

**Lempster School District
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Lempster Community School Library
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Present-Board members: Jillian Thomas, Kelly Caron (arrived at 5:50), Jessica Hooper, and Bruce Cragin

Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis

Principal: Ralph Peterson

Absent: Rachel Tirrell

Call to order

J. Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm by vice chair, Ms. Thomas.

Agenda Adjustments

J. Thomas

The agenda was revised to add full day preschool discussion after buses/transportation

Review of minutes from (8.1.23)

Board

Jessica Hooper made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 8.1.23, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor, with Jillian Thomas abstaining.

Review of Nonpublic Minutes (8.1.23)

Board

Jessica Hooper made a motion to approve the draft non-public minutes of 8.1.23, as presented, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor, with Jillian Thomas abstaining.

Public comment (limited to 30 minutes)

Selena Leite was present and asked who the district attorney is. Mr. Lewis stated that, Mr. James O'Shaughnessy is. Ms. Leite requested that the school board create an agreement that Lempster students may attend Mt. Royal Academy. Mr. Lewis stated that this had come up in the past and read excerpts from the previous letter (this will be provided to Ms. Leite). The letter was dated more than a year ago. Ms. Leite has done extensive research into other schools allowing their students to attend Mt. Royal and she would like to make a formal request to have our board research this option for an agreement again. Mr. Lewis and the board stated that they would be more than willing to look into this again with Mr. O'Shaughnessy. Ms. Leite asked what the timeframe would be. Mr. Lewis stated that it would depend on a number of factors and the players involved; no tax dollars for public schools, legalities, how funding is done in the state of New Hampshire etc.

She also is concerned that she read there is no re-taking of tests this year and feels that this may interfere with the board goals with this year and that there may be extenuating circumstances that may warrant a retake of a test.

Mr. Peterson was not aware of this change, but he will speak to the teachers and find out the reason for this.

She also mentioned that when something is missing in the students file, it needs to be noted 1) what it is 2) for the student 3) to the parent 4) in Thinkwave, so that it is documented for all and Mr. Lewis agrees with this.

Also suggested was that Mr. Lewis add school board meetings and PTO meetings dates and times to this weekly newsletters.

Administrative reports

J. Lewis

Welcome back

R. Peterson and J. Lewis

Mr. Peterson said there are a dozen new students and over 120 students now. A muggy start to school with not so many on the bus this morning, as lots of parents brought their students to school. The students were welcomed with plants accenting the doorways, a sidewalk with all their names in chalk and welcomes provided by the PTO, along with goodies for the staff.

We have an increased number of Goshen students this year. The younger classes are larger with the 4th and 8th grade classes being the smallest in the school.

The day started with an assembly with the last quarter awards being presented by Mr. Peterson and new staff introduced.

Mr. Lewis noted that he has been approached by parents in other towns who want their children to attend preschool here in Lempster.

Thank you notes were received by Lisa C. and Charen Urbanski. Ms. Urbanski recently applied for a grant for us called the Healthful Snack Initiative, which will provide some different, somewhat pricier snacks.

Opinion Letter from Attorney O'Shaughnessy

J. Lewis

Discussed under public comment.

Staffing Updates

J. Lewis

New position of combined guidance counselor and physical education has been filled and the person will start soon. There were multiple applicants for this position. We are still looking for another paraprofessional or two.

Mr. Lewis is especially thankful for the paraprofessionals who are flexible, strategize, work the rider line smoothly and work together. Mr. Peterson said that the McIntyre family came in over the weekend and spread mulch on the playground. Many thanks to them!

Buses/Transportation

R. Peterson

The buses belong to us, but there has been a delay in getting the paperwork. Mr. Thomas is helping out when he can. He is also helping with van transportation, as is Mr. Peterson. Mr. McNicholas does 2 van runs per day when he is not teaching. There are also 2 high school students who need transportation from the grange to their homes (due to legal obligations). We are still trying to entice bus drivers to come drive for us, but being a rural school and the limitations of the job, make it difficult to hire anyone, despite increasing monetary enticements.

Full day preschool

J. Lewis

The preschool is a hit and parents are fans, but we are unsure if we can offer a full day preschool due to a number of factors. Our preschool is funded by Title I. Our preschool teacher, teaches in the morning and then perform Title I skills in the afternoon. Otherwise, we would not have the funding for the teacher or the teacher salary. There was a lengthy discussion on the ins and outs of this federally funded program. The board would like to revisit this next year.

2023-2024 Goals revisit/adoption

J. Lewis

The board will review these for adoption at the next meeting

Para negotiation**Board**

A meeting to discuss the ground rules has been set for October 18th. Ms. Caron and Ms. Hooper are the board member representatives in negotiations this time.

Policy Committee formation**Board and J. Lewis**

Ms. Thomas and Ms. Hooper have volunteered to serve on this committee. Mr. Lewis will share access to the NH School Board Associations Site for reference.

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

The parking lot was striped by the staff. Various floors were tiled and the teacher's room was updated.

A graduating 8th grader, did an amazing mural in the lunchroom!

Finances**J. Lewis**

The finance manager, Sarah Clancy, was introduced and presented the manifests to the board. The manifests were reviewed and signed by the board.

Other items**Board**

The BBQ was a success and there was a large number of students and parents present. It was a beautiful evening.

The Open House will be held on September 14th.

Ms. Thomas asked how Ms. McIntyre's first day went and Mr. Lewis stated that she is pleasant, intelligent, and thorough, she is aware of community happenings, respects confidentiality and was such a good decision.

Agenda Building**K. Caron**

Goals adoption, 1st grade teacher, para negotiations, building needs-5year, solar update, bus update, contract.

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

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 3, at 5:00pm with a Public Hearing to expend funds for the floors and our regular meeting starting at 5:30pm

Adjournment

Jillian Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 6:14pm, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lichty

Board Secretary