

Kearsarge Regional School District
School Board Meeting
February 1, 2024 - 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	Mr. Hilton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<p>Present: Ken Bartholomew, Emma Bates (via Zoom), 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; Beth Perkins, KREA Representative; Owen Blood, Student Representative.</p> <p>Absent: Adara Boucher, Student Representative.</p>
	<i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to allow Ms. Bates to vote via Zoom for medical reasons. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i>
IV. Public Hearing	<p><i>Appropriation for Unanticipated Funds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required per NH RSA 198:20-b, III, the Kearsarge Regional School Board will conduct a hearing to accept and expend unanticipated revenue funds awarded from the SAFE Grant, round 3, funds awarded in the amount of \$163,000.00. <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to accept and expend unanticipated revenue funds awarded from the SAFE Grant, round 3 in the amount of \$163,000.00. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
V. Approval of Minutes	<p><i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2024 Board Meeting as written. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-2 (Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Cushing abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2024 Deliberative Session as written. Ms. Mastin seconded. The Motion carried 5-0-4 (Mr. Bartholomew, Ms. Bates, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Gregoire abstained).</i></p>
VI. Reports of Administration	<p><i>Superintendent's Report – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Superintendent stated that the District has once again had a successful Deliberative Session back in January. He thanked the public for their attendance and thoughtful questions. He thanked Moderator Derek Lick for leading the session. Supt. Feneberg commended the

Board and the Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) for the work given in the Fall to the preparation of the budget.

- The Superintendent discussed the recent snow days, delays, and remote learning days from the weather disruptions of January. He stated that he wanted to reiterate that the focus is keeping the safety of everyone at the forefront of all these decisions. The District relies on weather reports and advice from the Road Agents of all 7 towns to make the difficult decision. He reminded everyone that it is the right of the parents to decide whether to keep their kids home if they feel the conditions to be unsafe and that the District views those circumstances as an excused absence. Whenever instructional days can be salvaged, the District does everything possible to do so. He also noted that though Mr. Bessette is the one the calls to relay information about closures and delays, he doesn't make the decision.
- Mr. Bartholomew reiterated what a difficult decision it is to close school, stating that he was glad he wasn't the one to make the decision. He noted the differences in the roads throughout the 7 towns, some being dirt roads at high elevations. He expressed that the Board understands how difficult this decision is to make.
- Mr. Bessette noted that Supt. Feneberg is up at 3:00 a.m. trying to make these decisions.
- Supt. Feneberg stated that earlier in the day was the kick-off meeting with Lavallee Brensinger, the architects and engineers conducting the facilities review. He stated that the District plans to meet with them monthly and would like to invited the Board and MBC members to participate. He stated that members of the Facilities Committee would be helpful to attend. The architects and engineers will first conduct site assessments. Later in the Spring and next Fall, they will meet with every teacher, staff member, and student who would like to have input in each of the schools. He stated that this is going to be a very good project.
- Supt. Feneberg apprised the Board that the District has hired Taylor Lipinski to be the next Athletic Director. Mr. Lipinski currently lives in Bristol, Connecticut and will be joining the District on July 1st. Supt. Feneberg stated that he is excited to be welcoming him.
- Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with the retirement of Barbara Calvert, Administrative Assistant. He requested the Board approve her retirement with regret.

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the retirement of Barbara Calvert with regret. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

- The Superintendent presented the Board with the retirement of Ruby Hill, business teacher at the High School. He requested the Board approve her retirement with regret.

Ms. Mastin made a motion to approve the retirement of Ruby Hill with regret. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

- Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with the resignation of Thomas Hilton, School Board Note Taker. He noted that no vote is needed for Mr. Hilton's resignation; however, he thanked Mr. Hilton for his service.
- Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with the resignation of Melissa Harris, nurse at the High School. He stated that Ms. Harris will not renew her contract and, therefore, her resignation is not subject to Board approval.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent

- Mr. Bessette stated he conducted six interviews in the last week and a half with substitute teacher candidates. He stated he was also able to hire a new nursing substitute.
- The Portrait of an Educator group met last week. He noted that Mr. Stokes led the discussion.
- Portrait of a Learner also met. He stated that this group is exciting and will help the District define exactly what is wanted for the learners of the District. The group is looking at three specific terms that will define the Portrait of a Learner.

Business Administrator's Report – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with an Exxon mini grant in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for STEM supplies.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to accept and expend funds received from an Exxon mini grant in the amount of \$500.00. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

KREA Representative's Report – Beth Perkins, KREA Representative

- Our technology integrator, Mrs. Corbyn, helped New London fifth graders use Canva and Adobe Animate to create animations this month. The social studies learning target was: "Students can explain how people can change laws to make the country more fair." Students researched stories from the Civil Rights Era and made brief movies about how changes in laws expanded equity in the United States.
- Winter Activities are in full swing and this week is shaping up to be a good one. There was a particularly keen group of skaters at the New London town rink two weeks ago. They all made significant progress in one afternoon, thanks to the skates and crates supplied by the recreation department. One especially heartwarming small-town moment was when Mrs. Houle's kindergarten walked by the rink on their way to learn about the New London police department and the skaters hailed the kindergarteners and wished them a great afternoon.
- 12 Middle School students (3 teams) competed in their first ever Drone Competition this past weekend. The 8th grade all-girls team won the

	<p>Flight Operations Award and another team won the Think Award. There is a segment of the competition where 8 of the teams who have the best scores are selected to form an alliance for a final run at winning a trophy. All 3 Middle School teams placed in the final 8 teams (of 15) to work on the alliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the High School, the year-long culinary arts classes are learning about American Regional cuisine. Students picked 5 United States regions they wanted to explore (they will pick 5 worldwide cuisines as well) and the class is starting with Southern cuisine this week. They are also continuing to work on their edible drones. They have decided what they will make them out of and in March will execute their plans and see if it works. Baking classes are in a cake decorating unit and will learn how to make and decorate cake sandwiches, cupcakes, and tortes. They will finish off the unit with cupcake wars for prizes and summative grades. <p><i>Student Representatives' Report – Owen Blood, Student Representative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The boys' basketball team is having an impressive season so far carrying an 11-3 record. They are currently on an 8-game winning streak. The team is playing Gilford tonight. The Student Council has been having lots of meetings in preparation for Spring Fling. The Council has also had the opportunity to have discussions with incoming Superintendent Fortney. Project Climb has a trip tomorrow to Lonesome Lake.
<p>VII. Public Comment</p>	<p><i>Mr. Bartholomew 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. Mastin seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p>VIII. New Business</p>	<p><i>Purchase Recommendation: Power School – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for Power School Group, LLC in the amount of \$19,934.24. <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for Power School Group, LLC in the amount of \$19,934.24. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Barthollomew abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Lease Principal and interest Payment – KRHS HVAC Project – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with an amortization and lease schedule for the High School HVAC project, with lease payments in the amount of \$111,163.31. <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the amortization schedule for the High School HVAC project as presented. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion</i></p>

carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the lease payments in the amount of \$111,163.31. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

Ledyard Charter School – Request for Funds – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent

- Supt. Feneberg stated that he has received a letter from the Ledyard Charter School in Lebanon. The letter stated that one student from the District attends the Charter School and requested that the District pay \$6,000.00 per student who attends from the District. Ledyard does receive funds from the State. He stated that his recommendation would be to not follow-up and not to agree to make payments to a charter school that receives funds from the state.
- Mr. Lombard asked if it would be \$6,000.00 for every student from the District that attends. Supt. Feneberg stated that is correct.
- Mr. Gregoire asked if there is a specific reason the District has a student at Ledyard. Supt. Feneberg stated that there wasn't a specific reason and that this was parent choice.
- Mr. Lombard asked what the basis is for the \$6,000.00. Supt. Feneberg stated that he thinks that would cover their costs.
- Mr. Bartholomew asked if Ledyard received funding from the Lebanon District. The Superintendent stated that is his understanding.
- Ms. Schultz asked if the charter school makes a profit. Supt. Feneberg stated that they do not. He noted that charter schools in New Hampshire are public schools with special rules and different requirements for teaching staff. Only 50% of teachers must be certified.
- Supt. Feneberg requested guidance from the Board on how to proceed. Mr. Bartholomew expressed his belief that this isn't something that the taxpayers expected to pay in the budget approved by the voters and that he would be uncomfortable with paying Ledyard from a taxpayer stewardship standpoint. Ms. Schultz expressed that she is also not comfortable with this.

Request for Board Authorization to Testify at the Legislative Level – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent

- Superintendent Feneberg reminded the Board of instances in the past where the Board has authorized him to testify at the legislative level on behalf of the District. He stated that with the number of bills currently in committee, it is impossible to ask for permission to testify before the legislature for each individual bill. He asked that the Board reaffirm that it is the Board's desire for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to represent the Board before these committees.
- Mr. Bessette thanked the Board for their support. He discussed recent testimony before legislative committees on HB 1205 regarding transgender athletes. Mr. Bartholomew stated that the District will continue to treat transgender athletes in accordance with the decision

issued by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Bartholomew made a motion to approve the Superintendent, or his designee, to testify in front of any legislative body in the manner approved by a School Board vote or consistent, in the Superintendent's judgment, with the District's mission. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 9-0-0.

Goshen School District – Request for Tuition Agreement – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent

- Supt. Feneberg apprised the Board of a letter received from the Superintendent of the Goshen School District regarding a family who has requested their High School Student attend Kearsarge. He noted that Goshen has a Kindergarten through 8th grade school and sends their High School students to Newport. The Goshen School Board is looking for a formal agreement with the Kearsarge Regional School District in which Goshen would pay the District \$16,000.00 to send the student to Kearsarge, the same amount paid to Newport for other High School students in Goshen. He noted that the District would not be responsible for the student's transportation. He suggested that the Board allow him to enter into agreement with the Goshen School District.
- Dr. Bobruff asked if the agreement would include that approval from the Superintendent would be needed on a case-by-case basis. Supt. Feneberg stated that he can allow the student to attend the High School with the Board's approval. He explained that there is room for the student at the High School which he confirmed with Principal Langille.
- The Superintendent noted that the \$16,000.00 is lower than the per pupil cost. Mr. Bartholomew explained that the per pupil cost is the outcome of the decisions made by the voters and the Boards which totals the District's expenses divided by the total number of students. This doesn't mean that each additional student increases the costs of the District by that amount of money.
- Mr. Lombard expressed that he was troubled by the concept that the student from Goshen would be paying less than a student who lives in the District. The Superintendent noted that Kearsarge wouldn't be responsible for the student's transportation, special education (if needed), or Title 1 services.
- Ms. Schultz stated she felt that if there are empty seats at the High School, this would be an opportunity for the District to fill them and make a profit.
- Dr. Bobruff stated that he felt getting the same rate as Newport helps to protect the District. In terms of the number of students the District will accept, he stated that could be a number determined by the Superintendent. The Superintendent stated that the language of the contract itself would still have to be worked out should the Boards approve. Mr. Bartholomew requested that Supt. Feneberg determine the rough estimate of the District's per pupil cost without transportation or Title 1 services.
- Mr. Bessette discussed other requests the District has received in the past

	<p>about students from outside the District attending certain classes offered in Kearsarge virtually and what the tuition cost should be for those services. He stated that is a determination that will likely be coming up in the not-too-distant future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Robjent, participating via Zoom, stated that if there is already space at the High School, the cost of the additional student would likely not be much more, giving the example of having 20 test tubes already and only 15 students in a class to use them. • The Superintendent stated that he would take the points raised during this discussion and talk with the Superintendent of Goshen. <p><i>Request for Declaration of Local Shortage – Theatre Teacher – Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette stated that the District does not currently have a theatre teacher. There is a teacher that is very interested in becoming a theatre teacher through a Statement of Eligibility (SOE). He requested the Board declare a local shortage. <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to declare a local shortage for theatre teachers. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p>IX. School Board Sub-Committees</p>	<p><i>Human Resources – Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed some education put together to help educate teachers on different upcoming changes. • The Committee also discussed purchasing software from Time Clock Plus, the employee time keeping application used in the District, that would allow for better management of substitute assignments. The Committee also discussed a program to better manage Family Medical Leave. • Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed further the Assistant Athletic Director job description. • Supt. Feneberg stated that there are some positions that are being posted earlier than they typically would be as they are positions that are typically harder to fill. <p><i>Communications Committee – Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed the recruitment of bus drivers and different ideas to continue advertising that the District is in need of bus drivers. • The Committee discussed the communication needs of the facilities review project. They discussed recruiting people from all 7 towns to be a part of this project. They expressed a need to have the information easy to find and felt it would be best to make sure this information is on the District’s website. • The Committee continued discussing the Athletic mission and vision.

	<p><i>Policy Committee – Michale Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette stated that the Committee wrapped up revisions on the District’s gambling policy. • The Committee also discussed the use of therapy dogs in the District. He noted that there is a policy that relates to service dogs; however, nothing that sets a clear policy on therapy animals.
<p>X. Public Comment</p>	<p><i>Mr. Bartholomew opened the meeting for public comment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bartholomew noted that the Poetry Out Loud took place at the High School the previous night. Mr. Bartholomew’s daughter won the competition. <p><i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to close public comment. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p>XI. Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
School Board Note Taker