

**Lempster School District  
School Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 2, 2023  
Lempster Community School Library  
Public Hearing ~ Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Present-Board members:** Kelly Caron, Norma Proper, Bruce Cragin, Rachel Tirrell and Jillian Thomas

**Superintendent/Director of Student Services:** Jim Lewis

**Principal:** Ralph Peterson

**Financial Manager:** Lisa Cross

**Call to order**

**K. Caron**

Ms. Caron called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

**Agenda Adjustments**

**K. Caron**

Not needed

**Review of minutes from 1.11.2023**

**Board**

*Norma Proper made a motion to accept the draft minutes of 1.11.2023 as presented, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor, with Bruce Cragin abstaining.*

**Public comment-** Jessica Hooper and Hope Damon were present.

Ms. Damon introduced herself as, one of our 3 state reps for our county. She serves on the education committee and gave an update on the bills they are currently working on. There are a number of curriculum bills, early intervention for dyslexia, transportation for career and technical schools to name a few. She suggests going to the state web site and looking up the education committee for further details and to contact your representatives. That information can be found at

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/member.aspx?member=409085>

Mr. Peterson suggested to Ms. Damon that legislation be changed to allow NH teachers to work part-time post retirement. Ms. Damon stated that the time limit is up this year to submit, but perhaps it could be submitted next year.

Ms. Caron asked if she had a newsletter to keep people updated and Ms. Damon informed her that she is currently working on one. She offered to send Ms. Caron and Mr. Lewis an update of the activity on the education committee.

Mr. Lewis let Ms. Damon know that there are a number of superintendents and others who are pushing for all school lunches to be offered for free. Ms. Damon suggested emailing the committee members to support this effort.

### **Administrative reports**

**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis provided the board with copies of the FUN-dations, Wilson Language Basics student notebook, to review. This program will be used by the younger students (K-3) to help phonetically and with forming letters and help learn reading. There will be staff training for this.

Mr. Cragin asked if our previous program was phonetically based and Mr. Lewis stated no. This new program should help our students in the future.

### **Professional Development Day**

**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis described the professional development day taught by Danielle Cole, BCBA. The staff was very involved and interactive with the behavior modification techniques taught, so much so that there was not enough time for all of the videos to be viewed. The videos will be shown to staff at the next staff meeting.

### **Bus Update**

**R. Peterson**

Mr. Peterson updated the board that a parent, Mr. McNicholas, is now certified to drive the school van to help with transportation. That has helped tremendously. The van has helped with some of the extended routes.

Fall Mountain has also agreed to provide bus training for another parent, so that we could use him, when needed.

He also asked Fall Mountain if they will be able to provide us a bus or two for purchase or lease for next year and was provided no answer.

Mr. Peterson also visited Reed transportation and met with Scott Reed who was supportive and discussed lease/purchase. He stated that buses are not being produced, like in the past. Mr. Peterson will follow up with him again soon.

### **Covid Status**

**J. Lewis**

Updated numbers of hospitalizations being treated for Covid is 33 for Lempster: with 4-6 cases in the last 14 days there were 5 new cases. He reminded all that our main concern is to keep kids safe.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. McNicholas recently took the school van and Mr. Lewis's car to Concord to the State Department to fill with gloves, masks and wipes.

### **Circus**

**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis shared with the board that the circus was again a big success and popular with the students, despite the fact, that it all came together in only 3 days (2 snow days that week). Ms. Thomas stated that the PTO was able to earn a

commission on the circus extras that they sold and also the bake sale. This is a popular event, the students loved it, the parents were happy and it may be offered again in the future.

Of note on the Instagram site was our spelling bee champ, Dylan Golding, and Mr. Lewis stated that he is studying for the next spelling bee and we will get an update of his progress.

### **Monthly building needs update**

**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis stated that the building needs are never-ending; a new water leak was discovered today.

The electrician for the solar power has been in to review the set up.

The electrician for our safety improvements has not been in contact, so the extra exit light installations have been put on hold.

The stove hood needs a new canister to bring it up to code, the fire retardant needs replacement. The new hood and canister will cost approximately \$2500.

Fire maps have been placed in each room

### **Finances**

**J. Lewis**

The manifests were presented and signed by the board.

### **District Meeting Preparation**

The board discussed coverage of the District Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, with voting from 4pm to 7:30pm. Ms. Tirrell and Mr. Cragin will cover 4 to 5pm, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Proper will cover 5 to 6pm, and the entire board will be present from 6 to 7pm.

Ms. Cross and Mr. Lewis provided the board with items on the Capital Budget Improvement plan. Long range plans include, the finalization of the asbestos abatement/tile replacement, interior/exterior painting, library updating, continuation of the roof repairs/replacement, window/door replacements etc.

*Jillian Thomas made a motion to approve the Capital Budget plan, as presented, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.*

### **Warrant Articles**

Mr. Lewis provided the Board with a draft of the planned Warrant Articles. The Board wanted to present the draft Warrant articles during public budget presentation and held off on signing them in the event the discussion led the articles to be modified. If no changes are needed resulting from the Public Budget

Hearing, the Board Members agreed to stop by the SAU office the week of February 6th to sign the official Warrant articles.

**Other items**

Ms. Caron noted that it was Ms. Proper's last meeting as board member. She was profusely thanked for her many years on the board. She also turned in her policy notebook, which will be updated by Ms. Lichy.

Mr. Lewis will contact Mrs. Tremblay to see if the 8<sup>th</sup> grade would like to offer a meal that evening.

**Time and Place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

**K. Caron**

**Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II**

**J. Lewis**

**Adjournment**

*Rachel Tirrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting to the public budget hearing at 5:50pm, second by Jillian Thomas. All were in favor.*

*Note; the board did not have further items to discuss in session and was adjourned after the budget hearing.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lichy  
Board Secretary