

NH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION June 6_2017

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT RENEWED THROUGH 2021 WITH YEARLY INCREASES

The regularly schedule Board of Ed meeting began at 5:30 and adjourned at 8:45PM. Janice Cavenaugh was absent.

Numerous student recognitions were made. One person spoke during the Call of Audience. Amanda Boomershine expressed her discouragement with the school, administration, and board's handling of a sexual assault at Hoggard HS. I have reprinted her statement below. The board then extended Superintendent Markley's contract as stated in title. Headstart liaison Shell reported that our program scored above the national average in all three areas measured the evaluation team. Markley asked for and was granted two ad hoc committees: one for compensation review and another to prepare for next year's reduced class size and begin long-range planning. For the 2nd committee he suggested two board members, central office employees, principals, and teachers. Approval was given for Career Readiness Academy at Mosley to participate in athletic opportunities at NHHS. The rest of the meeting dealt with contracts, meal prices insurance coverages, maintenance, and many more details.

Submitted by,
Nancy McCoy-Fennell

STATEMENT BY AMANDA BOOMERSHINE (speaking as a private citizen, not as a League member)
Good evening,

As most of you know, my name is Amanda Boomershine and I have two kids who attend the International School at Gregory. I'm actually not here to talk to you about that school today. I am here to share with you how I feel about the situation at Hoggard High School – specifically the school and district's response to that situation. I read the Port City Daily article entitled "She was sexually assaulted: She says what her school did next was worse" and was sad, scared, and upset about how the victim, a female high school student, was treated after she reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a fellow student.

I know that there is more to the story than what was included in the article, and I understand that the assault did not occur on school property. Still, I am left feeling discouraged that the victim was made to suffer more after the incident due to the action, or inaction, on the part of the administration at the school and the district. For example, when she notified the authorities that she suffered every time she saw or interacted with the assailant, SHE was asked to change her routine and her route at school in order to avoid having to interact with HIM.

As a parent of two daughters and a woman, I would like to think that the school would do all that it could to protect victims of sexual abuse. After reading the article, I worry that the school and district administration do not understand the rights that victims have under Title IX. I am also concerned by the way the victim's family was treated when trying to work with the school to ensure that their daughter had her rights protected. The retaliation that the family apparently received from the school system is disheartening and is a cause for great concern.

I'm here to respectfully ask that the school board do all that it can to ensure that all staff involved, including administrators, are held accountable for their actions in this situation. Parents and students alike need to feel that they are safe at school and that they can trust teachers and administrators at all times, but especially when suffering from the aftermath of a sexual assault. When election time comes around I know that myself and others will be paying attention to this fundamental question of NHCS and this board's prioritization of our children's safety and well-being. I know that as board members you are very busy this time of year, and I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to speak to you this evening.