

Lempster School District
School Board Meeting~Tuesday, June 4, 2024
5:30 PM
Lempster Community School Library
Approved Meeting Minutes

Present-Board members: Kelly Caron, Jillian Thomas, Hilary Snide (arrived @ 6:06) and Bruce Cragin
Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis
Principal: Ralph Peterson
Absent: Jessica Hooper

Call to order

K. Caron

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 by Ms. Caron, chair.

Agenda Adjustments none needed

K. Caron

Review of minutes from (5.7.24)

Board

Bruce Cragin made a motion to accept the minutes of 5.7.24, second by Jillian Thomas. All were in favor.

Review of nonpublic minutes from (5.7.24)

Board

Jillian Thomas made a motion to accept the nonpublic minutes of 5.7.24 as presented, to be sealed for a period of 5 years, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor

Public Comment (limited to 30 minutes) Selena Leite was present

Solar Update

Power is on and the school is currently running off of solar energy. The panels are moving to the sun and it's awesome to finally see this.

Grant for library

J. Lewis

The library grant will start with the purchase of a collection of graphic novels that the kids love and it will also include funds for a consultant. The board was pleased to hear about this exciting new project.

Fall Mountain Transportation update

J. Lewis

We have not received a bill from Fall Mountain for quite some time. Ms. Caron suggested that a registered letter be written to them, along with a copy of the contract we signed with them. Ms. Caron would like a copy also to review.

Road behind school update

J. Lewis

Still waiting for the road (behind the school) to be graded, although the grader was sitting outside on School Road, all week.

End of year update

R. Peterson

Mr. Peterson reviewed the NWEA testing done both at the beginning of the year and the testing completed last week. In reading, in the fall, 50% of students were above the national norm, as of the spring testing we gained one percentage point. In math, 46% of our students were above the national norm, as of the spring testing we were up to 55%. The scores were averaged and the numbers are up 6%.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the activities of the last two weeks of school. Graduation and field trips were reviewed, along with sports activities.

Summer Academy

R. Peterson

The academy was reviewed. So far there have been 13 children signed up. Meals are planned and will be prepared and served by Mr. Peterson and Ms. Hamel. The enrichment program has received some funds. Mr. Peterson heard that there will be no talent show this year, as part of Old Home Day. There are discussions to have a community event where the students have a talent show and food is provided.

Van protocol

R. Peterson

Will be discussed under non-public

Preschool

J. Lewis

Ms. Wilson will be filling in for Mrs. Dow for her leave time. The numbers are down for preschool so we are trying to encourage parents to sign their kids up. It was suggested to place the notice on the roadside sign.

Food Service Contract and Prices

J. Lewis

The Fresh Picks company has been bought out and they will be keeping some of their employees. Regarding the cost, the state has recommended that we charge \$3.66. The board discussed this and decided that the cost of lunches will be \$3.50 for the 2024-2025 school year, up from \$3.25. Ms. Caron asked what the cost was for breakfast. Mr. Lewis stated \$2. Karen, from NH Hunger Solutions, recently came to the school to discuss programs for helping to feed the students. As part of our back to school BBQ this year we will have staff from NH Hunger Solutions available to offer encouragement for parents to fill out the reduced lunch paperwork.

There are a number of large outstanding balances for lunch money that needs to be collected.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to approve the food service contract for the Whitson/Fresh Picks 2024-2025 school year, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

The board asked about the afterschool program funds and Mr. Lewis stated that there are some incredibly large balances due for childcare.

Policies BEC and BEDG second reading

J. Lewis

A motion was made by Bruce Cragin to adopt policy BEC with the one correction, second by Jillian Thomas. All were in favor.

Policy BEDG was tabled until the August meeting.

Monthly building needs update

J. Lewis

- LifeVac.- Mr. Lewis provided an overview of how to use the LifeVac. This one will be kept in the cafeteria and it was suggested by Ms. Thomas that another one be purchased for the PreK area of the school. We are still looking for funding for the Stop-the-Bleed program.
- Front of school/paint barrier-Discussion was held about the peeling paint on the building. It was suggested to price vinyl siding and Mr. Lewis will do that. It was also suggested that a section of

rock be placed next to the building to prevent mold/moss growth. There was a lengthy discussion by the board about improving the appearance of the school.

- Septic system-The staff bathroom near the office has been out of order for some time. Mr. Lewis has contacted a company to pump the tank to see if that helps. There are 2, 10K gallon tanks and one 100K gallon tank. Ms. Thomas asked about possible damage to the larger tank (located in the soccer field) when the DART helicopter lands on it.
- Speed Limit signs-Mr. Lewis has purchased 2 - 10 MPH signs.

Finances

J. Lewis

- Manifest-the manifests were reviewed and signed by the board.
- End of year projection-anticipated funds are under \$200K. Some grants are available. There is a grant that will be used to fund three out of district students. Ms. Caron asked what the fund balance was and according to the annual report it is \$50K. It is slated to be used for gravel, accounting software, new Chromebooks, chairs, and vinyl siding.
- Sub rate-Mr. Lewis again, researched the area sub rates, which is now \$85/day. The board discussed the rate and where to find new subs. One nearby school pays \$115 per day. The board decided to raise the sub pay to \$100 per day. The board asked if we were short of subs and Mr. Lewis stated yes. There was discussion about speaking to local college students who may be interested in being a substitute.

Other items

K. Caron

The PTO was commended for their work on the, amazingly beautiful, Vicki Goss Memorial Garden! Ms. Lichty suggested checking all of the metal chairs in the gym and to toss out the ones that are broken or have sharp edges. Mr. Lewis stated that it is planned under summer maintenance.

Agenda Building

K. Caron

Summer program, building update, Fall Mtn. transportation, summer building project update, library grant, beginning of school year, second reading policy BEDG

Time and Place of next meeting

K. Caron

The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2024 at 530pm.
The board retreat will be held on June 14 at 4pm at Bubba's.

Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II

J. Lewis

Van-Superintendent Contract-District Interest

Jillian Thomas made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 IIc at 6:42pm, second by Hilary Snide. Roll call; Kelly-yes, Bruce-yes, Hilary-yes, Jillian-yes

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lichty
Board Secretary

