The Dike-New Hartford Board of Education met January 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. for the regular meeting with McCarter presiding and members Horner, Lotts and Petersen. Also present was administrator Stockdale. Board President Lotts and Board Secretary Sabbah joined the meeting virtually.

Visitors present included Chad Bixby, Waylon Bern, Travis Druvenga, Brian Petullo, Cody Eichmeier, Rhandi Oelmann, Reagan Zinkula, Carrie Nesvik, Greg Schmitz, Jenny Connolly, Scott Connolly, Val Bovy, Kristen Schrock, and Stephanie Swinton.

The regular meeting agenda was approved on motion of Horner and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

Minutes of the December 17, 2025 regular meeting were approved on the motion of Horner and second of Petersen. Vote all aye.

Greg Schmitz addressed the board and thanked them for serving on the school board. He wanted to address the board in regards to livestreaming the school board meetings. In his prior experience, he felt it helped provide transparency and hold the board he served on to be more accountable. With the technology available, he feels it would be in the district's best interest to offer streaming the meetings for the public to watch when they can't make it.

Focus on Learning - Tabled until the February meeting.

Principal, Technology, Building & Grounds and Athletics Reports were reviewed with no action taken.

On motion of Horner and second of Petersen, the Driver's Education fees were reviewed and a tuition freeze of $400 per student was approved. Vote all aye.

On motion of Petersen and second of Horner, the early graduation requests from Brock Bixby and Addison Fuller were approved. Vote all aye.

Resignations were approved on motion of Horner and second of Petersen:

- Barry Cuvelier - Early Retirement

Vote all aye.

Brett Badker joined the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Contracts were approved on motion of Horner and second of Petersen:

- Noah Epley - JH Boys Basketball Assistant Coach
- Kendra Mangrich - NH Teacher Associate
- Alyssa McDonald - Dike Preschool Associate

Vote all aye.

The Board discussed options for filling the Dike Elementary Principal position beginning with the 2026–27 school year. Options included hiring a new principal and maintaining the current administrative structure, or creating a shared superintendent/principal position with the addition of an Academic and Behavioral Coach to provide support. The potential general fund cost savings of nearly $80,000 (annually) associated with the shared role were also reviewed. Discussions surrounding the preliminary work activity lists for the shared option were also held, along with feedback from staff members. On motion of Horner and second of Lotts, the shared Superintendent and Elementary Principal position was approved on a trial basis for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carries 3-2.

On motion of Horner and second of Badker, the Academic and Behavioral Coach position and job description was approved. This position will support the new shared superintendent and Dike Elementary principal role for the 2026-27 school year.

On the motion of Horner and second of Petersen, the extra meeting stipend for the Board Secretary was approved. The Board Secretary will receive a stipend of $100 per extra meeting that is held outside of the regular monthly board meetings. Vote all aye.

The 2024-25 audit findings were approved on motion of Petersen, second of Horner. The audit findings and final 2024-25 audit will be posted on the district website once it has been finalized and approved by the auditing firm. Vote all aye.

On motion of Badker and second of Horner, the contract with the Donovan Group for $2,500 per month was approved for February 2026 through January 2027. Vote all aye.

The board discussed livestreaming future board meetings as well as the dates and times of regular monthly board meetings. The board agreed to table any final decision until the June 2026 meeting when the board sets the meeting dates and times for the new school year per Board Policy 210.2.

The first reading of board policies 202.2, 208, 208.R1, 406.5, 406.6, 407.5, 501.15, 802.2, 402.3E1(Rescind), 402.3E2(Rescind), and 402.3R1(Rescinded) were approved on motion of Petersen, second of Badker. Vote all aye.

Bills of the General, Activity and Nutrition funds were approved for payment on motion of Petersen and second of Horner. Vote all aye.

Financial Reports of the General, Activity and Nutrition funds were approved as presented on motion of Petersen and second of Badker. Vote all aye.

The 5-year facility plan was reviewed with the board to discuss both current and future projects for the district.

Other items of discussion with no action taken included the 2026-27 certified budget calendar as well as the impacts on the district from the Fox Ridge Golf Course closure. The maximum property tax budget is due to the state on March 5, with county property tax statements being mailed March 15. The final property tax budget is due to the state April 30. Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the high school library.

APPROVED: _____ _____

Christa Lotts, President Kayla Sabbah, Secretary