

**Lempster School District
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
Lempster Community School Library
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Present-Board members: Kelly Caron, Jessica Hooper, Bruce Cragin, Rachel Tirrell and Jillian Thomas

Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis

Principal: Ralph Peterson

Call to order

K. Caron

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by chair, Ms. Caron.

Review of minutes from (5/2/2023)

Board

Bruce Cragin made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 5.2.23, as presented, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor.

Review of Nonpublic Minutes (5/2/2023)

Board

Jillian Thomas made a motion to approve the draft non-public minutes of 5.2.23, as presented, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Guests Graduating Eighth graders: Rayelle Nester and Frank Bissett and Teachers and 8th Grade Class Advisors; Vicki Tremblay and Darcie Shephard

Public comment (limited to 30 minutes) Present were Selena Leite and Amanda Archibald.

Ms. Archibald was there in support of her son, Frank. Ms. Leite spoke to the fact that there was no 7th grade field trip this year and also last year, which she realizes was due to Covid. Ms.

Thomas also noted that the 6th grade also did not have a field trip this year. Mr. Lewis commented that this year was difficult due to our lack of a second bus driver.

Ms. Caron asked if a field day was planned for this year and Mr. Peterson informed her that a trip to Sunapee Beach is planned for Tuesday with 2 bus runs planned. For next year we should have another bus driver and will be able to cover more field trips or seek other options so that all classes will have educational trips available.

Administrative reports

J. Lewis

Graduation

R. Peterson

Mr. Peterson informed the board that graduation will take place on the 14th at 6:30pm, with hopes of having the rock band perform. It will be outside, weather permitting. The Fall Mtn. graduates will be returning to the school on one day next week.

Ms. Tremblay thanked the PTO for all the help that they have provided. Ms. Thomas stated that the 8th grade signs will be available after the meeting tonight to be placed out by Route 10 near our sign. The PTO will also be offering snacks at graduation.

Mr. Lewis asked the 8th graders what they liked about attending Lempster School. Rayelle Nester stated that she really enjoyed attending school here. She made lots of good friends, it's sad to leave. She thought that starting track was a high point. She will attend Sunapee High School next year.

Frank Bissette started school here in 6th grade and found it hard to adjust since he was new and the other students had been together through their school years. He said that after the adjustment period he found the school to be fun and that he learned a lot. He felt he had very good teachers. Ms. Tirrell asked how it could have been made easier, he wasn't sure and said it's wasn't that bad, just a bit hard to get in the groove. He will be attending Fall Mtn. High School. Both students really enjoyed the Hulburt Center trips.

Ms. Caron asked if they felt informed about choices for high school and they both said yes. They shared that their class trips are going to Canobie Lake Park on Friday and Strawberry Banke on Monday and they are both looking forward to that. The 8th grade advisors are providing transportation. At this time, they are unsure how many are going, due to grades.

Eighth grade trips

R. Peterson

Canobie Lake Park and Strawberry Banke will be visited in the next week.

Buses

J. Lewis/R. Peterson

After looking into many options and a new bus costing \$109K, Mr. Peterson spoke to SDA about buying the bus we are leasing, (which has 56K miles) for \$51K. He then spoke to the mechanic who worked on L2 (recent new transmission, 86K miles) and asked how much life that bus has left and was told that with some rust protection it should last a while. With that information he called SDA back about buying both busses and a price of \$95K was agreed upon.

Ms. Thomas asked how many miles per year are put on our buses. Mr. Peterson was unsure but stated that since we don't drive to Fall Mtn. any longer, our busses should last longer.

There is currently enough money to purchase these busses.

Ms. Thomas asked about a maintenance agreement and Mr. Peterson stated that one has not been purchased at this time.

Webpage progress

J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis presented an impressive draft vision of the webpage to the board. It included various outside drone views of the school, playground and the area, along with inside views of various classroom activities. Mr. McNicholas is assisting with this project.

Staffing

J. Lewis

Various websites are being used for advertising. A bus driver has been interviewed. A custodial applicant will be in this week for an interview. Also, a SPED person and guidance counselor are still needed. We may possibly have a life skills teacher. Mr. Lewis said that in the past he used to get 50 applicants, he now averages 8.

Ms. Thomas asked why we haven't looked into a custodial service. Mr. Lewis stated that he has looked into it in the past and those services are hard to come by and sometimes out of our price range. Ms. Caron asked for a cost comparison.

Principal Search Committee

J. Lewis

The board was presented a draft packet of the profile of what the committee is looking for and their first meeting will be held later in the summer. The board will review the packet and give their thoughts.

Summer Academy**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis discussed how the summer academy will work this year. So far, 16 students are signed up. It is available for students K-8. Academics will take place in the morning, then lunch and fun activities for the afternoon session. Hiking, cooking, science experiments, and possibly rocketry will be offered. He will be applying for the 'Beyond School' grant for luxury motor coach transportation for a trip to Boston for the Duck Boats at the end of the academy.

Ms. Caron asked about the after school program. Mr. Lewis stated that some parents are still not keeping up with payments, options are being sought. Mr. Lewis commended Ms. Mahieu for her dedication to this program and the children. Mr. Lewis also said that a new grant is available that may help with this type of program.

Also discussed was the fact that some parents are delinquent in paying their tuition for out of district high schools. Options were discussed, without resolution.

Solar update**J. Lewis**

The building permit is in hand and the company will be on site and starting the process on June 16. It is hoped to incorporate the building process into our website drone video.

Covid Status**J. Lewis**

We are still hearing of cases but things are slowing down. Masks and gloves continue to be available.

In regards to handwashing, it was suggested to install automatic paper towel dispensers to ensure clean hands.

Policies second reading**J. Lewis**

JICI *A motion was made by Jillian Thomas to adopt policy JICI, second by Jessica Hooper. All were in favor.*

GADA *A motion was made by Rachel Tirrell to adopt policy GADA, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.*

2022-2023 Goals Update**J. Lewis**

The board was provided with a list of the goals, the rational and what progress has been made to date.

Preschool/Kindergarten graduation**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis was able to obtain (yet another) grant for preschool/kindergarten graduation. Included will be a scavenger hunt, a visit by a llama, a gift for each parent and other activities. Kudos were given to the exceptional preschool teacher, Heather Dow. The preschoolers really enjoy coming to school and are always here early, they are engaged! Board members are encouraged to attend the kindergarten graduation, it's a wonderful celebration and Mrs. Murray does a great job! It's 2pm on Friday.

Other communities continue to want to have their children attend our school.

Monthly Building needs maintenance update**J. Lewis**

Repairs need to be made to the wood outside of the building and then painting is needed along with painting inside. Mr. Tracy will be doing some work over the summer on the floors. The

playground needs cement in place prior to building it, which we didn't not know. The asbestos abatement will be started soon and with a new company will be cheaper than it was last year. It was suggested to repaint the lines in the parking lot also.

Mr. Lewis has been made aware of a new safety grant which may cover the cost of new doors and locks.

Finances

J. Lewis

The manifests were reviewed and signed by the board.

Fall Mtn. Agreement- The board reviewed the agreement and decided to invite their board to a meet and greet BBQ in August.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to accept the agreement with Fall Mountain Regional School District for the school year July 1st, 2023 through July 30th, 2026, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor.

A letter was received from Ms. Mahieu regarding setting up the first negotiation meeting, Ms. Caron and Ms. Hooper will be doing the negotiations. The first meeting will be setting up ground rules.

Other items

Board

The Eagle Times newspaper is finally coming to do a write up on the school on Friday.

Ms. Thomas suggested that to help advertise the new website that we order bumper stickers to promote our school!

Mr. Peterson discussed with the board his process of sending letters to parents whose students are in jeopardy of not advancing to the next grade. The board asked questions and different options to include phone calls were discussed.

Ms. Tremblay and Ms. Shepherd spoke candidly with the board about their concerns with the ineffectiveness of how the 8th grade class trip and fundraising is set up. The year starts out with the Hulburt trip and then the rest of the year is spent raising funds for an 8th grade trip, but they don't seem interested in it and they lack motivation and inspiration to do anything. There are a handful of students who do all the volunteer work, with the others who skate by and do nothing. The board discussed other options, like maybe offering something combined with other classes or something at the beginning instead of the end of the year, like Kroka as was done a few years ago.

A lengthy discussion was held with options. The board and teachers will see if they can come up with other options for next year.

Ms. Tremblay said that the apathy children have in schools today is nationwide.

She said that some schools don't allow cell phones and that there is less anxiety in those children. She tells her students that school is your job and your report card is your paycheck, how much are you getting paid this quarter?

It was suggested to look at each class and gauge if it's a group motivated to do something or perhaps maybe not do anything. Also suggested was to involve 6-8 grades together in fundraising or fieldtrips.

Agenda Building**K. Caron**

Review summer academy, staff contract review, bus contract, principal search, web page update, start of school year

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1st, at 5pm.

The board retreat will be held on Tuesday, August 22th at 5:30pm at Suna restaurant

Jillian Thomas made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 IIc at 7pm, second by Bruce Cragin

Roll Call-Kelly yes, Jillian yes, Jessica yes, Bruce yes, Rachel yes

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lichty

Board Secretary