

Kearsarge Regional School District
School Board Meeting
 April 20, 2023 - 6:30 pm
 Kearsarge Professional Development Center
 165 Main Street, New London
Open to Public

I. Call to Order	The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	Ms. Mastin led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<p>Present: Ken Bartholomew (via Zoom), Emma Bates, Arthur Bobruff (via Zoom), Eric Gregoire, David Keith, Kyle Lombard, Alison Mastin, Kristen Schultz.</p> <p>Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent; Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent; Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator; Beth Perkins, KREA Representative.</p> <p>Absent: Ben Cushing; Maggie Ellison and Adara Boucher, Student Representatives.</p>
IV. Approval of Minutes	<i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2023 School Board Meeting as written. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-3 (Ms. Bates, Dr. Bobruff and Ms. Schultz abstained).</i>
V. Reports of Administration	<p><i>Superintendent's Report - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Superintendent had the opportunity to meet with Senator Innis, Town Officials, and New London Hospital Leadership to discuss recent developments in the creation of workforce and affordable housing units in New London. With the approval of the New London Planning Board of 60 housing units behind Hannaford's to be built by Twin Pines, some of the housing needs for low to moderate income town, District, and regional employees could be alleviated. At the meeting, the Superintendent invited Senator Innis to meet with District administration to address questions and concerns about the School District. Supt. Feneberg has also reached out to Representative Hope Damon from Sullivan District 8 and invited her to a conversation with the District. ● Supt. Feneberg had the pleasure of sitting in on a few staff evaluation meetings at the Middle School. He stated that he would like to commend the new special education administrator and the teachers for the in-depth, thorough discussion that took place with regards to job responsibilities, professional performance, and staff development. He thanked all the teachers. ● Yesterday, the District took part in two recruiting events. As a part of the District's annual goals, Christie Menard and Assistant Superintendent Bessette went to the Education Department at Plymouth State University to recruit for Kearsarge at their job fair. Later in the afternoon, Christie, Larry, and the Superintendent attended the KRHS college and job fair. They were accompanied by the Kearsarge Cougar to raise awareness of the many jobs available within the District.

- The Superintendent presented the Board with the resignations of Kristen Allen, Curtis Roddy, and Kris Walters. He requested that the Board accept their resignations with regret.

Ms. Bates made a motion to accept the resignations of Kristen Allen, Curtis Roddy, and Kris Walters with regret. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- The Superintendent presented the Board with the retirement of Pam Colanero. He requested the Board approve her retirement with regret.

Ms. Bates made a motion to accept the retirement of Pam Colanero with regret. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- The Superintendent presented the Board with the below new hires and requested their approval:
 - Jennifer Paquette – Preschool
 - Elizabeth Brooks – Health (1 Year Contract)
 - Matthew Nerney – Special Education
 - Lindsay Brook – Special Education
 - Dabney Geary – Language Arts

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the new hires listed above. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- The Superintendent presented the Board with the renomination of Ashley Boudrias, moving from New London Elementary to Bradford Elementary. He requested the Board approve the renomination.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the renomination of Ashley Boudrias. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent

- Mr. Bessette stated that he had the opportunity to attend the job fair at Plymouth State University, as the Superintendent mentioned. He noted that there was about 30 to 35 other Districts at the job fair recruiting.
- Mr. Bessette expressed his appreciation to the members of the Professional Growth Committee who have been redesigning the District's Supervision and Evaluation Plan. He stated that he would like to come back to the Board with the whole Committee to give an update on the redesigned plan.
- Mr. Bessette apprised the Board that the District has signed up to have an opportunity for community participation and feedback regarding Administrative Rule ED306. On May 25th at 6:30 p.m., the District and the public will have the opportunity to engage with the State in a conversation about Rule ED306 at the Kearsarge Regional Development Center.
- Mr. Bessette thanked the Wellness Committee for supporting a recent conversation with New London Hospital regarding the Opioid Epidemic.

Business Administrator's Report - Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a request from the Middle School for a new activity fund to be known as the Sustainability Activity Fund for the purpose of funding student driven projects within the District to increase sustainability such as composting, recycling, and other green initiatives. He request the Board approve the creation of the fund.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the creation of the Sustainability Activity Fund. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf requested the Board grant him permission to lock in fuel oil prices for the upcoming year and bring the prices back for Board approval.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to allow Mr. LeBoeuf to lock in fuel oil prices and bring the prices to the Board for full approval at a later date. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with an estimated year-end balance.
- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a transfer in the amount of \$157,000.00 to cover the increased costs of electricity and fuel oil.

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$157,000.00 to cover the increased costs of electricity and fuel oil. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for floor cleaning chemicals from Clean-O-Rama in the amount of \$28,259.50 as well as corresponding budget transfer in the amount of \$5,354.97.

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for floor cleaning chemicals from Clean-O-Rama in the amount of \$28,259.50. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$5,354.97 to cover the above purchase recommendation. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for the SAFE Grant Door Project in the Amount of \$372,055.00 from Integrated Door Solutions.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for the SAFE Grant Door Project in the Amount of \$372,055.00 from Integrated Door Solutions. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

KREA Representative - Beth Perkins, KREA Representative

- The New London Kindergarten team visited Colby-Sawyer College to learn about maple sugaring. They enjoyed their taste of maple syrup

After April Vacation kindergarten classrooms will be getting eggs and hatching chicks.

- New London teachers and students want to say thank you to Mrs. Hyson for all the FUN poetry experiences during Poetry Month. She created a digital Pause for Poetry each day, featuring poetry by students. Today was Poem in a Pocket Day. Students collected poems from all around the school and shared them with classmates.
- It has been an exciting week at KRES at Bradford. It is Theme week and there is also an Artist in Residence. Everything kicked off Monday morning with an all-school concert featuring the [Akwaabe Ensemble](#). The Akwaaba Ensemble is led by Mr. Theo Martey. Mr. Martey has been working with classes and grade levels throughout the week, teaching West African drumming and dance to all the KRES at Bradford students. On Friday, he and the 4th and 5th grade students will put on a concert for the rest of the school. The teachers have also aligned the theme this year with the Artist in Residence. As a result, students are learning about different countries in Africa; their culture, wildlife, geography and history.
- Sixth grade teacher Susan Mullaney held a Mock Trial in all four of her ELA classes this week. Students put a character (Byron) from the current book they are reading (*The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963*) on trial. Half the class worked as lawyers for the prosecution arguing that Byron is a juvenile delinquent and the other half of the class were lawyers working for the defense to argue that Byron is a good citizen. Students have been learning in class about how to write a thesis statement and support it with evidence. They are also studying how to write a strong introduction paragraph which will be their "opening statements" for the trial.
- Administrators, faculty, and staff served as the "jury" during the second half of the block classes. They listened to the students' arguments and shared what they thought was the single most persuasive piece of evidence from each side. The jury also decided the case in favor of the prosecution or the defense.
- 7-2 Language Arts students individually designed a comic strip for steps in the Hero's Journey using a tool called Storyboard That!. They selected pictures as evidence of each step in the stages of the journey. They then needed to explain, in writing, why it was an example of the step. It was a combination project of writing and visual design where close reading of the text was required. It was so much fun when students would ask, "But what does Hades look like?" and they would have to look at the chapters to locate where the character was described. This project emphasized a lot of skills that students will need going forward.
- Mrs. Stratton is thrilled to share the success of the Elementary Gateway Program's collaboration with Full Circle Farm Therapeutic Horsemanship in Newport, NH. The students traveled to the farm on Wednesday mornings for 7 weeks to learn about the farm, how to care for the horses and to develop an invaluable connection with their equine helpers. During the lessons, the participants, with the help of many incredible

	<p>volunteers, experienced both the physical and emotional benefits of therapeutic horsemanship. Students had an opportunity to use and develop core muscles and increase coordination while riding. Leaders also witnessed the calming effect that horses can have on riders, allowing them to focus, listen and become more receptive to instruction. It was an exceptional and memorable experience for our students and all those involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The KRMS Stem & Engineering Fair was a huge success! The science faculty redesigned the traditional science fair into a student-centered, authentic learning experience focused on the engineering design process. The science team made a big change and put in the hard work to make it a success! • At the High School, Baking classes are doing cupcake wars this week. Culinary is moving into California cuisine this week. They have two more regions to go after break and then they will be designing the menus and creating order & prep lists themselves for lunch service. They will also learn about food costing. • All of Chef Ross’ classes will be helping with various functions: This week they catered the National Honors Society ceremony as well as a senior luncheon in the community. Looking ahead, they are supplying the food for the New London Elementary school fundraiser, partnering with the High School theater department to supply food for dinner theater, and catering the senior BBQ. • We are full "STEAM" ahead until the end of the school year.
<p>VI. Public Comment</p>	<p><i>Ms. Mastin opened the meeting for public comment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comment. <p><i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to close public comment. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>VII. New Business</p>	<p><i>Board Retreat Planning - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supt. Feneberg discussed the upcoming School Board Retreat and reminded the Board that the Strategic Plan is typically discussed at the retreat as well as the goals of the District for the upcoming year. He also encouraged the Board to think of any topics they would like to discuss at the Retreat so they can be put on the agenda to help guide discussion. <p><i>Update on Supervision and Evaluation Plan – Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette stated that the Professional Growth Committee will come back with a full update on the revisions. <p><i>Portrait of a Learner – Christine Downing, Principal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Downing discussed with the Board the progress being made on defining what the portrait of a learner looks like. She stated that the portrait of a learner will be the “North Star” for the District.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She noted that the portrait of a learner is not a mere renaming of the District’s vision or solely for accreditation, it is to guide the District in knowing exactly what it means to be a learner at Kearsarge. • Ms. Downing stated that the plan is to brand and market this and build competencies, set learning targets, and set performance scales based on this portrait. • Mr. Lombard asked how the discussion about a portrait of learner came about. Ms. Downing explained that this is something that multiple District do. She noted that this is something that the District can give to colleges to help them understand what Kearsarge students are learning. Ms. Downing and the Superintendent apprised the Board of an upcoming opportunity for the District to partner with Gallup to conduct a poll among High School students to gather information regarding their hopes and aspirations. • Ms. Schultz stated that she wasn’t sure how this fits in with the content and expressed concern regarding how this fits in with all that is already on teachers plates. Mr. Bessette explained that the tasks of the teachers are all included in the portrait of a learner. He also noted that the District is working on forming the portrait of an educator as well to help guide teachers. Ms. Schultz stated that she felt that adding more and more to the teachers’ roles will lead to an increase in burn-out. The Superintendent stated that he shared the concern. He noted that a number of the attributes within a portrait of an educator and a learner are already being done by teachers. He stated the District is looking at what is on teachers plates and working to determine what is essential. <p><i>Policy JICL – Responsible Use of Technology and Policy JICM/GBEG - Prohibited Use of Technology – Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette presented the Board with Policy JICL for first reading, noting that the last revisions were around 2007 and strayed from the language recommended by the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA). The language in the update policy is much stronger in an effort to remove any gray areas. • Mr. Bessette presented the Board with Policy JICM/GBEG for first reading. This policy is related to students and staff and defines prohibited use of technology in two categories: prohibited use and gross abuse. The updated policy gives a clear understanding of what happens when the line is crossed.
<p>VIII. Old Business</p>	<p><i>Policy IHCA Summer Activities – Second Reading – Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette presented Policy IHCA for second reading. He discussed encouraging families to take advantage of lifelong learning activities and

	<p>to find out where they can experience those activities. He noted that reading and writing are important but expressed the importance of students engaging in lifelong learning activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette apprised the Board that he went to the Curriculum Counsel with the Board’s request to provide more resources to families to find these lifelong learning opportunities. He presented the Board with the start of a website to help families find learning opportunities that are low cost to free. • He noted one exception to the policy, explaining that certain AP classes do require certain reading to be completed prior to the commencement of the school year. • Dr. Bobruff expressed his excitement for what has come out of revisiting this policy. <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve and adopt the revisions to Policy HCA. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>IX. Public Comment</p>	<p><i>Ms. Mastin opened the meeting for public comment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Public Comment. <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to close public comment. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Mr. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>X. School Board Sub Committees</p>	<p><i>Human Resources Committee – Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mastin apprised the Board that the Committee discussed completing a review of the IT Department, analyzing job descriptions and compensation for each position. She noted that the pay for these positions has fallen behind in recent years and needs to be increased. Ms. Turner is working to update those job descriptions and will bring her recommendations to the May Committee meeting. • The Committee also discussed the Athletic Trainer position, noting the Committee will be conducting a review of the pay for the position in comparison to the pay of other Athletic Trainers around the country.
<p>XI. Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
 School Board Note Taker