

**Lyme School District  
Emergency School Board Special Meeting  
Friday, September 11, 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. District Administrator Jeff Valence. Public: 25 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 5:07 PM, welcomed the attendees, and cited the state right-to-know laws associated with emergency electronic meetings.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

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

**3A. Reopening Guidance**

**A motion was made (Hayden, Barta) to approve the establishment of a COVID Task Force to support Lyme School to provide guidance for school personnel on matters related to COVID health protocols and instructional practices.**

Discussion: The Board discussed the need for a task force that would be comprised of stakeholders such as administrators, staff, parents and COVID experts. Issues that the Task Force could advise on would include for example screening, exclusion, student and family wellness and the ability to cope with COVID, considering state guideline recommendations, monitoring guidance, and so on.

The state guidelines had recently suggested that a COVID coordinator be appointed in school districts where it was felt that such a coordinator would be warranted. There is a state COVID hotline that is available to administrators, school nurses and such coordinators. A coordinator would be charged with becoming informed and be someone that the district could rely on for support on health matters and how educating in a pandemic environment can occur. The Board discussed that the Task Force would be an advisory rather than a decision-making entity and whether a Task Force would be acting as a public entity and thus would need to warn meetings, keep minutes, and be public. There were people who were identified as possible members of the Task Force to fill the role of providing expertise.

The Board and administrators wanted to have confidence in the process related to COVID decisions applied in the school environment. It was suggested that a Task Force that include COVID experts who could provide clarity on execution and implementation of the school district opening plan. An implementation checklist of specific practices is not in the opening plan and there is a need to respond quickly and efficiently in the school operation. The state outlines the coordinator or Task Force responsibilities as monitoring guidance, coordinating facility level responses, trouble-shooting problems, and serving as a liaison with public health and other state and local partners to help facilitate or obtain necessary information in the event of a public health investigation of COVID infection.

The Board discussed how the nurse office positions were currently being filled at the Lyme School. The nurses and Nurse Committee helped in many of the school reopening details and the Board expressed appreciation for their support and commitment to the school district. The staff in the nurse office currently includes Lara Dwyer (part time), Kati Miller (per diem basis), and Kris Pekala (substitute nurse).

#### **4. Public Comment**

Some of the public attending the meeting requested clarification of the issues. Faculty members stated that there needs to be a forum for feedback from the staff regarding instructional practices related to COVID. A comment was made regarding the professionalism of the nurses during the summer and the start of school and appreciation was expressed to the school nurses. A statement was made regarding the ambiguity of the state guidelines on exclusions.

There was a comment for review of procedures of the screening process and decision about exclusions and whether students or parents should be involved with the COVID screening questions. A statement was made that the guidelines were designed to be protective rather than convenient as a hazard control measure. It was stated that Lyme School had incorporated best practices into its opening plan which was beyond the state guideline recommendations.

A member of the public stated that the remote learning was not robust as anticipated and that rules about isolation and quarantine have not been clarified. A comment about the Board handling of the decisions related to the school opening expressed frustration. Another statement was in favor of giving the nurses full decision-making with regard to student exclusion.

Public comment was closed by Chair Voegelé at 7:20 PM.

#### **5. Business Requiring Discussion and/or Action**

The Board discussed options for staffing the nurse office and what is sustainable. Candidate applications are still being reviewed to find full time nurses. There was a question about training the staff for COVID protocols. The Board discussed how a COVID coordinator or Advisory Committee would interact with the nurses and other staff at the Lyme School.

**The motion was withdrawn by Hayden with no objection from the other Board members.**

#### **6. Non Public Meeting**

**A motion was made and seconded (Hayden, Greenway) to enter nonpublic session in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a) (c) and (e) to address matters related to employees and reputation. The motion was passed with Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden, Jonathan Voegelé, Barbara Wilson voting in favor.** The roll call was conducted and the Board entered nonpublic session at 8:30 PM.

**A motion to reconvene the public meeting was made and seconded (Hayden, Greenway). The motion was passed with Phil Barta, Vince Berk, Yolanda Bujarski, Hayes Greenway, Matthew Hayden, Jonathan Voegelé, Barbara Wilson voting in favor.**

The public meeting was reconvened at 12:01 AM

The next meeting scheduled was a tentative special meeting for the Board to consider actions related to the nonpublic session on the evening of September 13, followed by the monthly Board meeting on September 29 at 7:00 PM.

#### **7. 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 12:02 AM.**