

**Lyme School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 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, Academic Director Elise Foxall, Public: Kati Miller, Kate Cook, Sue Merrill, Steve Small, and other 40+ 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 8:12 PM and welcomed the attendees, both in person and via Zoom.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jonathan Voegele opened public comment and there were three comments that expressed appreciation for the district administrators and staff including the school nurse. In response to a request, it was stated that the chair statement made at a previous Board meeting is available at the SAU office.

Public comment was closed by Chair Voegele at 8:19 PM.

3. Reports

Finance Report

Reports were distributed by Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell to the Board including the school district revenue and expenditures. Medical insurance will see a 5.1% increase in FY2022. The district will get a \$49,011 premium holiday towards health insurance that results in a 4.7% increase in premiums for the coming year's budget. The public school response fund from the state has been recalculated and reduced to \$56,000. Variances in the revenue and expenditure reports were reviewed. Overages were cited in English language learning and extended year services. A grant is expected to cover half of the food service personnel costs. There are \$334,519 of overages, \$110,719 of open purchase orders, \$147,406 associated with Order #38 (to withhold last year's district budget surplus if needed for COVID expenses). The deficit has been reduced to \$26,394 in a preliminary view of the budget situation that includes many encumbered accounts.

4. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

4A. Use of the School Gym

The Board discussed a request from the town of Lyme to consider use of the gym during the winter for programs run for youth Lyme recreation, non-youth Lyme recreation, and outside organizations. The Lyme Recreation Commission and COVID Task Force have also been involved with this matter. Screening, sanitizing, disinfection, cohorting, and contact tracing are among the protocols that would be required with use of the gym. It was stated that there are some young people who are Lyme residents but not attending Lyme School who were among the participants in the soccer recreation program held outdoor during the fall. The COVID protocols that would apply include for example, six foot distancing, masking and hand sanitizing.

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Berk) to approve use of the Lyme School gym during the winter based on the Lyme COVID Task Force protocol recommendations by the Lyme youth recreation program limited to school days only.

VOTE: The motion was approved 5-2 (Greenway, Wilson opposed).

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Barta) to not allow the use of the Lyme School gym during the winter for Lyme non youth programs.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Barta) to not allow the use of the Lyme School gym during the winter by non Lyme residents and/or for outside Lyme Recreation programs.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

4B. School Day and Length of School Year

Superintendent Valence reviewed a document that was distributed to the Board regarding the school day and length of the school year. He cited the amount of time in the current day based on COVID issues, starting time and dismissal time. The state has requirements for grades K-6 = 180 days or 945 hours and grades 7-8 = 180 days or 990 hours. There are impacts on the school day and year associated with the teacher contract, in-service days, snow days and the last day of school. In non-COVID school years, the district has surpassed these requirements, but with shortened school days and in-service days it would be a challenge to meet the requirements this year.

Every school has the option to request a waiver on the length of the school year and a precedent was set related to COVID last year, when the number of days required for all school districts in the state was waived. This year many districts have shutdown or established remote learning. It was stated that for remote learning to count for school hours, remote learners need to have “access” to a certified teacher. There is a focus on safety and education at the Lyme School but there are also fiscal and contractual ramifications associated with extending the day. The estimated cost to the district including staffing and benefits is about \$56,000. Options to add to school days might include artist in residence during the spring school break. Superintendent Valence will speak with the state DOE about the waiver and the requirements.

4C. Nominations and Other Approvals

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Bujarski) to approve nominations for Christine Croitoru and Lydia Foxall at the Lyme School for the 2020-21 school year.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Bujarski) to approve the nomination of Kati Miller as Lyme School nurse for the 2020-21 school year.

VOTE: The motion was approved 6-1 (Greenway opposed).

A motion was made and seconded (Barta, Hayden) to engage the NHSBA for professional development to help develop a plan for board effectiveness for the Lyme School Board at the earliest convenience.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

5. 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 10:25 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 12:33 AM.

6. Benefits Motion

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Wilson) to approve extension of dental benefits for an employee through the end of the school year at 100% cost to employer. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hayden, Wilson). The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 AM.