

Clarksville School Board Meeting Minutes

Date		4/10/2025					
Time		4:30 p.m.					
Location		SAU #7 Office					
Chairperson		Linda White					
Attendance							
Attendance Legend: P – Present A – Absent E - Excused							
School Board Members				Principal		SAU Members	
P	Julie Semprebon			P	Debbie Lynch	P	Dana Hilliard
P	Linda White					P	Bridget Cross
Public in Attendance: None							

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Superintendent Hilliard.

Organizational Meeting:

Julie Semprebon/Linda White: Motion to approve Linda White as board chairman

VOTE: Motion Carries

Linda White/Julie Semprebon: Motion to approve Julie Semprebon as board vice chairman

VOTE: Motion Carries

Linda White/Julie Semprebon: Lorie Dupuis is appointed as the new board member.

The following positions were approved by consensus.

- o NHSBA Delegate – Julie Semprebon
- o NHSBA Alternate – Lorie Dupuis
- o Legislative Delegate – Julie Semprebon
- o Legislative Alternate – Linda White
- o SAU 7 Policy Committee – Linda White
- o SAU 7 Technology Committee – Julie Semprebon
- o SAU 7 Wellness Committee – Lorie Dupuis

New Board Member Orientation Information

- **Attend Webinars –**
New School Board Member Orientation – Thursday April 10th (5-7 pm). Register on NHSBA website
*This webinar can be downloaded from the NHSBA site if you are unable to attend. If you need assistance gaining access you would contact them at 603-228-2061 Barrett Christina or bchristina@nhsba.org
Chairing an Effective Meeting - Tuesday, April 16, 2025 (12:00-1:30 pm). Register on NHSBA website
- Review School Board Policies – Available online on SAU7 website
- Meet with Superintendent – Schedule mutually convenient time *will schedule one with Lorie once she's sworn in

School Board Meeting Schedule

Clarksville School Board meets the second Monday of the month at 4:30 pm at the Clarksville Town Hall.

*We can revisit this at the next meeting to determine that we don't conflict with the board of selectman meetings.

School Board Member Ethics

- Policy BCA – Board Member Ethics – this was reviewed by the board

- Board Member Ethics Acknowledgement Form – this was signed and reviewed by the board

Agenda Adjustments:

None

Hearing of the Public:

None

Reading of the Minutes:

Julie Semprebon/Linda White: Motion to approve Clarksville School Board meeting minutes of March 13, 2025

VOTE: Motion Carries

Special Reports –

None

School Administrator Report: Debbie Lynch

Debbie's April Report – Annie drama production is Friday and Saturday. Grades 3-12 are performing in it. Students will attend the college and career fair at CAES on Friday

There will be a Shush party for students next Thursday. Every student will be wearing headphones and listening to their own music and dancing.

Debbie explained all of the additional events occurring throughout April. She will share this schedule with the board.

We have English, Art and PE positions still available.

The Senior class is going to St. Petersburg for their class trip.

Only 39 days of school remain.

Superintendent's Report: Dana Hilliard

April Update–

- Last Thursday we received an email from NHED from US DOE with an authorization form to acknowledge the executive order of banning DEI in order to receive Title VI funds. The deadline was due April 11th. The following day the NHSAA informed us that we should not sign and that they are working with their attorneys. This was all required to accept Title VI funds. The NHED also told us that it could trickle into all Title funds. The concern was that it would penalize anyone who may perform any kind of DEI activity even though the clarity of such activity wasn't clear. Our Attorney briefed us after a hearing was held on April 9th. She did reach out that an agreement was reached between NHED and NHACLU and other plaintiffs, all concerns were addressed, and we should receive a briefing from NHSAA and NEA. The new deadline was extended to April 17th by the NHED.

-The House passed the Universal Freedom Accounts today. The threshold has increased to 300+% above the poverty level. Vote was very close 188-181.

-There are lots of bills that are going to pass and at the NHSAA discussions are that we need to come up with amendments to make this feasible since we are going to suffer regardless. How do we lighten this burden is the new game plan.

-One of the bills to pass includes a budget cap for school district budgets. It's based on the consumer price index for that year. This means that when the economy suffers, your budget must drop as well. This is difficult for non-operating districts like Clarksville and Columbia who don't have the option to cut their budget.

- Bridget and Dana met with Beth and Jennifer at ENSU to discuss collaboration with Canaan School. We made it clear that we do not wish to have an interstate or regionalization with them, but we do agree that we

would like to collaborate with them. We can allow students to attend all SAU 7 schools and programs, share teachers or materials, etc.. but we need to draft an agreement and see what is allowable by our two states. All agreements must be equitable for both sides of the river. Dana and Jen have a great relationship and will continue to communicate and work together. Our goal is to look at and strengthen what we do for our students.

Business Manager's Report: Bridget Cross

Reviewed Budget Analysis – There is anticipated to be approximately \$199,823 available to offset the tax rate. This could be an additional reduction of \$4 on the tax rate for 2025. The district had 2 additional students go into homeschool and another student moved to Pittsburg.

Unfinished Business:

New Business –

Julie Semprebon/Linda White: Motion to approve Superintendent Hilliard to submit Clarksville School District Grants.

VOTE: Motion Carries

General Assurances:

Julie Semprebon/Linda White: Motion to approve the General Assurances To approve the assurances with the following wording: I, Linda White, representing the School Board, acknowledge that the Superintendent has consulted with all members of the School Board, in furtherance of the School Board's obligations, including those enumerated in RSA 189:1-a, and pursuant to the School Board's oversight of federal funds the District will be receiving and of the General Assurances, Requirements and Definitions for Participation in Federal Programs in said programs.

VOTE: Motion Carries

Julie Semprebon/Linda White: Motion to approve the following policies

- BGAA Policy Development, Adoption and Review
- GBCD Background Investigation and Criminal History Records Check
- GBGA Staff Health
- GCG Substitute Employment
- IHCD Advance Course Work/Advanced Placement Courses & Stem Dual & Concurrent Enrollment Program

VOTE: Motion Carries

Information –None

Other Business –None

Meeting Dates:

- SAU School Board Spring Meeting Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm Columbia Town Hall
- Clarksville School Board Meeting May 12, 2025, at 4:30 pm Clarksville Town Hall * Linda will let us know if 4:30pm on this date works and doesn't conflict with the Selectboard meeting.

Adjournment:

Julie Semprebon/Linda White: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm

VOTE: Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted:

Bridget Cross, Business Manager

Board Adopted: May 12, 2025

