

**Lyme School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2020
Lyme School and Electronic Meeting Via Zoom**

approved as is, 1/12/21

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: 33 other public attendees via Zoom. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Voegele called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed the attendees, with the Board in person and public via Zoom.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jonathan Voegele opened public comment and there were no comments so public comment was closed by Chair Voegele at 7:07 PM.

3. Reports

3A. Chair Report

Chair Jonathan Voegele reported on the Evaluation Committee meeting that was held. The faculty strongly supported having the outside consultant used for part of the teacher evaluation process for objective continuity across the teaching staff. Chair Voegele recommended that the budget line for the outside evaluation consultant be sustained.

It was reported that Phil McCormack has begun interviews regarding the Board consultancy project. It was uncertain when a report would be received on the consultancy.

3B. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Valence informed the Board that there has been a COVID case with a student at Lyme School on Monday, December 14. The COVID Response Team investigated the exposure and there are few exclusions and no secondary transmission identified in association with the case. The superintendent expressed his appreciation for everyone who followed up on the case and for the staff remaining patient.

4. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

4A. Nomination

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Barta) to approve the hiring of Martha Rigby as evening custodian at the Lyme School. VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Greenway, Hayden, Voegele and Wilson in favor.

4B. Length of School Day and Annual Calendar

The Education Committee looked at the state's required length of school year instructional time which for K-6 is 945 hours and for grades 7-8 is 990 hours. The lower school will be able to meet the requirement and if the middle school includes recess that has competencies for physical activity it would also meet the state's parameters. The number of non-instructional days will need to be limited

for the remainder of the school year to attain the number of hours required. There are different criteria counting instructional hours associated with remote instruction.

Additional information about the state rules on Adequacy aid included that if a school is determined to be deficient in an area of adequacy, there would be three years period to rectify a deficiency before there would be any possible issue with withholding adequacy aid. There was a comment regarding the scheduling of in-service days for the staff and it was suggested that the Board speak with the union on this concern.

4C. Proposed 2021-22 School Budget Discussion

The proposed 2021-22 Lyme School budget was reviewed in terms of line items with significant variances from the previous budget.

4C1. Special Education

The need for a 1 FTE para educator for a special education case was explained by Superintendent Valence and Director of Special Education Miki McGee.

There were some Board members who requested more background details on specific line items. Special education cases and associated budget in the Lyme School District is above the state level and it was stated that there was a high level of emotional and psychological challenges at the high school level. About half of the cases involve those disabilities and the other half are other health impairments. The staff per special education student ratio is low in Lyme compared to other districts and so is the associated budget ratio. There was a request for evidence that early intervention helps impact the special education number of cases and budget.

There was a Board question about budget line items for books (on phonics) and adaptive furniture associated with special education. It was stated that these expenses could be stretched over multiple years.

4C2. Technology

There were some Board members who requested more background details on specific line items in the technology budget. The cycle for purchasing replacement devices, and software subscriptions were discussed. It was stated that a 4 or 6 year cycle rather than a three year cycle would save money on devices. There was a request for rationale and philosophy with regard to technology and Academic Director Elise Foxall stated that this information is within the Strategic Plan. Information about software for remote learning was requested.

Superintendent Valence suggested that the Board could decide about a target for the budget increase or a target budget number within a department. Board member Berk favored a flat budget and there was a discussion about reductions in program and personnel. The Finance Committee and administration has been looking at the budget areas to attain a 2.72% increase in the proposed budget above last year's budget. Berk's desire was that the budget be closer to a 1.3-1.5% increase and he raised the possibility of other revenue sources to impact the budget.

4C3. Budget - Other

There was an explanation about differentiation and the specific needs to address ELA and writing in grades 4-8. Currently staff is in place for differentiation in math and literacy in grades 1-3. There was

a Board consensus that it was opposed to adding 1 FTE for differentiation at this time. There was an interest in decreasing the building and grounds supplies.

A proposal was made to decrease \$3000 for Macbooks, \$2,000 for custodian supplies, \$2,000 for special education books, and \$3,000 reduction in the Design Lab. The MacBooks were not discussed any further but the other reductions appeared to be acceptable for the Board to be submitted to the Lyme Budget Committee.

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Barta) to approve the preliminary Lyme School District budget for 2021-22 as agreed by the Board at the December 15, 2020 Board meeting to be presented to the Lyme Budget Committee.

Discussion: It was stated that an additional Board meeting might be needed prior to the January 6 Lyme Budget Committee meeting if changes are made. Superintendent Valence will schedule Laura to attend to discuss the technology budget.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Greenway, Hayden, Voegelé and Wilson in favor.

5. Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Berk, Hayden) to approve the Public meeting minutes of December 8, 2020 as submitted and amended.

Discussion: The changes included on item 4A incorporating district structure in the first sentence; spelling of McCormack; in the item 4A motion delete after mileage; item 4B, replace \$168,000 with \$116,000.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Greenway, Hayden, Voegelé and Wilson in favor.

6. Non Public Meeting

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) 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. VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Greenway, Hayden, Voegelé and Wilson in favor.

The roll call was conducted and the Board entered nonpublic session at 11:10 PM.

A motion to reconvene the public meeting was made and seconded (Hayden, Berk). VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Greenway, Hayden, Voegelé and Wilson in favor.

The public meeting was reconvened at 11:37 PM.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hayden, Berk). VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Greenway, Hayden, Voegelé and Wilson in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 PM.