

**Lyme School District
Emergency School Board Special Meeting
Monday, September 2, 2020
Electronic Meeting Via Zoom**

approved w/o changes, 9/29/20

Board Members Present: Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden. Jonathan Voegele, Barbara Wilson. Administrators: District Administrator Jeff Valence, Director of Academic Elise Foxall, Special Services Director Miki McGee, Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell, Facilities Director Doug Fillian. Public: 18 other attendees including staff and public. Recorded by Roger Lohr

1. Call to Order and Minutes Approval

Chair Jonathan Voegele called the meeting to order at 7:04PM, welcomed the attendees, and cited the state right-to-know laws associated with emergency electronic meetings.

2. Public Comment

Board member Yolanda Bujarski read public comments that had been received at the school district via email since the Board meeting that was held on August 25. The Board decided that the community letter to the Board and the LEA statement would be attached to the August 25, 2020 Board meeting minutes document. There was an email that questioned if a hybrid school model would protect students or increase safety in any capacity. A question was also put forward about the threshold for switching to full remote learning or terminating the remote learning option. The issue of six foot distancing and accommodation suggestions for shorter distances between teacher and student were raised. There also was a statement regarding staff and student families signing a release.

A statement was made from a Zoom session attendee regarding the testing of students after a failed screening when a non-COVID illness occurred such as a runny nose. There is a 10 day quarantine requirement in this case if a test is not taken.

Steve Dayno a representative of the LEA expressed appreciation to the administration and the Board for working on the reopening plan and the LEA wants to move forward. He stated that it was great to be back in the school.

Chair Voegele stated that the Board is trying to resolve the issues raised by the LEA. The public comment period was closed at 7:11 PM.

3. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action

3A. Approval of Attestation Form

A motion was made (Hayden, Greenway) to approve the Lyme School Attestation Form 2020 for parents/guardians.

Discussion: The attestation document was posted on the meeting Zoom chat. The Board discussed the intention for having parents or guardians sign the document to acknowledge that the document was read.

The motion was passed with Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden, Jonathan Voegele, Barbara Wilson voting in favor.

3B. Reopening Update

Superintendent Valence stated that meetings with the faculty have been held since August 27 and progress is being made on reopening. The staff has gotten help with mitigation practices and teachers are working on digital learning and the orientation which is scheduled for September 8. Additionally, the work on logistics and classroom transformations is underway. Valence thanked those who donated masks, tents and other items. Chair Voegelé expressed appreciation to the administration, staff and the PTO.

3C. Budget Implications

A document of the budget issues associated with the reopening was posted on the meeting Zoom chat showing the personnel and other expenses. An IDEA B grant will cover some of the para expense. Bids have been received for the school disinfection services and this is expected to be less costly than adding staff. The additional nurse position can be covered per diem at a reduced cost. Some of the screener positions can be filled with paras. The staff for remote learning has not been completely finalized.

Coordinator of Business Services Janet Mitchell reviewed the audited fund balance \$364,607 and how the surplus will be allocated while still helping to level the town taxes. The allocation to reserve trusts has been applied. The suspension of Order # 38 will allow the use of last year's fund balance for costs associated with the reopening. The total budget associated with personnel decisions is about \$280,000. The Federal funding in the CARES Act for the Lyme School District amounts to \$8,000. The overage amount associated with the COVID issues that would be forwarded from the surplus is about \$135,000.

The assistant tech position is being advertised as .5 FTE. There was also a discussion about the screeners. The town has offered the school district to use the bulk mailing permit.

3D. Remote Learning Update

A document about the remote learning plan was posted on the Zoom meeting chat. There are currently 12 students who have opted for remote learning and 5 students that will be home schooled or use another alternative. There are about 15 families that are still uncertain about their choice to learn remotely and the superintendent will be following up with them by the end of the week. It is expected that these numbers will fluctuate. The three factors associated with remote learning include staffing, enrollment, and Internet capacity. There are challenges in Lyme for Internet connections. Superintendent Valence reviewed the scenarios for the remote learning plan for Grades 1-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Daily or weekly check-in, progress on assignments, and so on will be incorporated in areas such as math, language arts, humanities, and science. Kate Cook and Jen Wilcox are two teachers, who are involved with remote learning and there will be others. IEP meetings will be held with the respective IEP teams by September 30 to review on a case-by-case basis that needs are being addressed. It is expected that some of the excluded students (due to illness) could be incorporated in the remote learning program while quarantined. Other students who are attending in person school and become ill might have class work sent home.

4. Minutes Approval

A motion was made and seconded (Greenway, Hayden) to approve the Lyme School Board meeting minutes for August 25, 2020 as submitted and amended.

Discussion: The Board recommended various changes to the document and confirmed the intention to attach the community letter and the LEA statement to the August 25 meeting minutes. **The motion**

was passed with Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden, Jonathan Voegele, Barbara Wilson voting in favor.

5. Other Business and Next Meeting

The Board discussed whether there is a need for another Communication Committee meeting to provide more details about the school reopening. There was a discussion about bandwidth issues in the school and town. The chair addressed the public question about parental recourse to getting students back to school after exclusion. Tests for COVID infection are available at the Lebanon Armory and at UrgentCare. A note from a doctor could be used for a chronic existing condition.

The Board discussed the next meeting scheduled for September 22 at 7:00 PM.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hayden, Greenway). The motion was passed with Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden, Jonathan Voegele, Barbara Wilson voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.