

**Lyme School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
Lyme School and Electronic Meeting Via Zoom**

approved 11/17/20 with changes

Board Members Present: Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegele, Phil Barta, Barbara Wilson. District Administrator Jeff Valence, Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell, Public: Kati Miller, Kate Cook, Sue Merrill, Mike Hensley, and other public attendees via Zoom. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order and Minutes Approval

Chair Jonathan Voegele called the meeting to order at 8:09 PM and welcomed the attendees, both in person and via Zoom.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jonathan Voegele opened public comment and there were 5 comments from emails sent to the Board that were read by Board member Yolanda Bujarski. There was a request to make public statements made at the last Board meeting by Chair Voegele and Superintendent Valence. There was a synopsis of these statements in the September 29, 2020 meeting minutes but it was stated that the statements would be attached to those meeting minutes. Other comments cited rumors, state guidelines, and town Internet issues. A last comment asked for a transition to remote learning for an extended period during the holidays.

Public comment was closed by Chair Voegele at 8:20 PM.

3. Reports

3A. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Valence thanked the public for their comments and gave an update about issues that were discussed with the faculty last week. The Remote learning for middle schoolers was shifting to being provided through VLACs, while the lower grades are continuing to utilize Lyme teachers Kate Cook and Jen Wilcox. The faculty and administrators discussed quarantine periods that would be handled similar to a period of illness with work being sent home instead of offering an option for remote learning. It is expected that only a few families will continue with full remote learning in Lyme. The staff preferred to continue in-person school rather than transitioning to remote learning for an elongated break over the holidays because they did not want to encourage family travel. In-service days would be planned for November 3 and 30.

COVID Update

A forum was held last week to discuss how the school district addressed transmission of COVID with a Lyme student. School nurse Kati Miller made comments stating that Lyme still has a low level of concern as defined by the state. There was no additional transmission associated with the case and after contact tracing there were 56 people who met the state's criteria to quarantine. The mitigation efforts were undertaken promptly. Superintendent Valence expressed appreciation to everyone in the district and the town who were involved with the case and he stated that the intention is for cooperation to reduce risk and quarantine to reduce spread of the virus. The entire episode will be debriefed by the Covid Response Team.

Town health officer Mike Hensley made a statement about the immediate action taken by the school district and town and acknowledged the critical role played by school nurse Kati Miller.

3B. Finance Report

Reports were distributed by Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell to the Board including the status of school district revenue and expenditures. The revenue report shows a decrease of \$18,000 associated with lower Equitable Education Aid. The unassigned fund balance was now \$585,215 and a preliminary deficit projected at \$224,291. The town tax rate is expected from the DRA. The superintendent added that a heat system pump was replaced and another needs attention and this will be covered by the Small Rural School grant. The kitchen freezers may need repair or may need to be replaced.

4. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

4A. In-Service Days

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve adding Lyme School District staff in-service days on November 3 and 30.

Discussion: The faculty will request additional in-service days during the school year, which will be considered by the Board in future board meetings. There was a question about the impact of so many in-service days on the number of days required for instruction for the school year taking into account that the school days have been shortened to accommodate para educator hours. It was stated that middle school students begin a reading block at 8:15 AM. There was a request for the daily pickup time and coordination to be addressed.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

4B. On Call Substitute

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Berk) to approve an on-call substitute for the month of November 2020 at Lyme School.

Discussion: The school has not used the substitute every day and has saved expense related to that service when they were not needed because the school went to remote learning. The qualifications and experience (such as a background check) associated with being a substitute were reviewed by Superintendent Valence.

The motion was unanimously approved.

4C. Nominations

A motion was made and seconded (Wilson, Hayden) to approve nominations for staff at the Lyme School for the 2020-21 school year including Elena Frimerman, Keith Waterman, Nate Damren, Megan Fryman, Kolie Blair, Catriona Cameron, and Laura Harris-Hirsch.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

4D. MOU Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Barta) to approve the MOU agreement between the LEA and Lyme School Board regarding absences. The motion was unanimously approved.

4E. Emergency Order #38 and COVID Expense

The Board discussed the use of the Lyme School District end-of-year surplus for COVID expenses and the balance of the surplus would be refunded to the taxpayers. The Lyme School District budget

process calendar was distributed to the Board. It was cited that the proposed school budget for FY2021 would be sent to the town Budget Committee for its December 15 meeting.

4F. Remote Learning for Holiday Travel

The Board discussed transitioning the Lyme School District to full remote learning during the holiday period so that people could travel out of state and quarantine for 14 days upon return without students missing school. There were comments regarding the desire to not promote families to travel out of state during this period. The faculty has expressed that it would prefer to keep students for the in-person schooling rather than provide full remote learning which would encourage family travel.

The consensus of the Board was to unanimously support the faculty's wishes continue to provide full in person learning and not to extended break around the holidays.

5. Minutes Approval

5A. Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Bujarski) to approve the special meeting minutes of September 17, 2020 as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded (Beck, Hayden) to approve and seal the nonpublic meeting minutes of September 29, 2020 as submitted. The motion was approved 6-0-1 (Voegelé abstained).

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve the meeting minutes of September 29, 2020 as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Non Public Meeting

A motion was made and seconded (Wilson, Hayden) to enter nonpublic session in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a) (e) and (g) to address matters related to employees and negotiation. The motion was unanimously passed. The roll call was conducted and the Board entered nonpublic session at 9:45 PM.

A motion to reconvene the public meeting was made and seconded (Berk, Greenway). The motion was unanimously passed.

The public meeting was reconvened at 10:30 PM

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Wilson, Berk). The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.