

Kearsarge Regional School District
School Board Meeting
 August 25, 2022 - 6:30 pm
 Kearsarge Professional Development Center
 165 Main Street, New London
Open to Public

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| I. Call to Order | The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. |
| II. Pledge of Allegiance | Ms. Mastin led the Pledge of Allegiance. |
| III. Roll Call | Present: Emma Bates, Arthur Bobruff, Bebe Hammond Casey, Ben Cushing, Alison Mastin; Superintendent Feneberg, Assistant Superintendent Bessette, Larry LeBeouf (Business Administrator), Beth Perkins (KREA Representative), Maggie Ellison, Adara Boucher (Student Reps). Absent: Ken Bartholomew, Eric Gregoire, Kyle Lombard, and Kristen Schultz. |
| IV. Approval of Minutes | <i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2022, School Board Meeting as amended. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 3-0-2 (Mr. Cushing and Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> |
| V. Reports of Administration | <p><i>Chair's Report - Ms. Mastin,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Mastin apprised the Board that the September 15, 2022, School Board meeting will take place at the High School. ● Ms. Mastin gave an update to the Board on the recent Communications Committee meeting. She noted that the Committee has continued to discuss the STEAM Project and how to present that to the communities. The District is still waiting on the renewed price calculations for the project. The Committee is continuing to search for a campaign manager to run point on getting the word out about the project. ● Ms. Mastin listed a number of different people and businesses in the community for the Committee to approach about the project. ● The Committee is encouraging members of the community to take a tour of the High School. She noted that the faculty from schools across the District met at the High School earlier in the day and entered through the woodshop. The woodshop space is over 50 years old. The Superintendent commended Principal Langille for inviting faculty to walk through and see the woodshop. He noted that the desire is to get as many people through the High School to see how it could be improved through the STEAM Project. <p><i>Superintendent's Report - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This morning, the 2022-23 school year officially began for staff. He stated that the welcome-back breakfast and opening assembly at the High School were successful and noted that the faculty and staff spent the rest of their day working in their respective schools and classrooms. The Superintendent observed a very positive atmosphere in the auditorium, lots of animated conversations, and a general sense of excitement about being back at school. August 30th is the first day of school for students. |

- Supt. Feneberg presented “Focus” as the word of the year. He stated that after two years of responding and adapting to the pandemic, it is time again to focus on education, teaching, and everything else that makes our schools a great place to learn for students. He appealed to staff to stand up for public education, reaffirming at every opportunity that teaching is a noble profession and that we need young people to consider pursuing a career in education.
- Last night, the contract negotiations for the PEAK successor agreement began. The paraeducation union and the representatives from the School Board met to work out a new agreement that will begin on July 1, 2023.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent

- Mr. Bessette stated that he loves the word of the year.
- He expressed that he was very proud to have played a role in the onboarding of the new hires. He noted that the new hires had the opportunity to spend an entire day with the curriculum directors. The first day focused on using technology in responsible ways. The Superintendent started the day by explaining the District’s goals, mission, and vision. He noted that he had the opportunity to speak about ethics and conduct. The survey taken of the new hires following the onboarding process indicated that they are all grateful for the care and dedication Kearsarge has made to bring them on board.

Business Administrator’s Report - Larry, LeBoeuf, Business Administrator

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a sole-source purchase recommendation for Primex Property Liability with a max increase of 9% for the next three fiscal years.

Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the sole-source purchase recommendation for Primex Property Liability with a max increase of 9% for the next three fiscal years. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a sole-source purchase recommendation for Schiavi in the amount of \$688,250.00 for the Bradford PreK Modular project including a 25% deposit. Mr. LeBoeuf noted that the Board voted on the 25% deposit at the August 11, 2022, meeting. Esser III funding will be used for this purchase recommendation.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the sole-source purchase recommendation for Schiavi in the amount of \$688,250.00 for the Bradford PreK Modular project including a 25% deposit. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf requested the Board approve the deposit of \$450.00 in donations in remembrance of Newman Durrell for Middle School Athletic Equipment. He noted more donations may be forthcoming.

Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the deposit of \$450.00 in donations in remembrance of Newman Durrell for Middle School Athletic Equipment. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with a budget transfer for fuel oil in the amount of \$47,879.89.

Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the budget transfer for fuel oil in the amount of \$47,879.89. Ms. Bates seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with the 2021-2022 encumbrances in the amount of \$1,071,747.59.

Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 encumbrances in the amount of \$1,071,747.59. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. LeBoeuf presented the Board with the 2021-2022 transfers of less than \$5,000.00. He noted that one \$85,000.00 transfer is included and requested approval of both.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 transfers of less than \$5,000.00. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the grand total of transfers including the \$85,000.00 transfer included. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

KREA Representative's Report - Beth Perkins

- Ms. Perkins noted that it was a great kickoff to the year earlier in the day and stated that she also loves "Focus" as the word of the year. Ms. Perkins expressed her appreciation for last year's word being "Listen."
- Ms. Perkins thanked Supt. Feneberg for his charge to encourage public education. She noted that she really appreciated that message.

Student Representative's Report - Maggie Ellison. Adara Boucher

- Ms. Boucher stated that fall sports have started up with Boys and Girls soccer having their first game tomorrow.
- Ms. Ellison stated that student officers met again earlier in the day and have turned their focus to homecoming.
- Freshman orientation is Monday. A strong number of students have signed up to volunteer during the orientation to welcome incoming freshmen.

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| <p>VI. Public Comment</p> | <p><i>No Public Comment.</i></p> |
| <p>VII. Presentation</p> | <p><i>KRHS Counseling Program - Charles Langille, Principal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Langille presented the Board with an overview of the KRHS counseling program. He explained how the role of school counselors has changed as the years have gone on. In 1952, the American School Counselors Association developed a national model for school counselors. At that time, the focus of a school counselor was supporting and identifying a pipeline of future jobs, careers, or future education. ● At KRHS, school counselors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build relationships with students and families, ○ provide ongoing support beyond high school, ○ provide each student with a postsecondary plan, ○ provide transition support and academic support to struggling students, ○ provide social-emotional/mental health support, short term and ongoing, and ○ provide a safe-nonjudgemental space for students and families. ● In addition to the above, school counselors also help connect students with counseling outside of the high school, connect students and families to jobs, food, etc., support teachers, coordinate college and career fairs, visits from colleges, the military, and employers, and scholarship programs. ● Ms. Casey noted that those are a lot of different duties for school counselors and asked if all those duties are split up. Mr. Langille noted that they are not necessarily split up, saying that these duties are doable, but keep counselors very busy. <p><i>KRHS Advisory Update - Charles Langille, Principal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Langille stated that the Advisory Program is on track to roll out in the Spring of 2023. ● He noted that the Advisory will be clustered across grades and the students will have 1 advisor for 4 years. The Advisories will meet up to 2 times per week and will be mandatory like classes. There will be 1 teacher leader to support the staff. ● Mr. Langille stated that the advisory curriculum will honor natural transitions for each grade, build community across grades, and support and monitor students' growth and success. Being that this will be the first year of the Advisory, Mr. Langille noted that the program will grow as the year progresses. <p><i>Competency Education, Update - Christine Downing, Secondary Curriculum Director, and Steve Shepherd, Elementary Curriculum Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Downing presented the Board with a presentation on the Rubicon Atlas Public Access that allows the public to view the curriculum timelines and descriptions. She noted that about 75% of the curriculum has been added across the grade levels. ● Mr. Shepherd noted that the development of the curriculum directly addresses goals set out in the District’s Strategic Plan. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Downing stated that this is Competency-Based Education (CBE). She also presented the curriculum cycle: Implement → Review and Revise → Monitor and Sustain. ● Mr. Shepherd noted that the goal is to lead the students to mastery of a subject and presented 3 steps that help students move toward mastery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Step 1 - Competencies ○ Step 2 - The Art of Teaching ○ Step 3 - Assessment and Evidence of Learning ● Ms. Downing and Mr. Shepherd presented a few different course examples in the Rubicon Atlas database. ● Supt. Feneberg pointed out the tremendous amount of work that is asked of the teachers. This is not a result of just a few Professional Development days, this is the result of thoughtful planning and very detail-oriented work. He noted that none of this would have been possible if the Board did not allow the hiring of Ms. Downing and Mr. Shepherd for this purpose. ● Ms. Downing noted that good curriculum is always in development. ● Dr. Bobruff thanked Ms. Downing and Mr. Shepherd and noted that the curriculum development is very impressive. He asked who evaluates the teachers. Ms. Downing noted that the teachers are self-evaluated. ● Ms. Mastin also noted how impressive the curriculum development is and stated that it is amazing to be able to see it all in front of you. ● Ms. Casey asked if the database is live for the public yet. Ms. Downing stated that it is not currently available; however, it will be on the District’s website soon. |
| <p>VIII. New Business</p> | <p><i>Signature of DOE 25, MS 25, and Board Approval of Fund Balance Return - Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. LeBoeuf requested the Board’s approval of the fund balance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. He reminded the Board that the law changed to allow for 5% withholding; however, he recommended continuing to go forward with the previous rate of 2.5%. The retained fund balance at 2.5% would be \$905,559.00. <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to retain 2.5% of the fund balance from fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$905,559.00. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> |
| <p>IX. Old Business</p> | <p><i>Low Salt Reduction Request - Route 114, Sutton near Blaisdell Lake - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supt. Feneberg brought back before the Board the request of the Select Board of the Town of Sutton to create a salt reduction area between Jolly Farms Road and Watkins Avenue. He noted that he reached out to the bus company and stated that they are comfortable with and in support of the salt reduction area. He requested a motion allowing him to write a letter of no objection back to the Select Board. ● Dr. Bobruff noted that he is much more comfortable now knowing that the bus company is in support. |

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| | <i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to direct the Superintendent to write a letter to the Select Board of the Town of Sutton in support of a low salt area around Blaisdell Lake. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> |
| X. Adjourn | <i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.</i> |

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
School Board Note Taker