

**Lyme School District
Regular School Board Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2020
Lyme School**

approved as is, 4/28/20

Board Members Present: Phil Barta, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegele, Becky Wipfler. Administrators: District Administrator Jeff Valence, teachers Jen Pratt, Brian Betournay; Public: Bill Waste. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Voegele called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

2. Public Comment

Bill Waste, who is the moderator for the district meeting reviewed details about the upcoming meeting. A short presentation will review the proposed school budget and the staff contract (CBA). The public can ask questions following the presentation. The Warrant Articles would then follow and the public would be able to ask questions as the articles are presented.

Warrant Article Assignments: #2 Greenway; #3 Hayden; #4 Voegele; #5 Barta; #6 Bujarski.

3. Meeting Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Barta) to approve the public meeting minutes of January 28, 2020 as submitted. The motion was approved 6-0-0.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Wipfler) to approve the Public Meeting & Retreat minutes of February 13, 2020 as submitted and amended. The motion was approved 6-0-0. The changes were the spelling of Bolinger and Berk; in item 3B5 the second sentence was removed.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Barta) to approve the Lyme School Board High School Committee minutes of February 13, 2020 as submitted and amended. The motion was approved 6-0-0. The change was striking the first sentence before and including "but"; changing "some ideas" to legal recourse.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve the Lyme School Board Education Committee minutes of February 13, 2020 as submitted. The motion was approved 6-0-0.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve the Lyme School Board Non Public meeting minutes of January 28, 2020 as submitted. The motion was approved 6-0-0.

4. Reports

4A. Executive Committee/Chair Report

Jennifer Boylston wants to give a presentation about school funding in New Hampshire to the school board at a special meeting to include the Lyme Select Board and Budget Committee members.

Additionally there was mention of the lawsuit on educational funding in the state. The legal issues regarding high school tuition will be looked at, and the public will be informed about the tax impacts of the school budget and the CBA.

4B. Finance Report

Board members were invited to bring questions about the financial report to the next Board meeting. It was noted that the lunch numbers were doing well. The projection of the end-of-year fund balance is uncertain at this time. The Auditor's Report, which has been reviewed by the Finance Committee. A copy of the report will be available to be picked up by Board members at the school office.

4C. Superintendent Report

Mr. Valence offered to provide information about the teacher evaluation process in order that the board has a better understanding of its components as current board members we not involved in its design and implementation. It was noted the Evaluation policy will need to be updated. There was a discussion about the Board's interest in reviewing results from standardized tests. The superintendent reviewed the recent history of how the standardized testing was discussed in the past. There was a mixed level of interest in whether this should take place at the full board meeting, it will be referred to the education Committee .

5. Business Requiring Action or Discussion

5A. Tuition for 5th Year

The Board discussed a request for paying a fifth year high school tuition that has been forwarded by Special Education Director Miki McGee. Details about the case were reviewed.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve the Lyme School Board request for paying a fifth year for student high school tuition.

Discussion: The request is for the 2021 budget year and it involves a two-year program through the Hartford Tech Center and Hanover High School. The Board discussed the jurisdiction of the IEP team in the case and the secondary agreement with the vocational school.

The motion was approved 6-0-0.

5B. Lyme School Tuition

The Board discussed setting the student tuition rate for attending the Lyme School. There has previous discussion about developing an annual tuition rate increment and also considering the tuition at Crossroads Academy. The amount of \$17,950 was recommended by the superintendent.

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve the Lyme School tuition rate for 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$17,950.

Discussion: By policy, the superintendent decides acceptance of tuition students at the Lyme School on a case-by-case basis.

The motion was approved 6-0-0.

5C. Professional Development Document

The draft of the Professional Development document will be forwarded to the Board electronically and it can be discussed at an upcoming Board meeting.

5D. Proposed Projects

The Board discussed proposed projects at the Lyme School using the budget surplus and the superintendent informed the Board about cost estimates of various options. It has been recommended that the proposed solar project is a longer term project which could not take place this summer.

Classroom renovations (adding storage) in the lower school and across from the gym would cost about \$30,000. Adding new lockers and refurbishing existing lockers would cost about \$25,000. Retrofitting remaining lights to LED is about \$14,000. Removing pipes and registers from the wall in the lower school would cost about \$4,000. Painting classrooms would be about \$12,000. The Board will determine what amount would be used for projects once the amount of the surplus becomes clearer.

About \$201,000 is currently encumbered. The Warrant Article transfers are \$53,000. There is \$85,000 intended to keep the budget flat. The surplus is currently projected at about \$211,000 but the budget balances of encumbered expenses will impact the final surplus amount. The Building/Grounds Trust has a balance of \$44,000 and there will be \$10,000 added to it if the proposed Warrant Article is passed.

The Board discussed prefunding operational expenses for next year in the amount of \$50,000. Items associated with prefunding include for example purchasing wood pellets (heating), planned technology purchases and paper (supplies).

6. Committee Reports

Education Committee – met and looked at the school schedule and academic initiatives.

Communications Committee – the Board discussed pros/cons of using the town list serve.

Finance Committee – met and reviewed the Auditor's Report and the items in the report that are being addressed.

Wellness Committee – met and discussed applying for a grant for a shade structure which requires that a policy on protection from the sun be created.

Faculty – teachers reported about the third grade video chat with the Mt. Washington Observatory.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hayden, Barta). The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.