

NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes
December 5, 2016

Per Policy 006.2 all Board of School Directors meetings are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held in the Upper Elementary School LGI Room on Monday, December 5, 2016. Mr. Cowell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cowell lead the members and guests in the Pledge of Allediance.

III. Roll Call

The Secretary called roll:

Members present: Mr. Capriotti, Mr. Cowell, Mrs. Deussing, Mr. Dougherty, Mrs. Gormley, Mrs. Keyes, Mr. McDonough, Mrs. Povacz, Mrs. Weisbrot

Members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. Yanni, Dr. Cortellessa, Mr. Malone, Dr. McKenna, Mr. Lechman, Mrs. Marton, Mr. Rehr, Mr. Rivera, Mr. Seier, Mr. Silver

- Mr. McDonough provided a statement and apology relative to his Facebook post.
- Dr. Yanni made a statement relative to the district's beliefs on inclusiveness and acceptance of all.

IV. Board Discussion (Agenda Items Only)

NONE

V. Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

- Public Comment occurred around the following topics:
 - Mr. Band commented on the election of officers process.
 - Mr. John DeVincentis comments on bullying; election of officers process.
 - Mrs. Sarah Bergenfield commented on the election of officers process.
 - Board Solicitor reviewed the process of the meeting and the allowable comments at this point of the meeting.
 - Mrs. Kingsley commented on the election of officers process and read letter of Denise Sorin.
 - Mr Chris Brown commented on the order of the meeting.
 - Mr. John Singer commented on the electon of officers process.
 - Mr. Pier Giacalone commented on the election of officers process.
 - Mrs. Blaythorne asked if there is a code of conduct and code of ethics for Board.

VI. Board Comment (Agenda Items Only)

NONE

VII. School Board Organization

A. Elect Temporary President

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, Mrs. Gormley was nominated for Temporary President.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, nominations were closed and the Board voted unanimously to elect Mrs. Gormley as Temporary President.

Mrs. Gormley was seated.

B. Elect School Board President

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, Mr. Dougherty was nominated for President.
Upon a motion made by Mrs. Povacz, Mr. Cowell was nominated for President.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, the Board voted unanimously to close nominations and then voted as follows to elect President:

Board Member	Vote
Mr. Capriotti	Mr. Cowell
Mr. Cowell	Mr. Cowell
Mrs. Deussing	Mr. Dougherty
Mrs. Gormley	Abstained Mrs. Keyes Mr. Dougherty
Mr. McDonough	Abstained
Mrs. Povacz	Mr. Cowell
Mrs. Weisbrot	Mr. Dougherty

Result: Mr. Dougherty received 4 votes; Mr. Cowell received 3 votes; 2 abstentions.

Mr. Dougherty was seated as President.

Mr. Dougherty thanked those who supported him, commended Mr. Cowell for his service over the last year, expressed gratitude to work with and commended Dr. Yanni and Mr. Lechman.

C. Elect School Board Vice President

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cowell, Mr. Capriotti was nominated for Vice President.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Weisbrot, Mrs. Deussing was nominated for Vice President.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, the Board voted unanimously to close nominations and then voted as follows to elect Vice President:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Mr. Capriotti	Mrs. Deussing
Mr. Cowell	Mr. Capriotti
Mrs. Deussing	Mrs. Deussing
Mrs. Gormley	Mrs. Deussing
Mrs. Keyes	Mrs. Deussing
Mr. McDonough	Abstained
Mrs. Povacz	Abstained
Mrs. Weisbrot	Mrs. Deussing

Result: Mrs. Deussing received 6 votes; Mr. Capriotti received 1 vote; 2 abstentions.

Mrs. Deussing was seated as Vice President.

VIII. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

- Public comment occurred around the following topics:
 - The following residents spoke about Mr. McDonough's Facebook post.
 - Mrs. Helen Tai
 - Mrs. Allison Glickman – appreciated apology, but there should be consequences for actions; explained safety pin symbolism
 - Mr. Pier Giacalone
 - Dr. George Coulton
 - Grace Zander (student) – defined satire
 - Mr. Ben Cammarota – requested the resignation of Mr. McDonough
 - Jessica Greenup (student)
 - Mr. Coskun Tasoluk
 - Mrs. Deirdre Alderfer
 - Isabella Mailer (student)
 - Mr. Marcus Elizondo
 - Mr. Chris Brown
 - Mrs. Hope Blaythorne
 - Emma Skuban (student)
 - Mrs. Liz Sheehan – nothing you write on the Internet is private
 - Mrs. Audrey Chen
 - Mr. Dennis Mankin – referenced bullying/cyberbullying policy
 - Mr. Scott Kelley
 - Mrs. Jeri Delevich – requested a transgender policy
 - Mrs. Sharon Bates

- Mrs. Kristen Youte
- Mr. Peter Meyer
- Mr. Kirk Briddleton
- Mr. Tom Buck
- Mrs. Caroline Oakes – Difficult to hear board comments; please speak up
- Mr. Melvin Band – Lion’s Tale article about rise in hate crimes post Trump election
- Matt Benda (student) – Providing more students with parking passes since there are many open spots in the parking lots.

IX. Board Discussion

- Board Discussion occurred around the following topics:
 - Mrs. Povacz – Thanked everyone for their time tonight and encouraged them to continue their engagement with the district on all issues. Made a statement on the issue that the community spoke on tonight and will do everything in power to represent all of the community.
 - Mr. Cowell – As the past president, commented in response to the community comments. Focused on policies of the district and asks excellent questions. Makes sure staff and students are being treated fairly. Work together as a community to make this a teachable moment to make sure this doesn’t happen again.
 - Mrs. Gormley – Asked that we don’t condemn but enlighten ignorant people. Use this as an opportunity to make a change and as a learning opportunity.
 - Dr. Yanni – To students that have felt marginalized and unsafe, the administration advocates for you and will supports you.
 - Mr. Dougherty – The Board will work on language in the policy.

X. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mr. Weisbrot and seconded by Mrs. Deussing, which was unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of School Directors will be held on Monday, December 19, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Elementary School LGI Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lechman
Board Secretary

Date