

**Lyme School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
At Lyme School and Electronic Meeting Via Zoom**

approved w/ changes, 3/23/21

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; 22 other public attendees via Zoom. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Voegele called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and welcomed the attendees, with the Board in person and the public via Zoom.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jonathan Voegele opened public comment and there were six comments. Four people expressed gratitude to the Board and school district for keeping the school open. There was interest expressed about the McCormack consultant report (regarding the board and the school structure) and that it be made public. Director of Special Education Miki McGee asked why the consultant did not speak with her. There was a question about a rumor regarding a lawsuit against the school district. The public comment was closed by Chair Voegele at 7:26 PM.

3. Reports

3A. Chair Report

Chair Jonathan Voegele spoke to the public questions about the consultant report, which was intended to be appended to the January 26 Lyme School Board meeting minutes. The report and district documents are available at the SAU office in draft form and are approved by the Board at the following month's Board meeting before they are posted on line. He stated that the consultant's decision about who to interview and how long to take for the discussions were related to the limited amount of time he had to gather input for his report.

Finance Update

Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell stated that the revenue and expenditure reports had been sent to the Board. There was additional revenue for a total of \$103,021 of unanticipated revenue this year. One student at Hanover High was enrolled in only one class so a credit was given to Lyme School District. This will impact the Lyme budget because now no money will need to be transferred from the High School Trust. Currently there is no purchase order for the Thetford Academy as there is an ongoing dialogue about the tuition and special education responsibilities with the Lyme School District.

Additionally, it is expected that the district special education budget will be over expended and better information is expected by the end of the week regarding the cost of an out-of-district placement. There is a \$282,000 deficit in the general fund and revenue is expected to be \$354,248 leaving a projected surplus of \$72,037.

The Board discussed that the surplus is lower than anticipated earlier in the school year. The ESSER grants associated with the governmental CARES program to address COVID-19 were discussed with \$8,043 of grants this year and a projected \$68,275 for the next round of grants.

4. Business Requiring Action or Discussion

4A. New Board Member Timing

The Board discussed how to handle the fact that the school district election will be on March 9 and it will involve the election of positions on the board while the Annual School District Business Meeting will be held in May. There has been feedback from NHSBA on the matter which gives the individual incumbent board members the option to serve through the end of the business meeting or resign in advance of the Board's reorganization meeting held in March following the election. Superintendent Valence supported that what ever the Board members decide on the matter that the Board continue to operate to assure that school business gets done.

A motion was made (Greenway, Berk) to designate Matt Hayden to seek guidance with the town/school district moderator with regard to the Board member service through the school district business meeting in relation to the election.

Discussion: It was stated that the Board does not have authority to make a change to state law and it was suggested that since the moderator favored moving the business meeting weeks after the election, that he be responsible to inform the public about the topic.

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

4B. Administrator Goals

The Board asked Superintendent Valence to prioritize three goals for this year. These goals included:

I. Communication which would be fulfilled by participating in professional development with the Harvard Business School Executive program. Additionally this goal will involve participating in a professional development restorative discipline program.

II. Policy Review which would utilize the NHSBA to review and make recommendations to update the Lyme School District policies.

III. Pandemic Reconciliation which would open communication with the Board, faculty, and parents to address the impact of the pandemic to maintain or restore an environment of mutual respect and understanding of the efforts of the school during and following the pandemic.

4C. Update on Budget Meeting

The Board discussed the cost of the special education placement and a potential contingency to cover COVID costs next school year. It was felt that there will be updated information on such topics by the business meeting and the biggest aspect of the budget uncertainty with relation to COVID involves remote learning and whether it will be necessary. Additionally, the state legislature is looking at some school issues. There are a variety of funding sources that might be tapped such as the surplus and the trusts, executive order #38, or the budget could be changed at the business meeting. Other budget issues were covered within the Finance Report.

4D. Remote Learning for the School on Election Day

Superintendent Valence announced that the March 9 election day will be conducted in the Lyme School gym and that the school will switch to remote learning on that day.

5. Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve the Public meeting minutes of January 26, 2021 as submitted and amended.

Discussion: that change was to include a copy of the McCormack consultant report.

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

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Berk) to approve the Non-Public meeting minutes of January 26, 2021 as submitted.

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

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Hayden) to approve the Non-Public meeting minutes of February 9, 2021 as submitted.

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

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Bujarski) to approve the sealing of the Non-Public meeting minutes of February 9, 2021.

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

6. Non Public Session

A motion was made and seconded (Wilson, Hayden) to enter nonpublic session in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a and c) to address employee and reputation matters. 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 8:55 PM.

The public session reconvened at 10:00 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 10:00 PM.