

Kearsarge Regional School District
School Board Meeting
 October 5, 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 6:33 p.m.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<p>Present: Ken Bartholomew, Emma Bates (via Zoom), Arthur Bobruff, Eric Gregoire, 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, David Keith; Owen Blood, Student Representative; Adara Boucher, Student Representative.</p>
	<i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to allow Ms. Bates to vote via Zoom for medical reasons. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 5-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i>
IV. Public Hearing	<p>Public Hearing – Appropriation for Unanticipated Funds</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: Primex Insurance Claim for \$30,600. <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to accept and expend unanticipated revenue funds from Primex for \$30,600.00 for an insurance claim. Ms. Mastin seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
V. Approval of Minutes	<i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2023 School Board Meeting as amended. Mr. Lombard seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i>

<p>VI. Presentation</p>	<p><i>KRMS Drone Club – Laurie Prewandowski and Elise Bundy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Prewandowski and Ms. Bundy presented the Board with the three main objectives of the Drone Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change the message: to increase the motivation of female students to pursue STEM goals in rural communities. Messages about STEM must be delivered in new ways to include communal goals, specifically those that are collaborative and/or altruistic. ○ Use the disruptive and multidisciplinary mechanism of drones. Drones are not just disruptive. They have the multidisciplinary ability to reshape STEM industries by design and application. They lend themselves to breaking stereotypes and promoting communal goals and, thus, are the perfect “vehicle” for delivering a new message about STEM identity. ○ Deliver the new message using strengths-based approaches. Learning contexts must be designed to engage female students, mitigate stereotype threat, and leverage student’s assets. ● Ms. Prewandowski, Ms. Bundy, and the students gave a demonstration of the different types of drones used in the club. They discussed the various uses for drones, including their use in the medical field to transport organs. ● The students demonstrated how drones can be programmed to fly a specific path. ● Mr. Gregoire asked if the curriculum affords the students opportunities to obtain the FAA certification needed to fly the drones out in the open. Ms. Prewandowski stated that it does. One student has obtained their certification. ● Mr. Schultz asked if the students had been motivated to pursue a career that involved flying drones. The students stated that it has piqued their interest.
<p>VII. Reports of Administration</p>	<p><i>Superintendent’s Report – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Superintendent stated that students had the opportunity to explore different career initiatives in New Hampshire. He discussed fine tuning the expectations the District has for the students and how the programs in the District can benefit them. He noted that drones are a great example of helping students explore different careers paths early on in their school careers. ● Supt. Feneberg stated that he had spent time with principals and directors of the different departments to focus on budget reductions. ● Yesterday, the Superintendent spent the day in Concord at the School Law Conference. He stated that there is much to be considered and learned on the various legislative initiatives going into effect. <p><i>Assistant Superintendent’s Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Bessette stated that earlier in the week, the faculty and staff had a training session with Drummond Woodsum to discuss staff responsibilities. He noted that every year, there is an ever-growing number of mandatory trainings faculty and staff must attend; however,

the amount of time to complete these trainings does not increase.

- He stated that the District has continued to develop the Portrait of a Learner.
- Mr. Bessette stated that he and the Superintendent attended the Bradley Kidder Conference. He discussed the numerous legislative updates, as well as new requirements surrounding the sealing of Non-Public School Board minutes.
- Mr. Bessette stated that he has been invited to give a presentation to the 5th Grade class in New London about Zombie Fungus on Halloween.

Business Administrator's Report – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a deposit in the amount of \$50.00 to the Alex Gissler Scholarship.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the deposit of \$50.00 into the Alex Gissler Scholarship. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).

KREA Representative's Report – Beth Perkins, KREA Representative

- First Graders at KRES at Bradford had their second annual Shadow Day on Friday. The students rotated through six stations (Make your own shadow, Shadow in the Forest game, Make a sundial, Mrs. Corbyn and augmented technology on how the earth and moon get light from the sun, shadow animal murals, and shadow puppets). This was the culmination of our Science Unit: Earth and Space.
- Third graders at KRES-NL have enjoyed going outside during science to make observations in the beautiful pollinator gardens behind our school. They are grateful to the members of the New London Garden Club who have made it a tradition to work with third grade students each spring to plant new flowers in these gardens. Being able to make first-hand observations really enriches their study of plant life cycles.
- KRMS Student Council is in the middle of elections. The soon-to-be newly-elected Leadership Team will be attending a Student Leaders Conference at Southern NH University on October 19.
- On Tuesday, September 21, Ms. Hill took her two US history classes to the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery where students had an orientation in the education center, toured the cemetery, and observed a committal service for someone who was a Green Beret. In the cemetery's education center there are touch screens with calendars of events through the years involving NH service men and women. The group then spent the afternoon at the NH Historical Society Library and NH State Library where students researched NH military history to help further populate that electronic calendar. When they are finished, the students' work will be visible to anyone who visits the cemetery.
- Sept. 22-23, Project CLIMB ventured forth on its first trip of the year. 14 students, including the first-ever 2nd generation Project CLIMB participant, took part in the canoe and camping trip, paddling from Bradford, VT to Orford, NH, and staying overnight at the Pastures

Campground.

- One avid Project CLIMBER is planning to extend her club participation through an ELO, which will involve leadership opportunities, related reading, and written assignments, as well as a final project and presentation.
- On Sept. 28, the Modern Manufacturing ELO students were joined by a handful of other interested students in attending the NH Construction Career Days Expo in New Boston. Students enjoyed the day, learning about careers in everything from construction to welding to design.
- Baking classes have just finished up their quick breads unit and will begin their cookie unit soon.
- Culinary classes have just finished up learning their knife cuts as well as making stock. On October 13th a guest butcher will visit and on October 27th a Lakes Region Community college chef will be visiting to do a demonstration and talk about Running Start.
- On November 1st both culinary and pastry classes will be preparing food for the High School parent/teacher conferences and open house.

Student Representatives' Report – Mr. Bartholomew on behalf of Owen Blood and Adara Boucher, Student Representatives

- Mr. Bartholomew read a report sent to the Board from Mr. Blood.
- Although Friday's Homecoming got canceled, festivities on Saturday continued with Field Hockey, Soccer, cross country, and JV Football. It was quite unusual to not have a varsity football game due to a canceled season. A lack of transparency regarding the reason for the cancellation of the season has created confusion among the student body.
- On Monday, the golf team beat Pelham and Stevens at an away match at Derryfield.
- Field hockey played Newport Monday.
- Soccer has a few games this week.
- Student council met this past Tuesday to discuss committees, mission statements, and
 - Two Committee established and presented first-week results.
 - student voice and choice committee chairs: Ciara Kerley and Julia Faria
 - creating surveys to better understand the student body.
 - student governance committee: committee chairs Remi Jaques and Emilia Ciesla trying to create organization between clubs and administration for a smoother operation.
- The event planning committee was created on 10/3
 - run events for the enjoyment and appreciation of students and teachers in the building that do not produce profit ex: advisory pumpkin carving.
- Swoco is planning its annual CARE conference: where NH schools come together and talk about community leadership.
- The golf team has states next Thursday and is looking to finish the season with a good performance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with the nomination of Sarah Scheuch for a one-year contract. He noted that Ms. Scheuch is coming out of retirement for one year to cover for a teacher out on leave. • Mr. Bartholomew expressed the Board’s deep appreciation to Ms. Scheuch for coming out of retirement to fill this position. <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the nomination of Sarah Scheuch for a one-year contract. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p>VIII. New Business</p>	<p><i>Varsity Football Program Update – Scott Fitzgerald, Athletic Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the recommendation was made to move the Kearsarge football team from Varsity to Junior Varsity for the remainder of the season due to concerns for the safety of the student athletes. This year the team was down to 28 students on the roster. He apprised the Board of discussions had at the beginning of the season whether or not to go forward with a Varsity team. He stated the decision was made to give Varsity a shot. The team got to the point where the majority to the players were 9th and 10th graders, leading to a size difference at the Varsity level, with those 9th and 10th graders having to go up against 11th and 12th graders. The size difference led to safety concerns that resulted in the recommendation to convert the season from Varsity to Junior Varsity. He apprised the Board of discussions he’d had with other coaches regarding continuing the season and having the opposing team help to size players appropriately to make a competitive game. • Mr. Fitzgerald apprised the Board that a number of parents have offered to volunteer to help out the Football team. The team currently has three coaches. He expressed concerns regarding having parents coach and impacts that could have on the relationship between a parent and their child. He also discussed the philosophies regarding coaching styles and the expectations for players set by coaches. • Mr. Fitzgerald discussed feedback he’d received about the decision to convert the remainder of the season to Junior Varsity stating that many agreed with the decision. • Mr. Bartholomew asked about the confusion among the student body about the decision that was mentioned in the Student Representative’s Report. Mr. Fitzgerald discussed difficulties with the timing of the decision. He also expressed that the goal was to announce the decision from the athletic standpoint to maintain consistency, rather than announce it to the entire school while other decisions in other departments may not result in the entire student body being notified. He stated that information was sent to teachers to aid them in answering any questions that may come up from students. • Mr. Lombard asked who makes the final decision. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that as the Athletic Director he makes recommendations, and it is up to the principal to make the final say. Mr. Lombard also asked how many coaching positions the football team has. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there are currently three paid coaching positions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mastin asked if there was any discussion after last season about what the team the following year would look like regarding talent and size. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there is always discussion and stated that there was talk about starting the season off as Junior Varsity; however, there was a feeling that the team could give Varsity a shot. • Mr. Bartholomew asked how many coaches and volunteers other comparable Districts have. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that Kearsarge is probably one paid position behind the average. Five coaches would be the ideal number. He stated that at times there have been additional stipends for the track team and girls’ basketball. Mr. Bessette stated that if funds are diverted from girls’ volleyball or basketball that could be a Title IX issue.
<p>IX. Public Comment</p>	<p><i>Mr. Bartholomew opened the meeting for public comment.</i></p> <p><u>Jeff Malynowski - Sutton</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Malynowski stated that he is the proud parent of three Kearsarge students. He explained that he wanted to express his disappointment regarding the discontinuation of the Varsity football season. He stated he has been told about injuries; however, the math doesn’t add up. He discussed concerns about the culture of the team. He expressed his 11th graders disappointment in the early end to the season. He stated that ever since the decision was announced, he felt that the team and the coaches have given up. He said that he was assured that the decision wasn’t going to affect the mentality of the coaches and the team. He stated his belief that, with a losing record at the Varsity level, it was easier for the District to convert the season to Junior Varsity. He expressed that his younger children are disappointed for their older brother. He stated that his son had hoped that the could get into a football program in college, but that that wouldn’t be possible now given the decision. Mr. Malynowski asked why there aren’t any volunteers assisting the coaches, stating that several qualified members of the community have stepped up and offered to volunteer. He expressed that he didn’t believe that he coaching staff knew about the decision until after it was made. He expressed his belief that the program has become embarrassing to be a part of. <p><u>Ted Dawson – Newbury</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dawson stated that his son played last year and that there were 28 players on the team last year, 30 in 2021, and 27 in 2020 in contrast to the numbers Mr. Fitzgerald presented earlier in the meeting. He expressed concerns about half truths. He expressed that it takes a minimum of 5 to 6 coaches to coach football. He stated that the lack of coaching is the issue that resulted in additional injuries. He said that he has brought it up in the past. He stated that he would like to know when the decision was made stating that there was no communication with parents regarding the possibility of the program being shut down. Mr. Dawson expressed that there should be a minimum standard for football. He stated that this is a collision sport that needs to be taken seriously. He

expressed belief that he saw this coming as injuries increased and that there needs to be a plan to keep this from happening again.

Anthony Dolan – Sunapee

- Mr. Dolan stated that his stepson moved over to Kearsarge just to play football. He expressed his desire to vent his frustrations with the program and the ill preparedness of the students. He said that the lack of coaching led to this situation. He stated that his stepson wakes up at 5:00 a.m. to workout, goes to school, and then goes to practice. He stated that just before the cancellation of the season, he offered to volunteer. He said that the number of players decreased significantly during COVID. He stated that he is Vice President of the Granite State Football Program. He stated that the program helps train students up to enter High School football. He stated that there appears to be a disconnect between the program and the High School and expressed that he's frustrated. He stated that his stepson is looking to leave the District in search of a different school where he can play football. He discussed the coaching staff at Division 1 schools.

Jennifer Goin – Newbury

- Ms. Goin stated that her two boys had gone through the Kearsarge Wildcats program and now the High School football program. She stated that she was on the board to help bring a football program to the Middle School. She also stated that Mr. Fitzgerald had sent out an email stating that there would only be a Junior Varsity program and that seniors would not be able to participate. She stated that she would like to have the philosophy discussed in writing expressing that it's very vague. She expressed that she didn't believe anyone knew what the philosophy was. She also stated that qualified people have offered to volunteer and were not welcomed.

Erin Ruckman – Springfield

- Ms. Ruckman stated that Mr. Fitzgerald talked a lot about the safety and the weight of the students. She stated that the seniors were told that they couldn't play in any of the JV games for safety reasons. She stated that her son is a freshman, and he was given considerable playing time in two different games during the week. She asked how that was safe. She stated that with the Varsity students being consolidated on the JV team, the playing time for her son will decrease. She expressed concern that winning isn't part of the philosophy of the football program. She stated that these boys don't practice and work as hard as they do to go out on the field and not have a chance to win. She stated that of the four seniors on the team this season, she could guarantee that there were more than four of them when they were freshman. She stated that as the players are getting older, they're not being supported and they're leaving. She stated that parents may not be the ideal coaches; however, this is rural New Hampshire. She said that there are 6 to 8 coaches on every team that Kearsarge plays. She stated that her husband and father have reached out to help and haven't been replied to. She expressed that coaches can be

	<p>aggressive, passionate, and excited without being abrasive and void of humility.</p>
<p>X. New Business</p>	<p><i>Nature’s Classroom Inc. Purchase Recommendation – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for the 6th grade Nature’s Classroom trip in the amount of \$61,740.00 from Nature’s Classroom, Inc. <p><i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for the 6th grade Nature’s Classroom trip in the amount of \$61,740.00 from Nature’s Classroom, Inc. Mr. Gregorie seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p> <p><i>KRMS Washington DC Trip Purchase Recommendation – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for a dinner/site seeing cruise on the Potomac River for the 8th grade trip to Washington DC in the amount of \$13,014.24 from City Cruises by Hornblower. <p><i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for a dinner/site seeing cruise on the Potomac River for the 8th grade trip to Washington DC in the amount of \$13,014.24 from City Cruises by Hornblower. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p> <p><i>A1 Siding & Roofing Purchase Recommendation – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for roof installation at the Kearsarge Learning Center (KLC) in the amount of \$21,989.00 from A1 Siding & Roofing. He stated that money is not needed from the Trust to cover this purchase recommendation. <p><i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for roof installation at the Kearsarge Learning Center (KLC) in the amount of \$21,989.00 from A1 Siding & Roofing. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p> <p><i>KRES at New London Sprinkler Purchase Recommendation – Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for

	<p>wet and dry NFPA 13 sprinkler coverage at KRES New London in the amount of \$282,700.00 from John L. Carter Sprinkler Company, Inc. He stated that this project will be funded across two fiscal years: \$150,000.00 from FY 23-24 and \$132,700.00 from FY 24-25.</p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for wet and dry NFPA 13 sprinkler coverage at KRES New London in the amount of \$282,700.00 from John L. Carter Sprinkler Company, Inc. to be paid across two fiscal years (\$150,000.00 from FY 23-24 and \$132,700.00 from FY 24-25). Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p>XI. Old Business</p>	<p><i>School Board 2024-2025 Proposed Budget – Further Discussion – Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supt. Feneberg presented the Board with reductions to the 2024-25 budget as requested. He stated that the District is prepared to propose slightly over \$500,000.00 worth of reductions. He said that each principal was involved in making the reductions. Based on elementary enrollment, he apprised the Board that there may not be a need one additional elementary position if enrollment trends hold. Ms. Schultz asked if that would mean cutting a teacher. The Superintendent stated that would not be the case, citing turnover in previous years. Mr. Bartholomew asked if the reduction of an elementary position would have an effect on class size decisions. The Superintendent stated that it wouldn't. • The Superintendent discussed additional reductions such as removing \$100,000.00 from the New London Playground line, removing \$75,000.00 for pavement sealing and striping at Simonds, and removing \$25,000.00 by cutting back on the number of interactive monitors to be purchased to replace aging projectors. He also presented decreases to the supply lines and field trip line for Simonds. The Board made the decision to leave the Simonds lines as is. • Ms. Schultz thanked everyone involved for bringing these decreases to the Board. Dr. Bobruff stated that a tremendous job was done by all. • Mr. Bartholomew stated that a number of these reductions are only deferrals. He said that deferred replacements catch up. He stated that by the end of the 2024-25 school year, when this budget runs out, things may be in critical need of replacement. He expressed that he still appreciates the work that was done and supports the proposal. <p><i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve version 3 of the FY 2024-25 budget as amended by the removing of the 4 reductions to the Simonds Elementary lines. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-0.</i></p>

<p>XII. School Board Sub-Committees</p>	<p><i>Human Resources Committee – Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed increasing the pay rate for substitutes and building assigned substitutes to keep the District competitive. She stated that the rate will go up to \$17.00 per hour. Additionally, the committee discussed increasing the rate of nurse substitutes to \$32.00 per hour. Ms. Mastin apprised the Board of a survey that was sent out about the Superintendent Search to get feedback from the public and discussed two public comment sessions for the public to have their questions answered. Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed peer coverage compensation programs and have sent a proposal to KRES for approval. <p><i>Communications Committee – Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed the athletic mission and vision. The Committee also discussed concerns about providing bus coverage for sports as the District continues to be short bus drivers. The Committee discussed updating the District website to make it easier to navigate for the public. Ms. Mastin stated that the administration is going to take a look at the teachers’ websites and what teachers are expected to have on their websites. Ms. Schultz asked about what teachers are currently required to have on their websites. Mr. Bessette apprised the Board that each teacher is required to maintain a webpage specific to their classroom. Mr. Paterson stated that when he talks with teachers about what to put on their webpage, he encourages them to put things that aren’t date specific. Ms. Bates stated that the students use Google websites for their work and teachers at times will give parents access; however, she has never been able to successfully access one of the Googles sites. <p><i>Policy Committee – Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Bessette stated that the Committee has been discussing a list of about 7 policy changes that they plan to get to the Board for a vote soon. He discussed the Anti-Discrimination Policy currently before the committee regarding nursing and providing a safe and clean place for nursing mothers. Mr. Bessette apprised the Board of changes to the law that requires the Board to review sealed meeting minutes every 10 years and to review any previously sealed minutes within the next 10 years. The Board discussed how to begin reviewing the sealed minutes.
<p>XIII. 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. Mastin made a motion to close public comment. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained).</i></p>
<p>XIV. Non-Public Session</p>	<p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion for the Board to enter a non-public session. Ms.</i></p>

	<p><i>Mastin seconded. The Motion carried by rollcall vote 7-0-0.</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned to public session.</i></p>
<p>XV. Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Ms. Mastin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Bartholomew abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
 School Board Note Taker