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Kearsarge Regional School Board
Minutes of the Public Meeting
Kearsarge Regional School District
September 17, 2020

Open to Public – MASK Required - Zoom address below for remote attendance

NOTICE: Some Board members may be attending remotely to establish a quorum, Per Governor Sununu Emergency Order 12: Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A.

I. Call to Order	The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	The Assistant Superintendent led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III. Roll Call	Present: Ken Bartholomew, Emma Bates, Art Bobruff, Emilio Cancio-Bello, Bebe Casey, Ben Cushing, Eric Gregoire, Alison Mastin; Katie Nowicki (Student Representative) Absent: Dick Wright, Beth Perkins (KREA Representative) Nina Spinney (Student Representative)
IV. Approval of Minutes	There was discussion about the failed motion concerning propane buses. The motion was corrected. <i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to approve the Public Minutes of September 3, 2020 as corrected. Ms. Mastin seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0.</i>
V. Reports of Administration	<p><i>Chair:</i> No report.</p> <p><i>Superintendent:</i> Mr. Feneberg reported he is impressed with how much students and staff are trying to improve every day. Teachers do not have to remind students about safety protocols. Teachers are going above and beyond; the Superintendent is impressed all around and is proud of their accomplishments. He saw first graders share with remote learning and is amazed at their ability to send digital pictures to a friend and do it well.</p> <p>Abby Peel is working on series of public service announcements about what is happening in our district. She was at New London today building snippets of the day.</p> <p>At the administrative meeting, principals are aware that as we approach the end of the first quarter, there may be parent requests to change in-school remote and out-of-school remote learning. The issue on the horizon is that we may not be able to accommodate all requests if we get a large number of them. In some cases, we are running out of space. In-school remote learning will have the first opportunity to return to buildings. Mr. Bartholomew expressed concern about equity and the 45-day announcement. Would a lottery be more equitable rather than giving priority to one group?</p> <p>Mr. Bessette shared there is an influx at the elementary level and we no longer have additional physical space. He asked members to consider original parents' choices as they may not have the capacity to work from home and don't have other options besides in-school. A lottery would possibly create huge challenges for some families.</p> <p>Ms. Mastin spoke as a parent, stating it would be their full intention to remain</p>

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with their chosen option for the full year. She also felt a lottery would not go well with students being changed from in-building to home.

The Superintendent explained the 45-day decision points, which coincides with a quarter, was to try to accommodate for emergency situations. Additional rooms could possibly be utilized at the SAU, but this would present another set of problems. He offered that the district will be as diligent as possible and work with people as best we can. He noted this is primarily for elementary schools, but even the high school has some issues.

There was Board consensus that a lottery would not be a feasible option.

Ms. Casey requested an enrollment update. The Superintendent reported we are up approximately twenty-one students district wide, but will bring forward the October 1st enrollment data at the next meeting.

Assistant Superintendent: Mr. Bessette echoed the Superintendent's impression of how proud he is of our teachers and administrators.

The Assistant Superintendent also updated members regarding the preparations for the October 9th professional development and progress made with regard to remote learning and CBE as well as student assessment data.

Business Administrator: Mr. LeBoeuf reviewed encumbrances as documentation provided in the Board packet. **Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to approve the general fund in the amount of \$653,148.65, the fund in the amount of \$18,308.00 for a total of \$671,656.65 as presented by the Business Administrator. Mr. Cushing seconded. The motion carried 8-0-0 [Chair voted].**

Staff Representative Report: No report.

Student Representative Report: Ms. Nowicki reported things at the high school are going well with the exception of a few internet issues. Student Council is looking into a Homecoming Event.

Mr. Bessette commented on the internet issues noting that IT is working diligently to find work-arounds to the slowdowns. Part of the problem may be that students have too many programs open simultaneously. At this time, they are unsure if it's a result of the user or the program. Chromebooks don't have the processing power like laptops. With multiple tabs open, it will slow down considerably. First Light reported to Ms. Turner that it will be two more weeks to start work.

Discussion Out of Order: Ms. Mastin stated she neglected to ask earlier about how the district was positioned regarding substitutes. Mr. Bessette addressed her question noting that each building has at least one building sub at this time and three substitutes district-wide we can call. The district is trying to get additional substitutes. In addition, the district is considering more trainings for staff to teach remotely from home. Mr. Bessette noted the substitute role has shifted

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	dramatically.
VI. Public Comment	No public comment.
VII. New Business	<p>A. <u>KRHS STEAM Wing Renovation</u>: Mr. Feneberg shared a slideshow regarding the STEAM wing proposal to include program redesign, renovation, and construction. He is asking for Board input and approval. A summary of the proposal was sent to all members. Mr. Cancio-Bello added the Facilities Committee is excited about this proposal for Science, Technology, Engineering, Applied Arts and Math. Mr. Feneberg reviewed existing STEAM programs already in place with adequate instructional space. Those areas that do not have adequate instructional space include: Computer Science, Robotics, Information Technology, Technical Education, Photography, Graphic Design, Print Production, Art, Culinary Arts, Performing Arts, and Media Production and Communication. The Superintendent shared that 22-25% of our students plan to enter the world of work after high school. One of the few options for students has been the vocational programming at CRTC. We currently have sixteen students enrolled, but have had as much as thirty-five. Our district only has a small portion of available seats. Our district could create additional opportunities in the STEAM area if we provide integrated education. Even for the 75% that go on to the academic route, there are skill sets they will benefit from.</p> <p>Mr. Langille, KRHS Principal, continued with the presentation. STEAM brings groups of students together as they begin to develop career options. STEAM not only has specific careers, but also provides cross-disciplinary opportunities and helps teach soft skills. Mr. Langille gave examples of the cross-disciplinary opportunities.</p> <p>Mr. Feneberg and Mr. Langille reviewed the renovation concepts and proposed expansion of existing space. Key elements of expanded spaces are: art, culinary, graphic design, musical, instrumental instruction and practice, and STEAM (Computer Sciences lab - improved focus and function) as well as tech ed (wood and metal shops), theater and performing arts (costume and prop storage), learning commons (library), audio-visual recording area (green room) and equipment storage.</p> <p>Mr. Langille addressed new construction of non-existent educational spaces to include: flexible classroom spaces, 3D art room, culinary (provide inside and outside dining area with serving counter, point of sale, hostess seating, kitchen lab, office, bathroom and dishwashing as well as music storage, robotics, tech ed lab finishing space (space shared with art – spray booths, compressor, closets), storage for robotics, design work, physical science, wood, performing arts (dressing rooms, green room, bathroom, set storage, and finally school administrative office relocation.</p> <p>Mr. Feneberg reviewed the next steps with approval for the School Board to continue the planning process. The Facilities Committee formed to make adjustments, work with architects to provide visual representation, develop project timeline, engage cost estimator and project manager, create and execute public information campaign, and create additional supports for project (fundraising campaign, collaboration with local business and manufacturing).</p>

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	<p>This benefits all students and works for students with different talents.</p> <p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to continue the planning process of this project.</i> This is a project that now has a future. Ms. Casey found this very exciting and asked where the administrative office will be located. Mr. Langille explained.</p> <p>Mr. Bartholomew shared a personal college story that coincided with the benefits of this STEAM proposal. He felt this had the most important impact on his college career than any of the academics.</p> <p><i>Ms. Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0-0 [Chair voted].</i></p>
<p>VIII. Old Business</p>	<p><i>A. <u>Propane Bus Pilot Update:</u></i> Mr. Bartholomew shared his reason for bringing this topic to this meeting. The Board had given instruction to bring five to six buses on, however, we have since learned that Rymes (who owns the propane tank in Warner) will not let the district use its tank. They will not execute a contract as this is an unmanned pump and they are not willing to add staff to man it. They will not allow drivers to fill on their own. Mr. Bartholomew explained some alternatives: bring the buses into the fleet and fill elsewhere (e.g., Lebanon, Manchester or perhaps Claremont); a second option to not consider it; and the third is to revisit installation of a propane pump/tank at the Bradford bus station.</p> <p>There was considerable Board discussion. Mr. Bartholomew cited a case study by the Department of Energy, which he shared with members, that was done in Texas. Major findings included: cost savings, energy and environmental impacts, extended bus life, improved efficiency and a favorable payback period.</p> <p>The capacity of the pump and tank was also addressed. Replacement of the fleet was discussed.</p> <p>Dr. Bobruff asked about government subsidies as some states received a significant amount of money for fleet replacement.</p> <p>Members revisited the cost for the tank and the size needed. They felt it questionable that it would only cost \$30,000 for the tank and installation. The size of the tank could also present an issue.</p> <p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to approve moving forward with the purchase of the pump and tank contingent upon agreed requirements for thirty-six buses for up to \$30,000.00. Ms. Bates seconded. The motion carried 7-0-1 [Chair voted and Dr. Bobruff abstained].</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Cancio-Bello made the motion to approve the proposed transfer from retirement to SAU equipment in the amount of \$30,000.00 as presented. Mr. Cushing seconded. The motion carried 8-0-0 [Chair voted].</i></p> <p><i>B. <u>Board Approves Budget:</u></i> The Business Administrator reported the retirement mandates negatively impact the budget and we have no control. NH Retirement rate increases are 21.02%, which is 2.81% over prior. <i>Mr. Cushing made the motion to approve the 2021-2022 budget as presented. Mr. Cancio-Bello seconded. The motion carried 8-</i></p>

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	<p><i>0-0 [Chair voted].</i></p> <p>On behalf of the School Board, the Superintendent thanked the Clerk for her years of service as she has resigned the position.</p>
IX. Non-Public Session	<p><i>Mr. Cushing made the motion to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3II (c) at 8:28pm. Ms. Casey seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote.</i></p>
X. Return to Public Session	<p><i>Dr. Bobruff made the motion to return to Public Session at 8:38pm. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0.</i></p>
XI. Adjourn	<p><i>Ms. Casey made the motion to adjourn at 8:38pm. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The carried 7-0-0.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Stone
Clerk, KRSD School Board