

**Lyme School District
School Board Reorganization and Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

Approved with Changes 4/27/21

Board Members Present: Phil Barta, Vincent Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway.
Administrators: District Administrator Jeff Valence, Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell, Academic Director Elise Foxall, Special Education Director Miki McGee; 20 public via GoogleMeets. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order

District Administrator Jeff Valence called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. He introduced and congratulated the new Board members Jennifer Boylston, Sarah Glass, and Elizabeth Glenshaw.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment or announcements.

3. Election of Officers

The board election process was then explained and the nominations were opened. Yolanda Bujarski and Elizabeth Glenshaw were nominated for board chair. There were comments made regarding the candidates' attributes to be the chair and Yolanda Bujarski was elected as Board Chair by a majority.

Chair Yolanda Bujarski then opened nominations for the position of board vice chair and the nominations included Vincent Berk, Sarah Glass, and Elizabeth Glenshaw. There being no other nominations, the vote was taken and Elizabeth Glenshaw was elected by a majority as Board Vice Chair.

Chair Yolanda Bujarski then opened nominations for the position of board secretary and nominations included Sarah Glass and Jen Boylston. The vote was taken and Jen Boylston was elected as Board Secretary by a majority.

4. Board Orientation

It was suggested that a representative from the NHSBA be invited to present issues for board members and this will be scheduled for the Board. Board member Glenshaw will forward a board assessment tool from the NHSBA. The NHSBA has one of the most comprehensive packets for new school board members including board operations, responsibilities, and policies and that will be distributed to the Board.

Committee Assignments

Chair Bujarski will recommend committee assignments and Board members can consider the appointments before they are finalized.

5. Personnel

Superintendent Valence nominated Kristin Dunbar Clark as SAU Assistant in the business office. **A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Glenshaw) to approve Kristin Dunbar Clark as SAU assistant in the business office. The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw, and Greenway, in favor.**

Superintendent Valence explained the role of the COVID Committee.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Glenshaw) to appoint Yolanda Bujarski as the board liaison to the COVID Committee. The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw, and Greenway, in favor.

6. Teacher Vaccinations and Calendar Change Request

Teachers have received a first dose of the COVID vaccination and the second dose is scheduled for Saturday, April 17. The concern about side effects after the second dose was expressed so there was a request to close the school on the Monday following the inoculation. The COVID Team presented data about the severity of the Moderna side effects and modeled the likely number of staff that will need at least 48 hours to recover. They calculated that there would very likely not be enough staff to be operable, given that the substitute teachers are also getting vaccinated at the same time. The Board discussed various options to address the shortage of hours for the middle school and Valence reviewed the state ramifications for the school district on this matter.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Glenshaw) to approve the extension of the spring break to include Monday, April 19 to take the teacher vaccination side effects into account. The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw, and Greenway, in favor.

7. Mode of Board Meetings

It was suggested that Zoom might be better for the public to share the Board meetings. Board members wearing masks and unmuting every time they speak has been problematic. It was felt that the public participation with the school board meetings has been great for the school district and a way to improve the technology will be explored.

8. Annual District Meeting

The Annual School District meeting is scheduled for May 15 and the Board discussed how the budget presentation will be accomplished and an informal committee will address the various meeting issues including the budget presentation, recognition of former board members, explaining warrant articles, building trust, and so on. Barta, Boylston, and Glenshaw will work on that committee.

9. Reports

Superintendent Valence stated that the Board reports at future board meetings will include the chair, superintendent, academic and finance reports.

Finance Report

Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell distributed the financial report and reviewed some of the details including the food service, revenue, and expenses. The ESSER grants of more than \$68,000 are applied to COVID expenses and more funding from these grants are projected as the Federal government finalizes programs. The food service is projected to have a substantial year-end deficit and it will exceed the \$20,000 allocated in the budget. The district received an \$11,000 refund on high school tuition from the Dresden district. An out-of-district placement cost is being finalized and an agreement on special education costs with Thetford has been reached. The net budget surplus is currently projected at \$28,191.

Finally, the school had a pipe burst and the insurance company will cover about \$5,000 of a nearly \$9,000 repair cost due to an insurance coverage issue and the \$1,000 deductible.

Superintendent Valence reported that there are currently 15 students who are working remotely and it is expected for that number to decline to 5 students for the beginning of the final quarter on April 1. Kate Cook, who had been working with remote students will return to in person. There is hope that school will return to normal next year and the superintendent stated that the faculty has been amazingly committed and have worked very hard.

10. Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Berk, Greenway) to approve the Lyme School Board meeting minutes of February 23, 2021 as submitted and amended.

Discussion: Janet Mitchell requested a change in the 4th line on the finance report that no new money was needed.

The motion was approved 4-0-3 (abstentions were Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw).

A motion was made and seconded (Berk, Greenway) to approve the Lyme School Board public meeting minutes of February 23, 2021 as submitted. The motion was approved 4-0-3 (abstentions were Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw).

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Berk) to approve sealing the non public meeting minutes of February 23, 2021. The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw, and Greenway, in favor.

11. Non Public Session

A motion was made and seconded (Glenshaw, Greenway) to enter nonpublic session in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c and l) to address hiring and reputation matters. The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw, and Greenway, in favor.

The roll call was conducted and the Board entered nonpublic session at 8:55 PM.

The public session reconvened at 9:54 PM.

12. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Barta) to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 PM. The motion was unanimously approved with Barta, Berk, Bujarski, Boylston, Glass, Glenshaw, and Greenway, in favor.

The next Lyme School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM.