

Kearsarge Regional School District
School Board Meeting
August 24, 2023 - 6:00 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 6:01 p.m.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Langille led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<p>Present: Ken Bartholomew, Emma Bates, Arthur Bobruff, Ben Cushing, Eric Gregoire, David Keith, Kyle Lombard, Alison Mastin, Kristen Schultz.</p> <p>Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent; Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent; Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator; Christie Menard, Director of Human Resources; Catharine Hyson, KREA Representative.</p> <p>Absent: Owen Blood, Student Representative; Adara Boucher, Student Representative.</p>
IV. New Business	<p><i>Superintendent Search Presentation – David DeRuosi, NESDEC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. DeRuosi thanked the Board for inviting him and NESDEC to join in the process of hiring a new Superintendent. He described his background as Interim Executive Director of NESDEC as well as his 33 years as a Superintendent in Massachusetts and 1 year in New Hampshire.• Mr. DeRuosi presented the Board with a packet that lays out the process and timeline of the search. He noted the Ms. Mastin is the liaison between the Board and NESDEC. He discussed the timeline and explained that once the position is posted it will be distributed to over 300+ affiliates. He described NESDEC’s reach, both locally and nationally.• Mr.DeRuosi and the Board discussed how a screening committee is put together to review the applications received and how to determine which candidates should be interviewed. He explained that NESDEC handles all of the paperwork and will relay the full list of candidates and their submitted materials to the screening committee.• Once the screening committee determines which candidates they would like to interview, NESDEC will reach out to those candidates and arrange the interviews. He noted that NESDEC will work with the screening committee to help tailor the questions the District would like to ask during the interviews.• Mr. DeRuosi stated that given the timeline, he hopes to get the finalist to the Board by November 1st. He noted that the timeline can certainly be tweaked based on the District’s needs.• The Board discussed who the members of the screening committee should be. Mr. DeRuosi stated that the screening committee is about putting people in the room who can test the answers given by the

	<p>candidates on the topics raised in the questions. Ms. Schultz expressed that she would like to see a union representative on the screening committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bartholomew noted that some of the example roles given by Mr. DeRuosi of people to be on the screening committee would be direct reports to the Superintendent. He asked if there would be any issue with that. Mr. DeRuosi stated that the District is going to run into that, but those are positions the District will want represented on the screening committee regardless. • Mr. Lombard asked about the recommended size of the screening committee. Mr. DeRuosi stated that NESDEC suggests anywhere between 9 and 12 to help keep the committee to a manageable size. • Supt. Feneberg asked Mr. DeRuosi about balancing the community on the screening committee to encompass the voice of the community in the selection. Mr. DeRuosi expressed that often times there are parents that can play a role on the screening committee and have the expertise needed to screen candidate’s answers to questions on a specific topic. • Mr. Bartholomew requested that the Board have a list of names for the screening committee for the next meeting. • Mr. DeRuosi stressed that any members of the screening committee need to be aware of the time constraint of being on the committee. Ms. Mastin noted that any member of the committee needs to be at every interview. Ms. Schultz additionally discussed the time needed to go through all the packets submitted by the applicants. • The Board thanked Mr. DeRuosi for his time.
<p>V. Approval of Minutes</p>	<p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2023 School Board Meeting as amended. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-3 (Mr. Bartholomew, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Lombard abstained).</i></p>
<p>VI. Reports of Administration</p>	<p><i>Superintendent’s Report – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Superintendent stated that the District had the staff opening today and will have a second round the following day. He stated that the District has heard and listened to the input from teachers that more time is needed in their buildings during the staff opening at the beginning of the year. He stated that all professional positions have been filled in the District; however, the District continues to have vacancies for paraeducators, bus drivers, kitchen workers, and one custodial position. • Supt. Feneberg revealed to the Board the word of the year: Courage. After many conversations and the past couple of years coming out of the Pandemic, being an educator in many forms requires courage. He stressed that being a teacher is not an easy job, it is hard work. He stated that the word was well received among the teachers in the audience when this was presented earlier in the day at the annual welcome. He emphasized that courage means standing up for students. He expressed that the stories of indoctrination in school Districts is seldom happening. Not one teacher or administrator in this District goes to work to try and

manipulate students, this hardly ever happens in any school. On Monday, the District has an Open House and on Tuesday students will return.

- Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with the summer hire of Narine Hazard for the position of Guidance Counselor at the Middle School and requested approval of her hiring.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the hiring of Narine Hazard for the position of Guidance Counselor at the Middle School. Ms. Mastin seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

- The Superintendent presented the Board with the retirement request of Special Education teacher Sharon Scherer. He requested the Board approve her retirement request with regret.

Mr. Cushing made a motion to accept the retirement of Sharon Scherer with regret. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent

- Mr. Bessette said that he had a fantastic week participating in the new member orientation. He stated that the new members are a great crew of passionate educators. Mr. Bessette had the opportunity to focus on the ethics portion of the new member orientation and stated that he had a great discussion with the new hires. This was the first year that a second day was added to new member orientation, allowing for mentees and mentors to have more time together in their buildings to start their time at Kearsarge. Mr. Bessette expressed that he is proud of that day and the work that was accomplished.
- Mr. Bessette apprised the Board of a letter received from Mary Cogswell on behalf of the Warner Historical Society. The letter explained that Warner will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding in 2024 and in celebration, the historical society would like to publish a coloring book of different sites around Warner, including pictures of historic buildings owned by the Kearsarge Regional School District. The copyrights of the pictures of these buildings the Historical Society is looking to use are owned by the District. The Historical Society requested an agreement that they be allowed to publish the pictures in the coloring book. Mr. Bessette requested that the Board vote to allow the Warner Historical Society to use the copyrighted photos in the coloring book to commemorate Warner's 250th anniversary.

Ms. Bates made a motion to allow the Warner, New Hampshire Historical Society to use the copyrighted photos of historic School District buildings in the commemorative coloring book in celebration of Warner's 250th anniversary. Mr. Bartholomew seconded. The Motion carried 9-0-0.

Business Administrator's Report – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. LeBoeuf apprised the Board of an increase in State Adequate Education Aid, noting an increase of \$91,526.00. He stated that the Board can either accept the funds by the passing of a motion or take no action and allow the funds to go back to the taxpayers. The Board decided to allow the funds to go back to the taxpayers of the 7 towns. No action was taken.• Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with the budget transfers below \$5,000.00 from the 2022-23 School Year. He reminded the Board that all budget transfers above \$5,000.00 are brought to the Board for approval prior to transfer; however, any transfers under \$5,000.00 only need to be approved once a year as a group. <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the budget transfers under \$5,000.00 from the 2022-23 School Year as presented. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p> <p>Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with the 2022-23 encumbrances that have carried over into the 2023-24 budget. He requested the Board vote to approve the encumbrances. • Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with the 2022-23 encumbrances that have carried over into the 2023-24 budget. He requested the Board vote to approve the encumbrances. Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the encumbrances carrying over for the 2022-23 School Year budget to the 2023-24 School Year budget. Ms. Mastin seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</p> <p>The General Fund totaled \$792,411.99 plus fund 400 totaling 56,248.32 for a total of 848,660.31.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the encumbrances carrying over for the 2022-23 School Year budget to the 2023-24 School Year budget. Ms. Mastin seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p> <p>KREA Representative – Catharine Hyson, KREA Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Hyson stated that though the students aren't back in the classroom yet, the buildings have been very busy between colleagues and between rooms. She expressed that she liked courage as the word of the year and stated that with the support of the Board, the community, and colleagues it is easier to be courageous.
VII. Public Comment	<p><i>Mr. Bartholomew opened the meeting for public comment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No public comment. <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to close public comment. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>

VIII. New Business

Project CLIMB – Request for Additional Stipend Advisor – Charles Langille, Principal; Emily Anderson, Peter Keene, and Amanda Leslie, Project Climb Advisors

- Ms. Anderson explained the need for an additional stipend advisor for Project CLIMB. She noted that CLIMB is an acronym: Challenging Limitations In Mind and Body. She stated that it has always been a cornerstone of the program to expose students to the beauty of New Hampshire’s natural places. She explained that the program provides an opportunity to bridge the gap between students from different students that wouldn’t interact as often were it not for Project CLIMB.
- Ms. Anderson stated that this year the program will be able to resume a pre-COVID schedule. She explained details of the work that needs to be completed in preparation for a trip as well as at the conclusion of the trip. She presented the details of the various trips planned for the year, including a single day trip and various single night and 2-night trips. She further explained the time constraints facing the program in areas such as scheduling, advertising, requesting funds, etc. She stated that three advisors currently share the responsibility as well as one volunteer.
- Ms. Schultz asked how much the stipend is and if there is enough participation to warrant the position. Mr. Langille stated that the current stipend is \$2,300.00. Ms. Anderson stated that pre-COVID, the District had around 35 students for each trip; however, during COVID the number reduced to 25. She explained that with the return of various hut trips scheduled for this year, they expect interest in the program to increase.
- Mr. Keene noted that this position also comes from a safety concern. He explained that if there was ever a need to evacuate a student, the additional advisor would be key to providing adequate supervision of students while other advisors walk the student out of the woods. Dr. Bobruff stated that he believed the cost-benefit ratio of the additional advisor is a no brainer.
- Ms. Mastin asked if there was a specific person in mind for the position. Ms. Anderson stated that there have been several people who have reached out to be a part of the program.
- Mr. Bessette asked if the program requires students to obtain a hike safe card. Mr. Keene stated that the program hasn’t required that of students in the past.
- Dr. Bobruff asked about the cost of each trip that is paid for by the students. Mr. Keene stated that the program has been able to keep costs low for students and has not had to turn away an interested student for financial reasons.

Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the request for an additional stipend advisor for Project CLIMB. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Bid Recommendation – Technology Equipment – Barbara Turner, Director of Technology

- Ms. Turner presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for interactive display panels from Connection in the amount of \$105,612.50. She noted that this price does include warranties for the display panels.

Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for interactive display panels from Connection in the amount of \$105,612.50. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

- Ms. Turner presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for Lightspeed Chromebook Filtering and iPad management from CDW-G in the amount of \$13,678.40.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for Lightspeed Chromebook Filtering and iPad management from CDW-G in the amount of \$13,678.40. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Purchase Recommendation – Clean-O-Rama – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for cleaning supplies from Clean-O-Rama in the amount of \$87,500.00.

Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for cleaning supplies from Clean-O-Rama in the amount of \$87,500.00. Mr. Ketih seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Purchase Recommendation – Clean Harbors - Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for outdated chemical removal from Clean Harbors in the amount of \$24,889.22. The Superintendent stated that these are chemicals that have been stored in the schools for many years, noting that it's not a safe solution. He stated that as Mr. Paré has gone through the buildings and

has recommended removing these chemicals.

Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for outdated chemical removal from Clean Harbors in the amount of \$24,889.22. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Purchase Recommendation – New Hampshire Fire & Security – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for additional funding for the KRMS fire alarm system upgrade in the amount of \$26,000.00 and presented a budget transfer in the same amount. He stated that this project will cost more than expected due to newly discovered discrepancies in building plans.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for additional funding of the KRMS fire alarm system upgrade in the amount of \$26,000.00. Ms. Mastin seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$26,000.00. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Signature of DOE 25, MS 25, and Board Approval of Fund Balance Retention – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf stated that documents have been circulated to the Board and the members have signed.
- Mr. LeBoeuf reminded the Board that the District can withhold up to 5% as fund balance retention; however, he recommended a retention of 2.5% totaling \$930,358.00.

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the fund balance retention of 2.5% (930,358.00). Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Purchase Recommendation – Branching Minds - Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for Branching Minds for the 2023-24 School Year in the amount of \$11,643.60. He stated that the program is used for RTI.

	<p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for Branching Minds for the 2023-24 School Year in the amount of \$11,643.60. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Scholarship Deposit – Alex Gissler Scholarship - Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. LeBoeuf requested the Board approve the deposit of \$500.00 into the Alex Gissler Scholarship. <p><i>Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the deposit of \$500.00 into the Alex Gissler Scholarship. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
IX. Public Comment	<p><i>Mr. Bartholomew opened the meeting for public comment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No public comment. <p><i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to close public comment. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
X. Adjourn	<p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
School Board Note Taker