

**Lyme School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
Lyme School and Electronic Meeting Via Zoom**

approved 12/15/20 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, Special Education Director Miki McGee; Public: 34 other public attendees via Zoom. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Voegele called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM and welcomed the attendees, with the Board in person and public via Zoom.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jonathan Voegele opened public comment at 8:00 and there were two comments. James Graham commented about the school board's decision regarding the nonresident enrollment request, and voiced concern about the school board holding too many nonpublic sessions, and too much time before posting meeting minutes. Jenn Boylston stated that the school does more with less, and she requested informing the public about the schedule for holding Lyme School Education Committee meetings. Public comment was closed by Chair Voegele at 8:07 PM.

3. Reports

Chair Voegele commented that the Board is working on the school instructional hours and there are ongoing discussions pertaining to the Board and administration roles. It was also stated that there will be an effort to minimize the number of nonpublic sessions.

Board member Bujarski asked about a mailer to communicate with town residents and Superintendent Valence explained the use of \$147,000 from last year's surplus funds, which applies New Hampshire Governor's Order #38 allowing such use. It was stated that the Lyme Budget Committee unanimously supported the use of the surplus funds, if necessary.

4. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

4A. Board Effectiveness

The Board invited consultant Phil McCormick to help with the Lyme School Board governance and district structure effectiveness. The primary issues voiced included long meetings and the roles of the Board and school district administration in school district work. The district administrator position may or may not be an additional aspect of the consultant to review.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Bujarski) to approve the hiring of consultant Phil McCormick for initial work not to exceed 20 hours at \$65 per hour plus mileage. VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

4B. Proposed 2021-22 School Budget Discussion

The proposed 2021-22 Lyme School budget was reviewed. There were budget reductions including \$32,000 of line items such as transportation, benefits, assessment program, and \$240,000 of reduction

associated with the high school student numbers, and an additional increase of \$10,000 for ESL expenses. These changes yielded a proposed budget increase of 2.34% above last year's budget.

The Finance Committee has discussed the high school tuition plan, which would incorporate an estimate of 93 students for the budget, a rate increase of 2.5%, and using the Trust. The benefits increase which include the larger match on retirement, and a salary increase for the staff were explained.

The Board discussed technology expenses and how to handle the budget items specific to COVID (such as remote learning and school disinfection). The Board discussed using a separate Warrant Article to consider COVID expenses, but it was understood that the COVID situation may be uncertain as the budget timeline proceeds and even into next school year. The Board asked about the evaluation observation, grounds upkeep, and field trips. Options for differentiation efforts, which are in the Lyme School Strategic Plan were outlined and it was stated that an additional FTE for it could be as much as \$116,000.

The Board was asked to send additional questions to Jeff and Janet and the issues can be reviewed at the December 15 Board meeting. Elise and Laura will attend the Board meeting to review budget and program details in their areas. The proposed 2021-22 school budget would be presented to the Lyme Budget Committee on December 16.

5. Consent Agenda – Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Greenway) to approve the Public meeting minutes of December 1, 2020 as submitted. VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Wilson) to approve the Non-Public meeting minutes of December 1, 2020 as submitted and amended.

Discussion: The change was the meeting date, spelling on “for,” “eligibility,” “Berk,” replace number with \$8199.95, and Lyme School teacher in the motion.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Wilson) to approve the Non-Public Hearing meeting minutes of December 1, 2020 as submitted and amended.

Discussion: Change include to approve and “seal.” Refer other changes directly with Elena Frimmerman.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hayden, Greenway). The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25AM.