

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

<p>I. Call to Order</p>	<p>The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.</p>
<p>II. Pledge of Allegiance</p>	<p>Mr. Cushing led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>
<p>III. Roll Call</p>	<p>Present: Emma Bates, Arthur Bobruff, Bebe Hammond Casey, Ben Cushing, Kyle Lombard, Alison Mastin, Kristen Schultz.</p> <p>Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent; Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent; Larry LeBeouf, Business Administrator; Beth Perkins, KREA Representative; Maggie Ellison, Student Representative.</p> <p>Absent: Ken Bartholomew, Eric Gregoire, Adara Boucher, Student Representative.</p>
<p>IV. Approval of Minutes</p>	<p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2022, School Board Meeting as written. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to correct the first bullet under the Simonds Elementary School Budget Proposal section of the September 8, 2022, School Board Meeting Minutes to reflect a decrease in the budget due to the reduction of a second nurse. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>V. Reports of Administration</p>	<p><i>Chair’s Report - Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report. <p><i>Superintendent’s Report - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On September 23rd and 24th the High School celebrated another successful Homecoming Weekend. The Superintendent noted that there were lots of good food offerings, fundraising opportunities, and athletic events. He congratulated all the student-athletes, the students in each class who were trying to outdo each other in their fundraising efforts, the volunteers, parents, administrators, teachers, and School Board members who came out to support the event. ● Last week, the Superintendent had the opportunity to visit the first-grade classrooms at Simonds. Ms. Hill invited Sergeant Tokarz and the Superintendent to speak to students about how rules and laws are made and followed. He received a number of thank you cards yesterday from students which brightened his day. ● Last week, Supt. Feneberg met with two community members who have expressed interest in helping in any form possible to promote the High

School Renovation and STEAM Project. Mr. Langille and the Superintendent offered tours to the individuals to discuss the need for the project further. He stated that depending on the discussions and decisions of the Board, he plans to reach out to these individuals to update them in the coming days.

- On Tuesday, Supt. Feneberg met with Representative Ebel to discuss recent legislation and rule changes at the state level and their effect on our District's educational efforts. He stated that they had a lively conversation about educational financing, hiring challenges present and further, as well as other issues around the state that impact teaching, learning, and public schools in general. The Superintendent stated that he is looking forward to other opportunities for meetings with representatives and senators serving the Kearsarge Regional School District.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent

- Mr. Bessette presented the Board with a technical advisory from the Department of Education regarding fall colds, flu, and COVID-19. He stated that the District has had a discussion with counsel about the technical advisory to ensure that the District is within its legal authority on this issue. He noted that the District and counsel see this technical advisory as an overreach. Mr. Bessette discussed the District's current policy regarding COVID-19.

Business Administrator's Report - Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for an Electricity Supplier for the District for vendor Constellation at a rate of .13780/KW for 36 months. Ms. Schultz asked how long this rate will apply. Mr. LeBoeuf stated that it will apply for 36 months and will be sent out to bid prior to the end of that period.

Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for an Electricity Supplier for the District for Constellation at a rate of .13780/KW for 36 months. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a \$900.00 deposit and withdrawal from the KADP Scholarship.

Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve a \$900.00 deposit and withdrawal from the KADP Scholarship. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with the creation of donation accounts for the Class of 2026, Girls Volleyball, Best Buddies, and Prom.

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the creation of donation accounts for the Class of 2026, Girls Volleyball, Best Buddies, and Prom. Ms. Casey

seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

KREA Representative's Report - Beth Perkins

- KRSD kindergarten students are coding! Wendy Corbyn and Heidi Virta are offering coding lessons to our kindergarten students throughout the district. Third-grade students are also learning about introductory coding skills using the EVO Ozobots. They are starting with marker coding and will soon move to block coding on their Chromebooks. It is amazing to see how our student Chrome books can be used to program the Ozobots. Grades 4 and 5 will soon be learning advanced block coding techniques using the Dash robots. Wendy and Heidi imagine a future where our younger and older students are working collaboratively on coding projects.
- This past week (Sept. 26- Sept 30) Simonds School students studied West African drumming with Theo Martey from the Akwaaba ensemble. Theo worked with every student at Simonds School in grades K-5 teaching culturally significant West African drumming patterns and songs. During the last day of his residency, 4th and 5th-grade students joined Theo in a culminating performance for parents, staff, and students. Students (and staff) had a wonderful time with Theo and learned so much!
- Today New London and Sutton fifth graders traveled to the Lake Sunapee Protective Association's new headquarters in Sunapee Harbor for Watershed Day. Students rotated through hands-on activities, like engineering a water filter and tracking macroinvertebrates to learn about maintaining the health of the Lake Sunapee watershed.
- In 8th grade, students began their study of the novel *The Outsiders* by learning about the 1960s and S.E.Hinton. They learned some vocabulary from the period and began reading the book.
- Last week the culinary and baking classes at the High School got a visit from two Lakes Region Community college chefs. They talked about Running Start, LRCC and did a hands-on sushi demo. This week the classes are getting a visit from chocolatier Sam Brown. Students will learn all about chocolate production, partake in chocolate tastings and learn how to temper and create high-end chocolates.
- SWOCO team ambassadors led a portion of Friday's HYPE (Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts) development day. HYPE is a 1000 + student-led conference that is held on the campus of UNH. Students from Kearsarge presented about SWOCO (Students Working on Community Outreach) and their efforts to impact their community. SWOCO team ambassadors' forty-five-minute presentations included ice breakers,

	<p>games, activities, break-out group discussions, and an evaluation measure to elicit feedback. SWOCO team ambassadors have been preparing during flex for the last two weeks for this presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This week Dartmouth and UNH Bassoon professor Janet Polk is working with a bassoon player at the High School. This is part of Ms. Polk’s outreach program to encourage more students to play bassoon in New Hampshire public schools. This is her second visit to KRHS for this project. <p><i>Student Representatives’ Report - Maggie Ellison, Student Representative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last week, AP Biology students learned about cell membranes by playing with bubbles in a bubble lab. ● Homecoming was a big success! Lots of fun for the students and lots of different food was sold for fundraising. ● Field Hockey had an away game in Newport. ● Best Buddies had their first meeting after school today. ● The Math Team has their first meet coming up at Merrimack Valley. ● A PSAT date is coming up. ● Student Government met today to reflect on homecoming and to discuss upcoming events. Fall Fling Dance tickets go on sale next week. ● The Superintendent stated that Ms. Ellison spent time this afternoon talking with the Facilities Committee about her research on solar panels.
<p>VI. 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>Mr. Cushing made a motion to close public comment. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>VII. New Business</p>	<p><i>Proposed PEAK Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2026</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supt. Feneberg stated that the PEAK Union has ratified the agreement. He stated that this is now for the Board to discuss and to take it up on a vote. ● Ms. Schultz noted that the Union and the Board have come to an agreement on certain language surrounding remote learning. She also added that there is a provision where two paraeducators can get a certain amount put toward their teaching certificate. ● The Superintendent stated that there was a focus on clarifying. He stated that three years ago, an intensive need para payscale was introduced. He noted that the provision has been removed as it turned out to not be as beneficial as the District had hoped. ● Supt. Feneberg stated that there is an increase to the hourly wage,

	<p>reminding the Board that the District continues to be 14 paraeducators short. Overall, the Superintendent noted that this was settled in a very mutually agreeable way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Bobruff noted that the agreement also offers a buyout of health insurance for those who decline to participate in a health care plan offered by the District. This would be a \$1,400.00 stipend. He stated that he believe the Board should approve the agreement. ● Ms. Schultz noted that throughout the negotiations, the health of the District appeared to be the top priority. She expressed that it felt like a partnership. ● Ms. Mastin noted that under the agreement, the District will also be offering different health plans paraeducators didn't have access to before. <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to ratify the PEAK Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2023 to 2026. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-0.</i></p>
<p>VIII. Old Business</p>	<p><i>School Board 2023-24 Budget - Continued Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Superintendent discussed a proposal brought forward by Ms. Bates to increase the library budget for Sutton Elementary by \$2,500.00. Supt. Feneberg noted that he has discussed the proposals with the other 3 elementary school principals and they noted that they believe what they have budgeted for their libraries is appropriate. ● Ms. Bates stated that the librarian at Sutton has done an audit of the books in the library and has found that many of the books are old or outdated. This increase would help them replace the books faster. <p><i>Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the increase of \$2,500.00 to Sutton Elementary's library budget. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>STEAM Renovation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Superintendent noted that there was a lengthy discussion regarding the STEAM Renovation during the Facilities Committee meeting. He reiterated that the price of the project has increased and noted that the State has come out to do a walkthrough in accompaniment to the District's building aid application. Mr. LeBoeuf has had a conversation with the bond bank and has found the financing has gone up. Last year, interest would have been 2.5% as a budget number, this year it would be 5.5% as a budget number. Supt. Feneberg noted that this would be the max rate. The interest would likely be in the 4% range. He proposed the question of whether the District should go forward with this given the price increases or if the District should wait. He also posed the question of whether the District should do a partial project. The estimate for a partial project would be around \$7.6 million. This would give the High School a "dry house," but doesn't give to any of the educational considerations. He also noted that Mr. Paré and Mr. LeBoeuf have

	<p>looked into what the cost would be for each community based on the average assessed value of property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Cushing stated that he remains in favor of the project. He expressed that his concern is that with the increases in pricing, this could be a tough sell to the communities. He stated that he believes there is a chance it may pass, but it will be a tough sell. ● Mr. Lombard stated that he has been struck by the amount of work that needs to be done at the High School. He noted that there are things that need to be done as soon as possible. He recommended phasing the project. ● Ms. Schultz expressed concern about the potential for double work should the project be phased and concerns about whether Newbury would vote in favor of this. She asked if phasing was feasible. ● Ms. Casey agreed with Mr. Lombard that she would like to see the project phased. She stated that she would like to be able to envision this before making a final decision. She asked if the architects can give the District their opinion. Mr. Paré stated that considerations are being made for the size of the building the District currently has. He gave the example of the boilers. Is a boiler needed for the current space or additional space? ● Ms. Mastin stated that she has been really torn by this. She asked the question of how much time would be between phases. She also asked if the \$7.6 million partial project would need to go on a bond. She stated that she would like to gain a better understanding of what phasing would look like before determining whether this would be a good move for the District. Supt. Feneberg expressed concern that should the Board decide to look further into the possibility of phasing the project that this would not be something that would be ready for March. ● Ms. Bates stated that she is in favor of the project. She expressed that she believes it would be a tough sell in the current economy. She stated that she would rather see the partial project go forward than for the High School to continue having a leaky roof and a failing boiler. ● Dr. Bobruff stated that he has mixed feelings about the project. He expressed that he would like to compare the phased plan with the whole plan. He stated that he would like to find out how long it would take for a phased-out version of the project from the architects. ● The Superintendent stated that time can be spent over the next two weeks to discuss with the architects if this is a feasible plan. ● Mr. Cushing noted that he is not opposed to phasing. He stated that he would like to look into it to be able to present that the Board has looked into every option.
<p>IX. 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. Schultz made a motion to close public comment. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>

<p>X. School Board Sub-Committees</p>	<p><i>Communications Committee - Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed the STEAM Renovation. <p><i>Human Resources Committee - Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee discussed hiring scale recommendations such as Title 1 Interventionists. They also discussed the continued need to fill paraeducator positions. Ms. Mastin noted that the Committee also discussed the District's animal policy. Mr. Bessette stated that the current policy covers service animals, but does not cover therapy or comfort animals. He stated that the current policy is too narrow. <p><i>Facilities Committee - Mr. Cushing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Cushing stated that Ms. Ellison did a very nice presentation to the Committee about solar panels at the High School. He noted that the Committee discussed where to put a small array of panels to start. Mr. Cushing noted that the Committee also discussed the STEAM Renovation. Mr. Paré presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for the boiler upgrade at the high school for \$10,000.00 from Siemens. Mr. Paré noted that this would be for the vendor to get a projected price for the project. Should the District choose to go forward with the project, the \$10,000.00 would not be due; however, it would be due should the District choose to not go forward. <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for \$10,000.00 from Siemens for the Boiler Upgrade at the High School. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Paré presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for paving the KPDC parking lot in the amount of \$34,970.00 from Youngs Paving and Excavating. <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for paving the KPDC parking lot in the amount of \$34,970.00 from Youngs Paving and Excavating. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Paré presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for the LED project in the amount of \$337,712.00 from Energy Management Consultants. He noted that there is an incentive from Eversource in the amount of \$86,158.00. Additionally, the LED lighting will save the District an estimated \$29,000.00 a year in energy costs. He stated that the District is on pace to phase out all of the fluorescent lighting by July 2023. Mr. Lombard noted that a majority of this is for the Middle School and that this has a payback of about 5 and a quarter years. Mr. LeBoeuf noted that the funds will be transferred to cover the project.
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	<p><i>Mr. Lombard made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for the LED project in the amount o \$337,712.00 from Energy Management Consultants. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$337,712.00 to cover the LED Project. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>XI. Non-Public</p>	<p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to go into non-public. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>The Board returned to public session.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Bates made a motion to approve a special education transportation need in the amount of \$35,000.00. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>XII. Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
 School Board Note Taker