

**Lyme School District
Emergency School Board Public Hearing Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Electronic Meeting Via Google Hangouts**

approved w/ changes, 7/8/20

Board Members Present: Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegelé, Becky Wipfler. Administrators: District Administrator Jeff Valence, Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell; Director of Academic Elise Foxall, Public: Judy Brotman, Dina Cutting. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order and Minutes Approval

Chair Jonathan Voegelé called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and cited the state right-to-know laws associated with emergency electronic meetings.

Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Berk, Hayden) to approve the Lyme School Board meeting minutes for May 26, 2020 as submitted and amended.

The motion was approved with a roll call of those in favor including Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegelé, Becky Wipfler.

2. Public Comment

Judy Brotman stated that she was attending the meeting to keep communication open between town representatives and the School Board.

3. Reports

3A. Board Chair Report

On behalf of the Board, Chair Voegelé expressed appreciation to the administrators, teachers, and staff. He stated that the Executive Committee has been keeping track of operational issues at the school and he worked on a letter regarding the District Administrator evaluation that will be discussed in nonpublic session. There were two MOUs with the LEA which were discussed and addressed separately without quid pro quo. There will be more discussion regarding a new appendix B for collective bargaining on criteria for awards and compensation related to time, which is another matter and will be addressed with a revision or a different MOU.

Correspondence was received from the FHWA regarding the crosswalk in front of the school and the matter, which does not involve Federal funding was referred back to the state DOT in the letter.

3B. Financial Report

Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell stated that an effort to clear up the outstanding balances for Lyme School food service was initiated. The eighth grader accounts are being closed out and some of the remaining balances have been donated to use as scholarships. There is a total of \$46,041.62 of unanticipated revenue including additional interest for the year. Outstanding purchase orders have been reviewed and many of the expenses are lower than projected totaling an amount of \$39,946.05. The combined surplus balance is \$442,987.67 and when \$57,000 of open purchase orders are applied, the net is a \$385,430 surplus at the end of the year. The prepaid expenses line was explained for the lockers and window replacement projects, which are expected to be completed later

than planned. Chair Voegele mentioned the Dresden tuition in terms of remote learning. Superintendent Valence was asked to talk with the Dresden superintendent so he can update the Lyme Board on the status of a rebate on Dresden tuition. The gym floor will be done in this year's budget and information has been received about adjustable basketball backboards/hoops. Ms. Mitchell will inquire about a rebate on insurance.

3C. Superintendent Report on School Reopening

Superintendent Valence informed the Board about the process to consider the start of next school year and whether the school will be open or remote learning will be continued. The Board will need to meet in the summer with regard to the decision on reopening. Some of the options were briefly outlined such as reduced class size, protocols such as distancing, wearing masks, and alternative scheduling. The decision will have far reaching impact on school operations. It is unlikely that the state will mandate school reopening, but instead it might allow schools to open with stipulations that would require the staff to enforce responsibilities for students adhering to CV-19 protocol stipulations. Valence reported the faculty and admin have a study group to review and identify instructional practices for remote teaching and will look at various scenarios to opening. He recommended we have a board meeting to discuss options and implications as well as hold parent listening sessions to hear perspectives from families on scenarios for the fall of 2020. These would need to be followed by Community Forums to communicate the Board's decision on how the school year would start. The state survey of teachers suggested that schools should estimate that 7-30% of staff could not return due to susceptibility of virus as members of a risk group or habitation with someone in a risk group.

Board perspectives were requested:

Voegele – differences with lower and middle school.

Hayden – enforceability may be impossible and there's a concern about compliance with protocols; there will be a number of parents who are unwilling to send kids to school. It is not feasible to give parents the option for choosing whether their kids are in school or do remote learning. There may be as many as 8 staff members that are susceptible to CV-19 because of a health risk.

Greenway – wants to know where the state stands. Superintendent Valence reiterated that we need to plan assuming that the state will not give an absolute decision. The process in the Lyme School District community will be to narrow the scope of scenarios and then develop the selected scenario in detail.

Barta – expect that school will be remote learning this fall based upon his familiarity with conversations in other institutions.

Berk – the details related supplies needed for CV-19 will need to be considered. Many supplies will be needed no matter what decision is made and some of the materials such as partitions may have a longer lead time to acquire and install. - School is already investigating options for transparent, personal student partitions.

The state task force recommendations are expected in end of June / early July. The Board will meet following the staff deliberations. There will be input from parents, too. The state survey questions do not provide enough clarity on reopening on some issues, but there should be some information about perspectives of remote learning as it was deployed in the spring of 2020.

The eighth grade graduation was held at the Fairlee Drive-In and Board member Bujarski commented that it was a nice presentation and a great time given the circumstances.

4. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

4A. Open Board Position

The Board has received a resignation letter from Board member Becky Wipfler effective after the June 9 meeting. The process for appointing a replacement to fill the vacancy is to request a letter of interest from candidates and the Board can interview those who have applied and make the appointment during the summer Board meetings. The appointment would go through the end of the Wipfler term in March 2021.

4B. Unscheduled Summer Board Meetings

The next Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 8 at 4:00 PM and it would be possibly set up outdoors at the school. It was suggested that a public forum would be conducted later in the summer. The purpose of the early July meeting is to get input from the staff and CV-19 professionals.

4C. Superintendent Authorization to Hire

The Board discussed the need to involve the Board in summer hiring. It was felt that the Board would approve any newly hired staff at the end of the summer at a Board meeting.

A motion was made and seconded (Bujarski, Berk) to authorize the Lyme School Superintendent to hire staff to fill positions that become available during the summer. The motion was approved with a roll call of those in favor including Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegelé. Wipfler had left meeting.

5. Policies

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Beck) to approve Policy GBRIA-School Year Support Staff Benefit Leave Policy as submitted and amended.

Discussion: The Board reviewed the policy and discussed changes including improving ambiguous phrases.

The motion was approved with a roll call of those in favor including Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegelé.

A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Beck) to approve Policy GBRIIB-Support Staff Employee Leave Policy as submitted and amended.

The motion was approved with a roll call of those in favor including Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegelé.

There was a first reading for Policies IKB Homework, ILD-Questionnaires, IJO/KA-Community Resources, IHAK-Character and Citizenship Education, IHBI-Alternative Learning Plans, IHBAA-Evaluation Requirements for Students with Special Education Disabilities, IHBC-School District Criteria for Special Education, IHBD-Determining a Specific Learning Disability, and the renaming of Policy IMCA.

6. Committee Reports

The committee assignments will need to include the new Board member appointee.

6A. The High School Committee issues were covered earlier in the Board meeting.

6B. Education Committee issues were covered earlier in the Board meeting.

6C. Communication Committee met and discussed if committee meetings should have minutes and be publicly warned; if Board meetings should be promoted on the ListServe; and how user-friendly the website is. The Board will have a dialogue about committee journaling.

6D. F & F Committee will keep track of the status of planned projects.

Board approval of manifests will require physical signatures to be done in the main office.

7. Non Public Session

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Wipfler) to enter nonpublic session in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to address employee matters. The motion was approved with a roll call of those in favor including Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegelé. The Board entered nonpublic session at 9:06 PM.

The public session reconvened at 10:35 PM.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hayden, Berk). The motion was passed with Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegelé, Becky Wipfler voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.