

**Lyme School District
School Board Special Meeting
Thursday, March 1, 2018**

approved as is, 3/22/18

Board Members Present: Jay Davis, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Hayes Greenway, Heidi Lange, Sam Levey, Pinky Tullar, Alicia Willette. District Administrator Jeff Valence. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Board Chair Elizabeth Glenshaw.

2. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

A. 2018-19 School District Budget Presentation Review

District Administrator Jeff Valence explained the town context background, the school budget process, and the desire for community support.

The CPI is 1.86% increase and the Lyme School District 2018-19 proposed budget increase is 1.78% excluding the Warrant Articles. The high school tuition will be up 11 students and the plan is to draw an amount from the Reserve. There are increases in insurance, business office personnel, transportation, high school special education, and the teacher contract. There are reductions from last year's budget in administration, instruction, health, legal, building and grounds, K-8 special education and psychological services.

The budget cuts included not adding a teacher for classes that are close to the upper limit, postponed aspects of the Strategic Plan, instructional assistants, legal costs and other expenses. A cap was set on high school tuition costs that will incorporate drawing from the High School Trust to keep the high school budget level year-to-year. This year \$105,000 would be drawn from the Trust and \$28,000 of the high school tuition is from the budget.

The recent legislative cost reductions impact the local level by shifting responsibility for school costs to the local community that were formerly from the state or Federal sources. The standardized test situation was explained including conscientious objectors in a slide that would be used only if needed. Discussion could cover uncertainty and challenges to school such as concern for economic outcomes, security in school, performance anxiety, opioid concerns, community civility, and there are few resources available to take on the challenges. Another area that can be covered are the accomplishments at the Lyme School such as support for hot lunches, Governor's Award, reorientation of the computer lab, experiential learning activities, schedule alteration, new website, new business office, enrollment models, long term high school trust to impact taxes, safety plan, etc.

Class size issues and considerations would be covered on a slide if needed. Valence outlined three legs of the approximately 30-45 minute presentation after an introduction including the background/process and the community, the budget factors, and the challenges/accomplishments. The Warrant Articles will take additional time to cover.

The Board was polled for feedback on the presentation and there was a discussion about tone and how the community will perceive the school district. There was also a discussion about community civility in a society that has become increasingly divisive.

The Board discussed how the meeting agenda would occur incorporating the moderator, the presentation about the school and budget, and Warrant Articles 1-7 followed by the Articles 8-10. Board members Davis and Greenway would be willing to speak to the kindergarten Warrant Articles and in advance, there will be a discussion with the group that brought the kindergarten article forward.

B. Gun Legislation and School Policy

District Administrator Jeff Valence informed the Board that recently there has been much time spent on school safety after the Parkland school tragedy and the NH legislature has also been active on the gun issue.

Valence has met with other superintendents in the region to coordinate about school gun policies and weigh in on the proposed NH legislation such as SB 357 with the amendment giving school boards the power to create gun-free zones on school property and at school events, and HB 1749, which would criminalize school board policies that differ from state law on the gun matter.

Additionally, the Lyme School emergency response systems and coordination with the Lyme police have been focused on along with consideration of facility security upgrades that have prospective funding via state grant applications.

The Board discussed the March 14 student action and it was proposed that the Lyme Middle School students gather with interested community members for the 17 minute recognition of the Parkland victims with a bell ringing ceremony in front of the school, which was developed as a constructive opportunity for students. The elementary school students would not be included in the proposed activity.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Willette) to approve the proposed March 14 event as described by District Administrator Valence. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded (Levey, Tullar) to oppose NH legislation which would result in allowing anyone to carry firearms on the Lyme School facility and grounds. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded (Levey, Greenway) to approve a resolution that opposes any employee or other person to possess firearms on the Lyme School property. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Levey, Lange) to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 PM. The motion was approved 7-0-0.