

**Lyme School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 1, 2020
Lyme School and Electronic Meeting Via Zoom**

approved 12/8/20 without 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, Special Education Director Miki McGee; Public: 43 other public attendees via Zoom. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Voegele called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed the attendees, with the Board in person and public via Zoom. **A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Wilson) to enter nonpublic session in accordance with NH RSA Ed 204.01 to address matters related to reputation in a hearing format. The motion was unanimously passed.** The roll call was conducted and the Board entered nonpublic session at 7:08 PM. The Board then entered a nonpublic hearing meeting.

The Lyme School Board meeting was reconvened at 7:25 PM.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jonathan Voegele opened public comment at 7:26 and there was one comment by Board member Yolanda Bujarski thanking the staff and public for their correspondence to the school district. Public comment was closed by Chair Voegele at 7:28 PM.

3. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

3A. Length of School Day and Instructional Hours

Regarding the interpretation of the school calendar, Superintendent Valence informed the Board that he spoke with a representative of the state board of education to clarify the number of hours that are included in a school day. Currently, the state has a liberal view of what are considered instructional hours. Closer to the end of the school year, the school district can apply these specifics to the decision regarding the request of a waiver on the 180-day calendar. It was felt by some that whether or not an emergency is acknowledged by the state, the school district has modified the school day in order to return to in-person education during the pandemic.

Coordinator of Business Services explained the state's Adequacy Aid which she noted was not connected to the annual school hours of instruction. The Board decided at a previous board meeting to increase the number of in-service days which could impact the annual number of days that the teachers work. It was stated that the fiscal impact of extending the school day was unacceptable when the proposed budget was near a 6% increase above last year's budget. It was suggested that the Education Committee consider the matter and provide a recommendation to the Board.

3B. Initial Proposed 2021-22 School Budget

The initial proposed 2021-22 Lyme School budget is an increase of 5.9% above last year's budget. Superintendent Valence reviewed an outline of possible reductions that the Board might consider to reduce the 2021-22 school budget reviewing \$32,000 worth of budget line item reductions. Another

possibility was to change the number of high school students, and to consider ways to cover the tuition expense. The number of high school students has unexpectedly declined in the last three years but there was an increased enrollment in the Lyme School District by 12 students this year. If the number of high school students to be covered by the budget was reduced to 90 students (current estimate for next year is 102 high school students) and funding was withdrawn from the High School Reserve Trust, it was felt that the budget could be reduced by another \$240,000. It was anticipated this year that \$84,000 would be drawn from the High School Trust but the withdrawal will be much less due to the decline of the number of HS students.

With the possible budget reductions including the outline of reduced items and the high school tuition plan, the proposed budget increase would be 2.14% above last year.

Technology and Library

The Board discussed the replacement rotation of staff laptops and student Chromebooks and it was suggested to extend the replacement to four years. It was suggested that the budget items specific to COVID and for remote learning be looked at, too. Software licenses are a large portion of the technology budget.

Special Education

The English language learning has been increased in response to the need for these services. The proposed budget was increased from \$6,600 to \$16,000 for these services. The ESOL is not a special education function and the Special Education Reserve Trust is not available to cover these services.

There is a student special education placement that is projected to cost \$125,000 and there is a plan to draw about \$140,000 from the Special Education Reserve Trust which currently has \$290,000. It was also recommended that \$45,000 be invested in the Special Education Reserve Trust in the 2021-22 budget. There was a question about whether the High School Trust could be used for special education expenses associated with high school special education students. The Finance Committee will discuss the options to use the Special Education Reserve Trust.

4. Consent Agenda – Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Wilson, Hayden) to approve the public meeting minutes of November 17, 2020 as submitted. VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Wilson) to approve the non-public meeting minutes of November 17, 2020 as submitted. VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Non Public Meeting

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Wilson) to enter nonpublic session in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to address matters related to employees and matters related to reputation. The motion was unanimously passed. The roll call was conducted and the Board entered nonpublic session at 9:30 PM.

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

After leaving nonpublic session (Berk, Hayden), the public meeting was reconvened at 10:34 PM.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hayden, Wilson). The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.