

**Lempster School District
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Lempster Community School Library
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Present-Board members: Kelly Caron, Jessica Hooper (arrived 5:15), Rachel Tirrell and Jillian Thomas

Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis

Principal: Ralph Peterson

Absent: Bruce Cragin

Call to order

K. Caron

Ms. Caron called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

Agenda Adjustments

K. Caron

8th grade field trip to be added after summer academy

Review of minutes from 3/9/2023

K. Caron

Rachel Tirrell made a motion to approve the draft minutes from 3.9.23 as presented, second by Jillian Thomas. All were in favor.

Review of nonpublic minutes from 3/9/2023

K. Caron

Jillian Thomas made a motion to approve the nonpublic draft minutes from 3.9.23 as presented, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor.

Public comment- Selena Leite, Melodie Hendley and daughter were present. Ms. Hendley spoke to the issue of a high school student being unable to get from the grange to home after the bus drops them off from Fall Mtn. HS. Their parent is unable to pick them up due to work schedule. There is no cell service or any sidewalks nearby, and the student lives 7 to 10 miles from the grange. Ms. Hendley asks if there is some way that they can be helped with transportation. Mr. Lewis and Ms. Caron spoke to her regarding the inability to find bus drivers and that high schoolers are not mandated to have transportation to and from the grange where the Fall Mountain High School buses pick them up and drop them off. It was suggested that the parent speak to other parents to perhaps arrange a ride. Mr. Lewis also noted that he has spoken to the parent of the student regarding this.

Ms. Leite spoke again to the issue of the school board minutes not being available on the school website. She wants clarification of who is responsible for posting the minutes to the website. Mr. Lewis assured her that it is being worked on with the addition of a new school website and that the tech person is the one who posts the minutes. Options were discussed and Mr. Lewis stated that it is the responsible of the school to upload the minutes, agenda, etc. to the school website, in a timely manner. Ms. Leite also asked if staff salary raises are performance based or if yearly evaluations are given. Mr. Lewis assured her that evaluations are performed and Ms. Caron noted that salaries are contracted.

Administrative reports

J. Lewis

The board was presented a slate of contracts for review.

Rachel Tirrell made a motion to accept the slate of contracts as presented, second by Jillian Thomas. All were in favor.

Visitor badges

J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis reviewed the new security badge system so that at any time, staff will be able to identify unknown visitors in the school by the color of their badges. Yellow are for visitors and orange are for technical visitors (pest control, water testing, etc.). If a staff member is uncomfortable with approaching a visitor without a badge, they are to call the office and the office will contact Mr. Lewis, via walkie-talkie. Written directions will be placed outside the main door, where visitors are buzzed in.

Bus Transportation

R. Peterson

Mr. Peterson shared an update on the status of finding drivers and that the potential bus driver, who has yet to take the CDL test in Concord, hopes to soon. Mr. Peterson also provided information on ordering buses and there was an extended conversation on the details of using current funds, partial funds, buying one bus and another van etc. It is hoped that we can purchase two 77 passenger busses, however, there would not be a service contract associated with the purchase. There will be more to come on this topic.

The board discussed scenarios if we needed to evacuate, who would drive the second bus, etc.

Mr. Peterson commended the van driver, Mr. McNicholas on his flexibility.

NHSAS**R. Peterson**

The testing will begin May 10th and this year will again involve morning testing with afternoon Olympics, and hopefully will be completed before Memorial Day. The NWEA testing will take place after Memorial Day.

Spring Track**R. Peterson**

Currently there are 18 students involved with more to sign up. Throwing and running will be the bulk of the activities. Nate Tracy is coaching the girls and Joan Fontaine is filling in when Mr. Peterson has bus duty.

Summer Academy**J. Lewis**

Social and emotional components are essential. So far there are about a dozen students signed up. Plans are underway to find funding for free school lunches. Mornings will involve academics; afternoons will be the fun stuff to include hiking, arts, languages etc.! Grants are being sought to cover the costs. This will start on July 5th.

8th Grade Trip**R. Peterson**

Mr. Peterson spoke to the fact that there are some 8th grade students who will be unable to attend the class trip due to their grades. There are currently 13- 8th graders. At this time, it is planned to do day trips.

Covid Status**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis informed the board that the current number of hospitalizations being treated for Covid is 14.

HB 170**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis shared that this bill recently passed and involves mandatory handwriting and math facts. Mr. Lewis shared a clip of the house proceedings where his name was mentioned and that the Lempster Community School was already fluent in these skills.

Policy IK**J. Lewis****Second Reading**

Jillian Thomas made a motion to adopt policy IK, second by Jessica Hooper. All were in favor.

Para contract coming up**J. Lewis**

The 3 year paraprofessional contract is coming up for renewal later this year. Ms. Caron shared with Ms. Hooper how the contract process works. Ms. Hooper is

interested in serving as a representative from the board and Ms. Tirrell will serve also.

Solar Update

J. Lewis

The building permit is complete and things are moving along. Very few trees will be removed.

Webpage progress

J. Lewis

Mr. McNicholas is meeting with the technology person tomorrow to begin work on the page. Mr. Lewis will oversee the project. Plans are to incorporate a video and animation.

Food Contract

J. Lewis

The contract is pending, has not arrived yet. Ms. Caron asked for feedback from Mr. Lewis and Mr. Peterson on if the students were happy with lunches; the consensus was yes.

Monthly building needs

J. Lewis

It was suggested to get some free labor from the Sullivan County jail inmates. Windows need replacing, painting, along with the asbestos abatement, a slide needs repair, the preschool playground is here (but needs assembly), there are some holes on the playground that need to be filled for safety. Also discussed was the presence of ticks and bees (? ground hornets) and the suggestion to provide a bench or two on the playground out back. It was also suggested to obtain some guinea hens to remove the ticks from the school grounds.

Poetry month

J. Lewis

The poetry night coffee house was discussed. This is planned for April 20th at 6pm. Coffee and snacks will be available. Community member, Robin Maguire, is coming in to the classrooms to share poetry skills. Ms. Caron suggested sending invitations to past employees and board members.

Principal Search committee established

J. Lewis

The search committee has been established and they plan to have their first meeting in June. The goal is to have the new person shadow Mr. Peterson for ease of transition. Initially, there will be nine members on the committee who will bring their two choices to the board.

Finances**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis discussed the current status of finances with the board. Grants continue to be sought to help with the financial burden. Ms. Caron has reviewed and signed the assurances.

The board reviewed and signed the manifests.

Agenda Building**K. Caron**

Website building, 8th grade trip update, solar update, Superintendent Evaluation, policies, administrative contracts, finances

Time and Place of next meeting**K. Caron**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd at 5pm.

*Jillian Thomas made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II at 6:43pm,
second by Rachel Tirrell*

Roll Call-Kelly-yes, Rachel-yes, Jillian-yes, Jess-yes

Adjournment

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Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lichty
Board Secretary