

Kearsarge Regional School District
School Board Meeting
 January 4, 2024 - 6:30 pm
 Kearsarge Professional Development Center
 165 Main Street, New London
Open to Public

I. Call to Order	The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Lombard led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<p>Present: Ken Bartholomew (via Zoom), Emma Bates, Arthur Bobruff, Eric Gregoire, David Keith, Kyle Lombard, Alison Mastin, Kristen Schultz (via Zoom).</p> <p>Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent; Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent; Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator; Beth Perkins, KREA Representative.</p> <p>Absent: Ben Cushing; Owen Blood, Student Representative; Adara Boucher, Student Representative.</p>
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 E-Rate Funds, awarded in the amount of \$44,932.20. <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to accept and expend unanticipated revenue E-rate funds for \$44,932.20. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 5-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
	<p><i>Ms. Bates made a motion to allow Ms. Schultz to vote via Zoom for medical reasons. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 5-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to allow Mr. Bartholomew to vote via Zoom by reason of being the sole caregiver for ill family members. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
V. Approval of Minutes	<i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2023 Board Meeting as written. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-3 (Mr. Bartholomew, Ms. Bates, and Ms. Mastin abstained).</i>
VI. Reports of Administration	<p><i>Superintendent's Report – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Superintendent wished everyone a Happy New Year, stating he hoped everybody had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. He welcomed John Fortney, the Kearsarge Superintendent elect to the meeting. Mr. Fortney and the Superintendent had a chance to meet this afternoon. The Superintendent stated that he looks forward to assisting him with a smooth transition into the district between now and June 30,

- Supt. Feneberg extended his congratulations to Andrea Castaldo who was chosen by the NH Association of School Principals as the 2024 NH Assistant Principal of the Year. The whole leadership team and the Middle School Community are proud to have yet another state-wide honoree in the ranks.
- The District also had a visiting team in the District evaluating Larry Elliot's nomination as NH Special Education Administrator of the Year. This announcement will be made later in the spring. The Superintendent stated that the District certainly wishes Mr. Elliott all the best and is rooting for him to get this prestigious award.
- Just before winter vacation, the District had a meeting with representatives from the NH Aviation Museum at Parlin Field in Newport. KRHS was one of three finalists for a grant program that would allow high school students to participate in an ELO to build an aircraft from scratch. Under the leadership of Jesse Fenn, Tech Ed Teacher at KRHS, the District submitted a strong proposal, but unfortunately the District was not chosen as the winner of the grant. It instead went to Lebanon High School. The District is confident that we will be in the running next year.
- Today, the District had first-round interviews for a new Athletic Director to replace Scott Fitzgerald in the new school year. Two or three candidates will go on to a final round in the selection process before the Superintendent meets with the finalist and brings them forward for nomination to the Board.
- Next Thursday, Nikki Robertson and Supt. Feneberg were invited to present before the NH Council for Thriving Children and the Deputy Commissioner of Education on the District's new Preschool Program in Bradford. They have been asked to share the history, philosophy, construction, and programming in our early learning programs. The Superintendent stated that he is looking forward to this presentation and brag session before crucial stakeholders in the state's preschool community.
- Supt. Feneberg stated that he wanted to remind and encourage the community to attend our deliberative session on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 am. at KRHS. More details on that later in the meeting.
- The Superintendent shared that 6 students have completed the LNA Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) and have passed their state exams to become licenses LNAs.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent

- Mr. Bessette stated that it was a pleasure to testify before the group that came to the District earlier in support of Larry Elliott. He congratulated Mr. Elliott for being a finalist for the award.
- Mr. Bessette discussed his participation on two committees that focus on pending legislation being presented that would have an impact on school districts throughout the state. He stated that these committees have identified 5 or 6 bills before the state legislature that they see as being troublesome. One of these bills would establish a penalty of fines and/or

loss of licensure for any administrator or teacher who are supporting any undefined theory or any type of ideology. He noted that the bill does not define the meaning of “undefined theory” or “indoctrination.”

- Mr. Bessette noted that next Monday, the District will continue its work on developing the portrait of an educator. This work session will continue the focus on developing language that is supporting the competencies. At the last meetings, about 20 teachers came to participate. He stated they are hoping for a similar strong turnout.

Business Administrator’s Report – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with the monthly estimated fund balance, estimating a surplus of a little over \$1.9 million.
- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a deposit to the Alex Gissler Scholarship in the amount of \$450.00.

Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve the deposit of \$450.00 to the Alex Gissler Scholarship. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation in the amount of \$11,792.50 from SAVVAS for Middle School Math software.

Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation in the amount of \$11,792.50 from SAVVAS for Middle School Math software. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf stated that the audit for the 2022-2023 school year has been reported to the Federal Government and noted that there were no findings. This marks 12 years running that the annual audit has successfully had no findings.

KREA Representative’s Report – Beth Perkins, KREA Representative

- Before vacation Mrs. Lizotte's third grade class presented a museum exhibition to their school community and families which answered the question “what can we learn from Abenaki stories and traditions about taking care of our planet today?” The students did an amazing job with research and coming up with five big ideas about what they could learn from studying the history of the Abenaki before 1600.
- Ms. Gordon’s fifth grade students at Simonds School wrote fiction narratives and with the help of Mrs. Corbyn, they were able to create audio and visual slides using Canva to showcase their fiction narratives. They also made puppets in art class based on one of their main characters!
- Fifth graders in New London are wrapping up their chemistry unit. The learning targets for this unit are modeling the concept that matter is made up of particles too small to be seen and measuring and graphing to document conservation of matter. Students worked on labs involving

	<p>removing dull copper from pennies, making chemical reactions with acids, and creating controlled explosions in plastic bags.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 6th graders in Introduction to French are finishing their Tourist for a Day projects and are excited to share them with their classmates! They had to pick either Paris or Quebec City and tell about places in either of those two cities that they want to visit - and why. • The 7th grade World Language students are creating their own personal dictionaries in French and Spanish. They had to create a list of 20 nouns in French and 20 verbs in Spanish and then create a slideshow of those words with a picture of what it is, using zero English. • The 7th grade French students are finishing up simple conversations and reviewing geography of some overseas departments of France. They will soon be starting to learn about some Franco communities in New Hampshire. • The 8th grade French classes are working on expressing their preferences in activities, how to issue invitations, and how to accept or politely decline those invitations.
<p>VII. 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. Bates made a motion to close public comment. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>VIII. New Business</p>	<p><i>Kales Region Environmental Pruchase Recommendation – Brett Paré, Director of Facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paré presented the Board with a purchase recommendation in the amount of \$16,145.50 from Lakes Region Environmental Contractors, Inc. for replacement of the fuel lines at KRES Bradford. <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve purchase recommendation in the amount of \$16,145.50 from Lakes Region Environmental Contractors, Inc. for replacement of the fuel lines at KRES Bradford. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Comprehensive Facilities Review Purchase Recommendation – Brett Paré, Director of Facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paré presented the Board with a purchase recommendation in the amount of \$357,531.00 from Lavallee Brensinger for a District wide comprehensive review of all facilities as well as a corresponding budget transfer. • Mr. Lombard asked what would occur in phase 1 of the 2-phase review. Mr. Paré stated that phase 1 will be the gathering of information. This will include talking to teachers and administrators in each of the buildings to determined what the educational needs of the building are as well as talking with various engineers and other experts as to the infrastructure of each building.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Superintendent stated that the hope is that this will put the District in the position that for the next 20 to 25 years that will be much more predictable. He noted that the benefit of Lavalee Brensinger is that they already work with the Siemens Industries, the District’s currently contracted facilities company. • Mr. Paré stated that phase 2 would be discussions about the options that should be pursued. He noted that phase 1 would cost \$257,531.00 and phase 2 would cost \$100,000.00 which is budgeted for the next fiscal year. <p><i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation \$357,531.00 from Lavallee Brensinger for a District wide comprehensive review of all facilities. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$257,531.00. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>School Board Calendar Adjustment – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supt. Feneberg apprised that Board that he and Mr. Bessette will be traveling February 15th and would not be able to attend the School Board meeting. He requested the meeting be moved to the following Thursday, February 22nd. <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to move the February 15, 2024 School Board meeting to February 22, 2024. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Prepare for Deliberative Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board discussed who would present which Warrant Article at Saturday’s Deliberative Session.
<p>IX. Old Business</p>	<p><i>2024 District Calendar – Final Draft – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with the final draft of the 2024-2025 School District calendar. He stated that administration solicited feedback from teachers and presented one change to a professional development day. He reminded the Board that the District is required to align the calendar as closely as possible with the Regional Technical Center. • Mr. Keith asked if the District had ever listed the School Board meeting dates on the District calendar. Supt. Feneberg stated that they had not. Ms. Bates suggested possibly putting those dates on the back as these calendars are sent home with students. <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School District calendar as presented. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms.</i></p>

	<p><i>Mastin abstained).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the vote was taken, Mr. Bartholomew asked how many days seniors can graduate before the last day of school. The Superintendent noted that seniors can graduate 5 days prior to the end of the school year. Mr. Bartholomew noted that the calendar scheduled graduation for 7 days prior to the end of school. Supt. Feneberg stated that the date will need to be June 14, 2025 and requested a vote to amend the calendar. <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School District calendar as amended to correct the graduation date. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>X. 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 had a short meeting to review the job description for the new Athletic Director. She described the job description and stated that the Committee voted unanimously to approve it. <p><i>Facilities Committee – Mr. Lombard</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lombard stated that the Committee discussed the facilities review as well as how funds from a SAFE grant received by the District will be expended. Mr. Paré stated that the District has received \$260,000.00. He discussed the purchase of a lockdown system for Bradford Elementary as well as security cameras. Supt. Feneberg commended Mr. Paré for having all the materials ready for applying for the grant. He noted that applications for the grant could be submitted starting at 9:00 a.m. on the day the application period opened, and submissions were closed by 9:45 a.m. the same day. <p><i>Communications Committee – Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed the bus driver shortage, noting that the District is currently down 11 bus drivers. Mr. Bessette discussed that the Transportation Committee has continued discussing the possibilities of different start and end times to the school day to optimize the bus routes. He stated that the District is doing everything possible to support the effort of recruiting bus drivers. Supt. Feneberg stated that there have been discussions of job share programs: a para-professional that could also act as a bus driver, for instance. • Mr. Lombard asked how many bus drivers the District currently has. Mr. Elliott stated that there are currently 15 drivers. • Ms. Mastin encouraged anyone who is interested to sign up. <p><i>Policy Committee – Mr. Keith</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Keith stated that the Committee has been reviewing policy IGDA regarding Organizations and Gambling.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Keith stated that it has been found that the District has been out of compliance in regards to the policy that allows video recording on buses. He stated that the District has recently upgraded those cameras and they now record audio and video; however, the policy only allows for video recording. • Mr. Bessette read a question in the Zoom comments asking about the possibility of purchasing smaller buses or vans to transport students to aid in the bus driver shortage. Mr. Bessette stated that after a lot of discussion with counsel about that possibility, the District has concluded that there is a substantial number of details included in keeping those vehicles in compliance with the laws surrounding the transportation of students.
<p>XI. 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. Bates made a motion to close public comment. Mr. Keith seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>XII. Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Mr. Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
School Board Note Taker

Doreen Salera
District Clerk