 Budget – Ms. Withee

The school board was given the drafted 2024-2025 budget to review. Mrs. Withee went line by line explaining the amounts asked for and any changes.

Supt. Sherman explained to the board that the budget always starts at zero and the same amounts are not asked for year after year. It is based on needs.

They stopped at curriculum lines for the NHSBA presentation at 6:30 pm and resumed budget review at 8:00 pm.

Chair Cohen encouraged the board to thoroughly review the budget before the next meeting, understand it and come back with any questions.

B. Board Workshop – Mr. Christina NHSBA

Barrett Christina, Executive Director of the NHSBA, presented to the board. He gave them a handout outlining the roles and responsibilities of a school board and its members as well as the Superintendent.

A school board's responsibility is to provide an education to all children until graduation.

- Set and establish policies-primary objective establishing rules of your school
- Establish school budget
- Hire and evaluate superintendent
- Conduct hearings and act as a judicial body
- Collective bargaining
- Communicate with the public

The job of the school board is NOT to run the school, but to make sure it is run well.

The presentation ended with a Q & A by board members with Mr. Christina.

Public Comments-

Nancy Shute was thrilled to account for the missing students at CHS from DCS. For the future, we need a way to track students going to different high schools.

Erroll Rhodes encouraged the board to send any student accomplishments/achievements to the Backyard Gazette by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Bobby-Ann Dostie said there are lots of issues with meeting streaming and recordings. She said not reading the correspondence aloud is like not acknowledging community concerns.

C. Dail Invoices

**A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to pay the invoice of \$14,972.00 for high school transportation in September.**

**ALL IN FAVOR  
MOTION CARRIED**

**A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to pay the invoice of \$34,835.00 for DCS transportation in September.**

**ALL IN FAVOR  
MOTION CARRIED**

**A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Zach Langlois, to enter nonpublic session at 8:28 pm.**

**ROLL CALL-**

**Kendra Cohen-YES Ellen Ashley O'Donnell-YES Zach Langlois-YES Nate Oxnard-YES  
Danielle Palmer-YES**

**ALL IN FAVOR  
MOTION CARRIED**

6. Non-Public Session- NH RSA 91-A:3, II, - k, c

During nonpublic session the board discussed a confidential student matter as well as high school negotiations.

**A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Ellen O'Donnell, to exit nonpublic session at 9:08 pm.**

**ALL IN FAVOR  
MOTION CARRIED**

7. Adjournment

**A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Ellen O'Donnell, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm.**

**ALL IN FAVOR  
MOTION CARRIED**

Full SAU Board Meeting October 25, 2023 6:00 P.M. Pembroke Academy Cafeteria

Next Scheduled Deerfield School Board Meeting: November 1, 2023 ~ 6:00 P.M. Deerfield Community School