

Kearsarge Regional School Board

December 16, 2021

Open to Public – MASK required

I Call to Order	The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m .
II Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Cancio-Bello led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III Roll Call	Present: Alison Mastin, Emma Bates, Art Bobruff, Emilio Cancio-Bello, Bebe Casey, Eric Gregoire, Kristen Schultz, Ben Cushing (Present via Zoom); Maggie Ellison, Katrina Nowicki (Student Reps). Ken Bartholomew absent.
IV Approval of Minutes	<i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2021 as written, Ms. Casey seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0</i>
	<i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion allowing Ben Cushing to vote via Zoom. Seconded by Ms. Schultz. Motion carried 7-0-0</i>
V Reports of Administration	<p><i>Chair Report (Vice Chair) - Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Report <p><i>Superintendent's Report - Mr. Feneberg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supt. Feneberg reported the progress he and Mr. Bessette have been making on promoting the proposed STEAM (<i>Science, Technology, Engineering, Applied Arts & Math</i>) wing at Kearsarge Regional High School. There have been several meetings with engineers and architects regarding the proposed project. Supt. Feneberg recognized the help of the School Board and specifically stated his thanks to Ms. Bates for her efforts promoting the project. In the coming weeks, a brochure will be coming to help bring more information to the public. ● Supt. Feneberg read a letter from Kim Dean, Second Grade Teacher at Sutton Central, and requested the acceptance of her retirement, with regrets, effective June 30, 2022 <p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to approve as presented, with regrets, the retirement request of Kim Dean. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The motion carried 8-0-0.</i></p> <p><i>Assist. Superintendent Report - Mr. Bessette</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Report <p><i>Business Administrator's Report - Mr. LeBoeuf</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The audit for June 30, 2021 was finalized. Mr. LeBoeuf stated his thanks to the staff. ● Mr. LeBoeuf referred to Mr. Elliott regarding a purchase recommendation of \$25,000 for Special Education Contracted Services with Granite State ABA Services, LLC. Ms. Casey asked Mr. Elliott if the School District had ever used Granite State ABA Services, LLC in the past for Special Education purposes. Mr. Elliott replied that the District has used the company several times in the past.

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation of \$25,000 for Special Education Contracted Services provided by Granite State ABA Services, LLC. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the transfer of \$25,000 from Simonds Nurse Wages to Special Education Contracted Services. Seconded by Mr. Cancio-Bello. The motion carried 8-0-0.

KREA Representative Report: Beth Perkins reporting

- No Report - Absent

Student Representative Report: Maggie Ellison and Katrina Nowicki

- Ms. Ellison stated that the Best Buddies program at Kearsarge Regional High School was hosting a gingerbread making event.
- The Swim Team will have their third meet of the season tomorrow (December 17, 2021).
- The Nordic Ski team has their first race this weekend as a part of the Eastern Cup.
- Ms. Nowicki stated that the Kearsarge Principal Advisors Committee met last week to discuss concerns at the High School. The committee spoke about wellness and promoting a more calm and mentally helpful environment. They discussed ways to incorporate mindfulness into the classroom. At this time, 4 teachers have received grants to help incorporate mindfulness into their classrooms.
- There is heightened anxiety regarding the TikTok trend being called “National Shoot-Up Your School Day” in which TikTok users are encouraging students to commit acts of violence in schools across the country on Friday, December 17th. Ms. Nowicki expressed that this is a frightening time to be a student and stated that a number of students have planned not to go to school tomorrow (December 17th).
 - Ms. Schultz stated how sorry she is that any child or student has to fear these threats and that this is a part of the student’s educational experience. She stated the lockdown drills are meant to protect; however, they can be fear inducing.
 - Supt. Feneberg stated that when the District receives bulletins regarding these threats, there is a heavy reliance on our local police forces to analyze the threats and address them. He assured Ms. Nowicki that these threats are not credible and that the District is not in a position to close school for the day based on these threats. Supt. Feneberg emphasized that the District cannot make individual decisions for families and opted to provide as much information as possible to families to help them make these decisions.
 - Mr. Bessette echoed what Supt. Feneberg stated, saying that this is a low threat. He stated that the District cannot be held hostage to the whims of people who are going to put threats out there that are unsubstantiated. Mr. Bessette also encouraged all

	<p>students to use their voice and that if they hear of any threats to report them to the appropriate people.</p>
<p>VI Public Comment</p>	<p><i>Jamie Hess - Chairman, New London Energy Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Hess wrote a letter to the School Board (see attached) regarding the use of renewable energy in the proposed STEAM wing project at Kearsarge Regional High School. He stated that he is committed to promoting the quality of education in the school district and stated that he and his family have been long time members of the District. Mr. Hess stated that he hopes that the District can move toward renewable energy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supt. Feneberg stated that he is very inclined to meet with the New London Energy Committee to discuss this further and have a dialogue with the group as well as to lay out the reasons certain decisions have been made. He stated that he would be happy to attend their January 5, 2022 meeting. ○ Mr. Cancio-Bello stated that the District has embraced some of these options where they have been able to in the past. ○ Ms. Susan Hemingway (via Zoom) is a member of the Warner Energy Committee and stated that she believes renewable energy is an important component to the design of the proposed STEAM wing.
<p>VIII New Business</p>	<p><i>Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Assessment - Sprint 2022 - Steve Paterson - Principal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal Paterson stated that the Middle School is intending to provide the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to those who wish to participate. This survey will be administered electronically and parents will be given the option for their student to opt-out of the survey if desired. Principal Paterson stated that there are some questions on the survey regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effects of students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Bobruff stated that he is completely in favor of the survey and asked if the District is able to modify the survey in any way. Principal Paterson stated that the District will not have the ability to alter the survey. The results will be collected and processed by the State and returned to the District. ○ Supt. Feneberg reiterated that everybody has a choice as to whether or not they will participate. <p><i>KRMS Upcoming Field Trips: Washington DC & Nature's Classroom - Steve Paterson - Principal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nature's Classroom is planned for April 5th through April 8th. Principal Paterson stated that he is actively looking at what's happening with COVID-19. He stated that if it is safe to do so then we want to offer them. The trip to Washington DC is planned for May 17th through May 20th. No deposits have been paid for the trip at this time. Any time students are indoors, masks would be required. Principal Paterson stated that there is consideration of requiring students to take a PCR COVID-19 test prior to departing on the trip. The District has consulted with legal counsel and it has been

determined that it is within the District’s legal right to require such a test. Principal Paterson said that he is also searching for a possible travel insurance plan that would cover not only the cost of the trip if something were to happen, but also any costs accrued relating to if a student needed to quarantine due to a COVID-19 infection while on the trip.

- Ms. Mastin asked how this trip is funded and how much money is to be paid by families. Principal Paterson stated that the Districts fund approximately 50% of the cost of each trip; both Nature’s Classroom and the Washington DC trip. For Washington DC, the typical total cost of the trip per student is around \$600 to \$650 which is split between the District and the family.
- Ms. Schultz asked if School Board approval would be needed in the event that the decision is made to move forward on the requirement of a PCR COVID-19 test. Supt. Feneberg stated that he would request that the School Board take up a vote to approve the requirement.
- Ms Mastin asked if there was any requirement being considered for the students to take a test once returning from the trip. Principal Paterson stated that that has not been considered at this time. The District has reached out to an organization called Seacoast Diagnostics to see about obtaining the possible PCR COVID-19 tests. These tests would be little to no cost to the District. There are also plans to reach out to New London Hospital with this inquiry as well.

Amplification System RFP - Barbara Turner, Director of Technology

- Since COVID-19 hit, some students in the elementary schools have struggled to hear their teacher as a result of the need to wear masks. Ms. Turner has proposed the purchase of a voice amplification system to aid students who are struggling to hear. The system works by teachers wearing microphones around their necks. The system the District is looking to purchase is one model newer than the model currently in use at the Middle School.
 - Mr. Bessette stated that this system enhances the volume as well as the quality of the teachers voice to the students using the system.

Mr. Cancio-Bello made a motion to approve the funds for the purpose of purchasing the Elementary Voice Amplification System in the amount of \$111,431.00 from CCS Presentation. Ms. Schultz Seconded. The motion carried 8-0-0.

2021-22 Calendar Adjustment Request - Independent Learning Days -Supt. Feneberg

- Supt. Feneberg stated the need to find time for teachers to catch up on their work. The District currently has few substitutes and has

	<p>frequently had to ask teachers to double-up. Supt. Feneberg recommended three independent student learning dates where teachers will give their students different projects to work on independently. The dates recommended are February 1, 2022, April 6, 2022, and May 19, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Cancio-Bello asked what kind of work the students would be doing on these days and whether or not the work was monitored. Mr. Feneberg stated that the subject matter would vary depending on the class as it is an independent learning day, the teacher are not expected to monitor student work during the day. Mr. Bessette mentioned that these days typically include 3 ½ hours worth of activity on average. ○ Ms. Hammond stated that she is in full support of this and encouraged clear communication to the parents regarding these dates. <p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made a motion to approve the recommended Independent Learning Days. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The motion carried 8-0-0.</i></p> <p><i>Renewal of Medical and Dental with SchoolCare</i> - Mr. Leboeuf, Business Administrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SchoolCare health and dental for FY 22-23 has had a premium increase of 8.6% relating to healthcare premium and a 3% increase relating to dental (effective rate 10.1%). <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the health and dental coverage from School Care. Seconded by Mr. Cancio-Bello. The motion carried 8-0-0.</i></p> <p><i>Unanticipated Revenue - KRMS - Donation of \$4,000 from the Byrne Foundation</i> - Mr. LeBoeuf, Business Administrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A donation has been offered to the District from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation for the purpose of renting microphones for the Middle School Drama productions. <p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made a motion to accept the donation of \$4,000 from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation. Seconded by Ms. Casey. The motion carried 8-0-0.</i></p>
<p>IX School Board Sub Committees</p>	<p><i>Facilities Committee - December 16, 2021</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Cancio-Bello apprised the School Board of an issue with water contamination at the Middle School. There are water filtration systems in place. A recommendation has been made to get additional testing of the water in the surrounding areas. These tests will go to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services who will return the results with recommendations of how to proceed. ● Supt. Feneberg discussed the work being done to promote the new STEAM wing proposed for the High School. He has done 20 presentations and stated that there is a noticeable uptick in interest. There have been many questions coming his way regarding the project.

	<p>Supt. Feneberg acknowledged that there is a whole team of people working on this project and that he is happy to reach out to anyone who has any questions or would like additional information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are currently funds available to install a new air conditioning system at the Middle School. The Middle School building is currently going under inspection to determine whether or not the project would be feasible. The District should know if the project is possible in the next 5 to 6 weeks. <p><i>Communications Committee - December 10, 2021.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Mastin discussed how the District is getting information to the public regarding the proposed STEAM wing at the High School. A brochure will be available to be mailed and handed out before Christmas. There are plans to get out into the community to discuss the addition as well as creating posters and advertising in print media to promote this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Cancio-Bello asked if there should be any communication to the public regarding the renewable energy options that have been explored by the District in designing the proposed STEAM wing. Mr. Feneberg stated that some of the renewable energy solutions are not feasible in our climate and have been coming with a price tag starting at \$2 million. He also stated that there is nothing stopping the District from looking into solar at a later point. Ms. Mastin stated that she does believe the presentations being made to the public have included information regarding renewable energy. ● Ms. Mastin also discussed how to communicate further regarding Athletics. She stated that at this time none of the local newspapers are reporting the outcomes of any of the District's games or meets.
<p>X Non Public</p>	<p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to go into nonpublic. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 8-0-0.</i></p>
<p>XI Return to Public</p>	<p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made a motion that the non-public minutes regarding a student matter be sealed for 10 years. Seconded by Ms. Casey. The motion carried 8-0-0.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made a motion to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Lincoln. Seconded by Ms. Schultz. The motion carried 8-0-0.</i></p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton, School Board Note Taker