

**Kearsarge Regional School District**  
**School Board Meeting**  
 June 2, 2022 - 6:30 pm  
 Kearsarge Professional Development Center  
 165 Main Street, New London  
**Open to Public**

<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
<b>II. Pledge of Allegiance</b>	<p>Dr. Bobruff led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Following the pledge, Dr. Bobruff led the Board in a moment of silence in commemoration of the lives lost last week in Uvalde, Texas, and all who have been lost in past mass shootings.</p>
<b>III. Roll Call</b>	<p>Present: Ken Bartholomew, Emma Bates (via Zoom), Arthur Bobruff, Bebe Hammond Casey, Ben Cushing, Eric Gregoire, Kyle Lombard, Alison Mastin, Kristen Schultz; Superintendent Feneberg, Assistant Superintendent Bessette, Larry LeBoeuf, Beth Perkins (KREA Representative), Maggie Ellison, Katrina Nowicki (Student Reps).</p> <p><i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to allow Ms. Bates to vote via Zoom. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<b>IV. Public Hearing</b>	<p><i>Appropriation for Unanticipated Funds – As required per NH RSA 198:20-b, III, the Kearsarge Regional School Board shall conduct a hearing regarding unanticipated revenue federal funds awarded from PFAS remediation at KRMS through the NH Department of Environmental Services.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to accept and expend unanticipated revenue funds from the State of New Hampshire for \$15,379.26. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<b>V. Approval of Minutes</b>	<i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2022, School Board Meeting as amended. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 5-0-4 (Mr. Bartholomew, Dr. Bobruff, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Lombard abstained).</i>
<b>VI. Reports of Administration</b>	<p><i>Chair's Report - Mr. Bartholomew</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Bartholomew noted that the Board did not submit any proposed policy changes to the New Hampshire School Board Association this year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Superintendent's Report - Supt. Feneberg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supt. Feneberg noted that we are in the last few weeks of school and that there are increasing opportunities for students to engage in celebrations.</li> <li>● The Superintendent apprised the Board that at Wednesday's leadership meeting there was a discussion regarding the shooting in Uvalde, Texas. He noted that the Leadership Team has been reviewing safety protocols</li> </ul>

and discussed future needs in the areas of facilities, school safety, and mental health to keep the students, faculty, and the community safe. The counselors in each of the schools are prepared to help any student who reaches out in the wake of this shooting.

- Ms. Schultz stated that it was recently brought to her attention that someone noticed a door at one of the schools in the District that had been propped open. She noted that a few more steps should be taken to ensure that those doors remain secured, stating that doors should not be propped open for any length of time. The Superintendent noted that the District has pleaded with staff, coaches, and students to keep the doors shut. Mr. Bessette noted that the Leadership Team is looking at options for new doors that will help keep the schools even more secure.
- Ms. Casey stated that someone brought the question to her as to what kind of training teachers receive regarding active shooter situations. The Superintendent said that the District has had several consultations with the local Police departments and the Department of Homeland Security to discuss these kinds of situations. Mr. Bessette noted that a professional development day each year is dedicated to building safety and that this sort of training is included.
- Ms. Mastin noted that she was recently at the High School for a lockdown drill. She stated that she was impressed with how quickly everyone did what they were supposed to do.
- Mr. Bessette stated that he received an email from a parent that stated that their child had no idea what to do in the event of an active shooter situation. He noted that is because the District does not call these drills “Active Shooter Drills,” but lockdown or shelter-in-place drills. Mr. Patterson remarked that there are several reasons that the schools would be required to go into lockdown and noted that the students' role in these lockdowns is to listen to directives from the adults.
- Dr. Bobruff stated that it is important that the District do everything that it can as quickly as possible to ensure the safety of our schools.
- Mr. Bartholomew stated that the District has put a lot of effort, time, and money into consistently improving the safety of our schools. He recounted that for many years the District has been trying to get a School Resource Officer (SRO); however, the District has been unable to find the right candidate. Supt. Feneberg noted that it can be a challenge for the local police departments just to staff their departments.
- The Superintendent apprised the Board that the Strategic Planning Committee met this week and had a very good and fruitful discussion.
- Supt. Feneberg gave the Board an update as to how COVID-19 is currently impacting the District.
- The Superintendent presented to the Board the resignation of Abby Bergen, Associate Director of Special Education at the Middle School.

He requested a motion to approve her resignation.

***Ms. Casey made a motion to approve the resignation of Abby Bergen. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).***

- Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with and requested the approval of 5 new hires: Virginia Blass (Special Education, Bradford), Kelly Dobin (Special Education, KRMS), Taylor Balla (Art, KRHS), Pamela Moskal (Media Specialist, KRHS), and Brianna Cummings (Teacher, NLES).

***Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the hiring of Virginia Blass (Special Education, Bradford), Kelly Dobin (Special Education, KRMS), Taylor Balla (Art, KRHS), Pamela Moskal (Media Specialist, KRHS), and Brianna Cummings (Teacher, NLES). Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).***

- Ms. Schultz asked how many vacancies remained. The Superintendent stated that 4 or 5 positions have not yet been filled, but he has two candidates that he has already met with and just needs to finish the process. He noted that the hiring has been very favorable.

***Assistant Superintendent's Report - [Michael Bessette](#)***

- Mr. Bessette apprised the Board of the progress being made on the Site-Based Learning Plans. He noted that this is a way for teachers to obtain their certification while working. In 2016, when the Site-Based Learning Plans started in the District there were 2 or 3 Alt. 4 individuals in the program. He noted that there are currently 9 individuals in the program. He thanked the many teachers who have served as excellent mentors to those in the program.
- Over the past week, the District has been conducting Administrative Evaluations with administrators in each of the elementary schools. He stated that he had excellent conversations and that it was great to see the excitement the administrators have for what their staff and schools are accomplishing.

***Business Administrator's Report - [Larry LeBoeuf](#)***

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a withdrawal of \$5,000 and a deposit of \$5,000 to the Alex Gissler Scholarship. He requested a motion to approve the withdrawal and deposit.

***Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the withdrawal of \$5,000.00 and the deposit of \$5,000.00 to the Alex Gissler Scholarship. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).***

***KREA Representative's Report - Beth Perkins***

- The fifth graders in the district enjoyed a beautiful May day at the environmental camp at Camp Coniston in Croydon last week. On the day of New London and Sutton's visit, a lively breeze kept the black flies

away and the canoes close to shore. We had lots of help to make the day our success, including the School Board's own Kyle Lombard, who taught fishing.

- Fifth graders across the district are also preparing for their transition to Middle School. A small group of students who would benefit from a preview went to "Small Step Up Day" this week and came back from their visit bursting with excitement about the people they met. "You know, that principal Mr. Paterson is really nice," was a quote I heard from more than one student. Next week, the Middle School administration team begins visiting individual fifth-grade classes to answer questions and get the students excited about the transition. To prepare the students for this visit, the sixth-grade team created a helpful and friendly handbook full of fun facts about sixth grade, which the elementary teachers will share with the fifth graders. The following week, 8th graders visit elementary schools to demonstrate band instruments, so students can make their choices for next year. Finally, all the fifth graders will visit the middle school on June 16. By the time students go to the Middle School, they see it as belonging to them and they are excited to get started.
- Nicole Densmore had the honor of conducting the KRHS band at the Memorial Day ceremony at the First Baptist Church. The students were very respectful and represented our school district with dignity at this public event.
- Project CLIMB headed to Evo in Concord for a day of rock climbing on Wed., May 18. The original plan was outdoor rock climbing in Rumney, but the cancellation of their guide led to some last-minute changes. June 1 was scheduled to be the final CLIMB trip, involving a short hike, as well as a paddle and picnic, all based at Wadleigh State Park on Kezar Lake.
- All of Chef Ross' culinary and baking classes have been working on food for Memorial Day, Prom, and the sports banquet this weekend. The pastry arts class will also be starting their "Under the Sea" poured sugar showpiece.
- Congratulations to the Equestrian Team - They finished the year in 2nd place out of 15 teams in the state. These are the results from the state meet on May 22nd:
  - Celeste Abarca won State Champion in her Jumping Class and placed 4th in her suitability class.
  - Eleanor Baylon Placed 3rd and 4th in her Jumping Classes
  - Hannah Marcum won State Champion in her Suitability Class and Reserve Champion in her Jumping and Trail Classes.
  - Jane Anderson won State Champion in 3 Classes - Walk/ Trot

Division: western equitation and suitability and open freestyle and Reserve Champion in her trail class.

- Loriann Brown placed 4th in her ground team class. She is our only graduating senior from day school.
- We had a KADP senior on the team as well, riding her 3-year-old horse. Margaret Donohue won state champion in walk-trot pole bending and placed 4th in 3 other classes and 5th in one class.
- We had a great year and are looking forward to next year!
- The Drama Club at the High School had a return of the Kearsarge Actors Guild Award ceremony celebrating High School theater performance from 2020 - to 2022 The alumni were the presenters of the awards, showing their continued support for Kearsarge theater. This celebration highlighted all those who participated in the school's productions. Following the participation awards, some students received extraordinary awards such as Most Dedicated, Audience Choice, and the Golden Globe for the most dramatic performance. The highest honor was awarded to Katie Nowicki for Lifetime Achievement. This award celebrates Katie's work with the performing arts, at the age of four. It was a wonderful night that was attended by students, families, friends, and alumni of the Drama Club.

***Student Representatives' Report - Katrina Nowicki, Maggie Ellison***

- Step-up Day for the 8th graders is tomorrow.
- Spring Carnival was last week. The Students got to compete against each other and spend time outside.
- This Sunday is the Sports Banquet which will be taking place at the New London Historical Society.
- Track had their meet on Sunday.
- The Girls' Tennis team won the state championship.
- Scholarship brunches are kicking off this week. The New London Service organization's meeting was this week and the Rotary Club's scholarship meeting is tomorrow.
- The Prom is on Saturday from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There have been 215 tickets sold.
- The Band and Chorus concerts were last week. They went really well. During the concert, some specific Band and Chorus awards were presented.
- Senior Take-Over was this past week. Seniors got to play games in the school until 1:00 a.m.
- Senior Show and Exhibit was last week. It gave students who haven't participated in theater to try their hand at acting. It was a huge hit and was a lot of fun for all the students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The academic awards ceremony is next Friday.</li> <li>• The Senior trip to Six Flags is also next week.</li> <li>• A few of the seniors in the Music Department are going to see the Boston Pops tomorrow.</li> <li>• The Middle School is performing Shrek Jr. on Friday.</li> <li>• Dr. Bobruff asked what is done to discourage students from drinking after and during the Prom. It was noted that there are chaperones at the Prom and an email has gone out to discourage students from drinking following the school events.</li> <li>• Mr. Bartholomew thanked Ms. Nowicki for her service to the School Board as she prepares for graduation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>VII. Presentation</b></p>	<p><i>KRHS Senior Project to Appledore Island, Maine - Students: Phoebe &amp; Ford Simano and Lindsay Herlihy, KRHS Science Teacher</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Herlihy and Phoebe noted that Ford would not be able to attend as his Lacrosse game had run late.</li> <li>• Ms. Herlihy and Phoebe presented to the Board photos from their recent trip to Appledore Island, Maine to research birds. Ms. Herlihy noted that for his Senior project, Ford has been looking at the possibility of beginning a wildlife research center in the Kearsarge area.</li> <li>• While on the Island, Ford and Phoebe had the opportunity to help band birds, a method of attaching a band of lightweight aluminum to the bird's leg with information specific to that bird. This allows researchers to collect data about the bird.</li> <li>• Ms. Herlihy and Phoebe presented pictures of some of the birds that they caught and banded. They noted that on one of the days on the Island they captured 232 birds with the help of 4 other volunteers. While on the Island, they also had the opportunity to learn from a group of Seagull researchers.</li> <li>• Ms. Casey asked how the birds are caught. Phoebe shared that there are large nets made of a fine mesh that are 2 meters tall by 12 meters long that the birds fly into. While on the island, every 15 to 20 minutes they would check the nets to see if any birds had been caught.</li> <li>• Mr. Lombard asked if they were surprised to find any of the species of birds they caught on the Island. Ms. Herlihy noted that the majority of species that you wouldn't expect to find on the Island are caught in the fall. As the birds are migrating south, some birds from the midwest are thrown off course by the wind and end up passing over the Island.</li> <li>• Mr. Bartholomew thanked Ms. Herlihy and Phoebe for sharing their presentation with the Board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>VIII. Public Comment</b></p>	<p><i>No Public Comment.</i></p>
<p><b>IX. New Business</b></p>	<p><i>Strategic Plans/Goals Update - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Superintendent presented to the Board the goals and plans prepared by the Strategic Planning Committee. He noted that the Board had the opportunity to discuss these back in February. He gave the Board a brief</li> </ul>

overview of the 5 Goals included in the Strategic Plan Update.

- Goal 1 focuses on delivering an engaging, rigorous, and aligned continuum of learning for all students. He noted the great work that Steven Shepherd and Kristine Downing are doing with the curriculum in the District. Mr. Bessette noted that the District has been taking advantage of Title IIA federal grants. This allows some teachers to work after school in the area of curriculum development. Mr. Langille stated that every other staff meeting at the High School is dedicated to curriculum development. Ms. Casey noted that she had one teacher tell her that the curriculum development is the best professional development they have received in their 20-years of teaching.
- Goal 2 focuses on the recruitment, development, and retention of highly skilled educators. The Superintendent noted that the recruitment has been challenging this year as it has been for all Districts. He noted that despite the hiring challenges, the District has been successful at recruiting, but from pools of candidates that are significantly smaller.
- Goal 3 focuses on the communication between the District and families, businesses, and other community organizations to increase student engagement and personalize learning opportunities. The Superintendent noted that the Communications Committee has been working to constantly improve effective communications with the communities.
- Goal 4 addresses the creation and maintenance of high-quality learning environments. He noted that the new Facilities Director, Brett Paré's first assignment has been to visit every school and discuss with the principal and teachers what needs to be done to improve the schools. He discussed the STEAM Wing and the District continuing to pursue public approval of the project. Michael and the Facilities Committee have done an excellent job with the custodial and grounds takes assignment and organization. He noted that the District has 3 grounds workers. He stated that due to the amount of work, there are times that other things do not get done.
- Goal 5 focuses on the dedication of the District to being one of innovation. He noted the District's advancements in technology and how the District has searched for ways to be flexible that enhance teaching and learning.
- The Superintendent thanked the Board for allowing him and Mr. Bessette to be advocates for the District and for public education regarding the many Bills that were proposed over the legislative session in Concord this past year.
- Ms. Mastin thanked the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Mr. Bartholomew noted that the Strategic Plan Update is very well put together.

***Policy IHJ - Required Summer Reading - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent***

- Mr. Bessette stated that some of the District's administration came forward with concerns regarding some of the elements of this policy. He noted that the concern was that the policy was not robust enough to

include other activities for students to engage in over the summer. Mr. Bessette stated that the Policy Committee is seeking a moratorium on this policy for 1 year.

- Dr. Bobruff stated that the District should not deemphasize reading, but that he wholeheartedly agrees that the policy should encourage reading and learning over the summer. Ms. Casey noted that she felt the same. Dr. Bobruff stated his support for the moratorium so that improvements can be made to the policy.
- Ms. Mastin asked if a moratorium would mean that there would be no summer reading program this year. Mr. Bessette noted that the moratorium would be regarding the grading provision in the current policy.
- Mr. Bartholomew stated that he didn't believe that a moratorium was the way to handle this. He noted that he would like the policy to have more of a clear goal, whether that is to encourage reading or help prevent learning loss over the summer.
- Mr. Paterson noted that the Middle School is still going to encourage and provide opportunities for summer reading.
- Mr. Bessette remarked that the Policy Committee is asking for a restriction or an amendment to the policy for the year specifically regarding the grading component to avoid the Middle and High Schools from being out of compliance with the policy until the policy can be reworked.
- Mr. Bartholomew noted that this is a Board policy and the schools can choose how to go about the summer reading program individually. He suggested that the Board bring this up again at the next meeting to allow for time for a revised policy proposal to be put together.

***Fire Escape - Simonds Elementary - Mr. Cushing on behalf of Scott Lanier, Assistant Facilities Director***

- Mr. Cushing presented to the Board a purchase recommendation for the removal of the old fire escape at Simonds Elementary and the installation of a new Fire Escape in the amount of \$258,783.00 from DEW Construction. He noted that DEW can complete this project over the summer.

***Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for the new fire escape at Simonds Elementary in the amount of \$258,783.00 from DEW Construction. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).***

***Ms. Bates left the meeting via Zoom at 8:46 p.m.***

***Replacement of Bleachers - KLC Gym - Mr. Cushing on behalf of Scott Lanier, Assistant Facilities Director***

- Mr. Cushing presented to the Board an offer from the Town of New London to contribute \$37,500.00 to the replacement of the bleachers in the KLC Gym. Supt. Feneberg thanked New Lonon Town Administrator

	<p>Kim Hallquist for this offer. He noted that the Town is looking to use the Gym for their town meetings and they felt that the public school system would be their best option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Cushing noted that these bleachers would be very similar to those at the high school. He stated that these could be completed around November or December. The School Board contribution would be \$33,510.00 with the total cost of the project being \$71,010.00.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for the installation of new ADA compliant bleachers in the amount of \$71,010.00, with the District's contribution amount of \$33,510.00, from Robert H. Lord, Co. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p><b>X. School Board Sub-Committees</b></p>	<p><i>Communications Committee - Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Mastin discussed the Committee's progress on the updates to the STEAM project presentations. She stated that they are considering holding more in-person events, such as tours of the High School so the public can see how the proposed renovations could benefit the students.</li> <li>Ms. Mastin noted that the Committee discussed ongoing communications to the District about COVID-19.</li> <li>Ms. Mastin noted that the Committee discussed the shooting in Uvalde, Texas commenting that a letter would be sent out to explain that the students in the District are safe.</li> </ul> <p><i>Decarbonization Committee - Supt. Feneberg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Superintendent stated that the Decarbonization Committee meeting has been postponed until June 16th.</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilities Committee - Superintendent Feneberg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee discussed the bleacher project for the KLC Gym.</li> </ul>
<p><b>XI. Non-Public</b></p>	<p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion for the Board to enter Non-Public. Ms. Mastin Seconded. Th Motion carried 7-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
	<p><i>The Board returned to Public session.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve a 2.5% bonus for Superintendent Feneberg. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p><b>XII. Adjourn</b></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 9:09 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton  
School Board Note Taker