

**Lyme School District  
Emergency School Board Special Meeting  
Wednesday, July 8, 2020  
Electronic Meeting Via Zoom**

approved as is, 7/15/20

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

**1. Call to Order and Minutes Approval**

Chair Jonathan Voegelé called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM and cited the state right-to-know laws associated with emergency electronic meetings.

**Minutes Approval**

**A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Berk) to approve the Lyme School Board Public Hearing minutes for June 9, 2020 as submitted.**

**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 (Berk, Greenway) to approve the Lyme School Board meeting minutes for June 9, 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.**

Changes were spelling of Berk.

**A motion was made and seconded (Berk, Bujarski) to approve the Lyme School Board Non-Public meeting minutes for June 9, 2020 as submitted.**

**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.**

**2. Reports**

**2A. Board Chair Report**

Chair Voegelé reported that a meeting about the crosswalk in front of the school was held with representatives of other Lyme residents and organizations.

**2B. Financial Report**

Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell stated that there are special grants outstanding on the revenue report. The expense report includes some open purchase orders and some big project purchase orders that have been carried into the new fiscal year. The projected surplus is \$392,991.94. Much of the surplus involves high school tuition and special education, which were more than \$300,000 under budget due to the loss of high school students and to implications related to COVID - 19. The elementary school expenses were under budget \$101,584, again due to COVID-19. The grants were \$82,662. Special education expenses from Thetford and St. Johnsbury were under due to a reduction in services in the last quarter. There were no out-of-district residential placement costs. All utilities and professional development were under budget.

There will be a total of \$53,000 transferred to the maintenance and post-retirement trust fund accounts. Representatives from the town and the school board will meet to discuss budget issues for the town.

#### 2C. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Valence nominated Kolie Blair to fill the position of para-professional at the Lyme School for the 2020-21 school year.

**A motion was made and seconded (Berk, Bujarski) to approve Kolie Blair as a Lyme School para-professional for the 2020-21 school year.**

**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.**

### 3. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

#### 3A. Board Position Vacancy

The Board received interest to serve on the Lyme School Board by a member of the public Barbara Wilson to fill the recent Board vacancy.

**A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Berk) to appoint town of Lyme resident Barbara Wilson to fill the vacancy on the Lyme School Board for the remainder of the respective term.**

**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.**

#### 3B. School Reopening

Superintendent Valence informed the Board about the process to consider the start of next school year that incorporated meetings held with the administrators, health staff and faculty representatives. The sources for the Scenarios incorporated guidance from the CDC, states of MA and VT, American Academy of Pediatrics, the W.H.O., and schools in other countries that have already opened schools. He had forwarded to the Board six scenarios for school opening this September ranging from completely open to a hybrid in-school and remote learning, to all remote learning. The STRRT recommendations from the state are a framework outline and the state will present recommendations about school opening within the coming weeks.

The scenarios include for example, reduced class size, protocols such as distancing, wearing masks, and alternative scheduling with some time spent in school and some time spent on remote learning. The decision will impact for example, the CBA, transportation, PE, recess, food service, and instructional scheduling. The Superintendent offered the following timeline:

**June 14-16:** Teachers compile best practices developed during spring 2020 remote learning.

**June 29-July 1:** Task group develops multiple scenarios for the 3 states of operation.

**June 8:** Board and Admin meet to review and discuss scenarios (this document).

**Week of July 13:** Board determines lead scenario.

**Week following Board Meeting** Survey distributed to faculty and families outlining proposed opening scenario and solicits likely participation and feedback.

**Week of July 27:** Board reviews Parent/Faculty Surveys and makes final decision for Fall opening (unless conditions change); Board schedules Parent forums to communicate opening plan with parents.

The Board will make a decision regarding the scenarios and then surveys of the parents and teachers will be conducted. The Board will need to have a unified communication plan to explain the reopening system.

Board members discussed aspects of use of the school by town residents such as the PTO, Red Cross, and town band. Summer school and project contractors have also been in the school. The town of Lyme has closed facilities to the public.

The Board discussed various aspects of reopening such as distributing students to multiple points of entry around the school with screening and whether such screening should be done at bus pickups. It was stated that the school could not create a barrier to the spread of CV19. Most of the scenarios incorporate an opportunity to be prepared if it becomes necessary to switch to complete remote learning again. It is expected that some parents will opt for home schooling rather than participate in the public school due to CV19.

Teachers have expressed support for the 4-10 scenario, which maintains continuity of the teacher-student relationship whereby students are in small social groups that are in school for four days followed by remote learning for 10 days. This concept would develop allowing student social interaction while establishing a routine for both live and online learning. It would be somewhat seamless if it is necessary to return to full remote learning. In the 4-10 scenario, subjects and specials would be incorporated and there would be assignments and grades.

It was stated that two or three teachers expressed reluctance to participate in the plan if there was a return to school, but that most teachers want to teach. Wearing masks full time and physical distancing may be a challenge for teachers and students. It has not been definitively decided if distancing would be three feet or six feet and this would be significant for the number of students in a class, placement of desks, etc.

Teacher representative Steve Dayno made a statement to the Board stating that data should be used to make a decision for school reopening and that definitive information about children mingling has yet to be understood (such as 12 years old is the earliest age when transmission is most similar to adults). Teachers in the Lyme School will continue getting information from the NEA and state contacts.

The Board asked whether testing for CV19 would be conducted for students and teachers. The Board also asked about five day weeks and it was stated that time during the week is needed for teachers to plan, and that 10 days is understood as a potential incubation period for CV19 infection.

It was stated that faculty responsibilities and positions may very well be impacted by the reopening scenario that is chosen. Administrators are aware that few if any substitutes will be available to the school. The Board decided to review the options for school reopening and make a decision for recommendation next week. The scenario document would be on Googledocs so Board members can post questions.

It was decided that the Board will meet on Wednesday, July 15 at 8:00 PM. After the Board makes a recommendation, surveys will be conducted by the school district.

#### **4. Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Greenway, Bujarski). The motion was passed with Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden, Jonathan Voegele voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.**