

Kearsarge Regional School District
Joint School Board/Municipal Budget Committee Meeting
September 15, 2022 - 6:30 pm
Kearsarge Regional High School
457 North Road, Sutton
Open to Public

I. Call to Order	The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Cushing led the Pledge of Allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<p>Present for the School Board: Ken Bartholomew (via Zoom), Emma Bates, Arthur Bobruff, Bebe Hammond Casey, Ben Cushing, Eric Gregoire, Kyle Lombard, Alison Mastin, Kristen Schultz.</p> <p>Present for the Municipal Budget Committee: Richard Anderson, David Bates, James Bibbo, Robert DeFelice (via Zoom), Luke Gorman, Lyndsay Lund Harkins, Robert Hemenway, Michelle Kendrick, Tom Schamberg.</p> <p>Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent; Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent; Larry LeBeouf, Business Administrator; Beth Perkins, KREA Representative; Adara Boucher, Student Representative.</p> <p>Absent: Maggie Ellison, Student Representative.</p> <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to allow Mr. Bartholomew to vote via Zoom. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
IV. Approval of Minutes	<i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2022, School Board Meeting as Amended. Ms. Schultz seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (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 stated that tours of the High School would take place following the meeting. <p><i>Superintendent's Report - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Superintendent had no report, but stated that he was looking forward to the budget discussion. <p><i>Assistant Superintendent's Report - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Report <p><i>Business Administrator's Report - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent for Larry LeBoeuf, Business Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Superintendent presented the Board with a purchase recommendation for a down payment of \$15,000.00 for Nature's Classroom. Supt. Feneberg recommended approval of the entire amount of the Nature's Classroom program at the total cost of \$26,162.06.

Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for Nature’s Classroom in the amount of \$26,262.06 with a down payment of \$15,000.00. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

- Mr. Bessette presented the Board with a purchase recommendation in the amount of \$46,248.00 for a pickup truck for the District’s electrician from Holloway Buick GMC Cadillac. He also presented a budget transfer in the same amount.

Ms. Casey made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation in the amount of \$46,248.00 for a pickup truck from Holloway Buick GMC Cadillac as well as approval of the budget transfer. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

KREA Representative’s Report - Beth Perkins

- New London and Sutton 5th graders will lead the Patriot Day Ceremony, which honors first responders, on Monday, September 12. The ceremony takes place at the New London Fire Station at 11:00 and the public is welcome. This year the students interviewed some members of their local police departments and wrote brief essays about how these first responders help their community. The police departments have a more active presence in the schools this year, helping out at drop-off and pick-up, and visiting with students during lunch and recess. It was nice to meet some of our officers, many of whom have children in the schools.
- Middle School Spanish and French classes are doing a digital citizenship lesson about Google Translate and why it's NOT all that it's cracked up to be. The students are finding it interesting to learn the valuable lesson that you can’t always rely on an app; you often have to do some fact-checking yourself.
- The Kearsarge Music Department held its inaugural "Band Camp" for six days in August. Upwards of 18 students in grades 7-12 gathered at the High School from 8 - 10 am to make music in small ensembles and the full group, culminating with a 45-minute concert in the evening for their families. It was a huge success, lots of fun, and a great way to begin the school year. The music educators plan to do this again next summer.
- The Kearsarge Actors' Guild has started rehearsals for their Musical Production of “Mamma Mia” at the High School. They have a cast of 43 students which includes 14 members of the girls' varsity soccer team. They are so excited to have everyone dancing and laughing together.
Save the date: They have three performances on Veteran's Day weekend. Nov. 10 - 12th.

<p>VI. Public Comment</p>	<p><i>Ms. Mastin opened the meeting for public comment.</i></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Public Comment <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to close public comment. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>VII. New Business</p>	<p>2023-2024 Proposed Budget Presentations <i>Facilities - Brett Paré, Director of Facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Paré presented the Budget for the Facilities department. ● Mr. Paré stated increases in varying lines in the budget, such as increases in the cost of water testing, snow removal, equipment repairs, and playground equipment, specifically for Bradford PreK. ● In the capital improvement lines, Mr. Paré explained that over the last few years, these lines have been close to \$0 due to the pandemic. He stated that the District is now completing catch-up work. One project he discussed was the installation of a sprinkler system at Simonds Elementary. He explained that this budget would cover phase 1 of the project with a total estimated cost of between \$500,000.00 and \$700,000.00 after completion. Mr. Paré noted the need for a sprinkler system was discussed with the Fire Marshall. Rather than installing two fire escapes, the District was given the option to install 1 fire escape and install a sprinkler system. Ms. Mastin asked how many phases will likely be needed for the project to be completed. Mr. Paré stated that is not yet known. Ms. Casey asked if Mr. Paré anticipated installing a sprinkler system at New London Elementary would be around the same cost. He stated that he didn't believe so as there is already a water supply in the building, whereas at Simonds, the District will need to dig out to the street to access the water. Mr. Anderson asked if there is any type of appeal process to challenge the decision of the Fire Marshall. Mr. Paré stated that he was not familiar with any such process. The Superintendent noted that this was a suggestion that came from the Department of Education, not directly from the Fire Marshall. ● Mr. Paré presented an increase for the installation of a new HVAC system over the High School auditorium. He noted that the current system is original to the building and is over 50 years old. Mr. Gorman asked if this would be part of the STEAM Wing addition, should the warrant article pass. Supt. Feneberg stated that it would be. ● Ms. Casey asked if there were any Trust Funds available for any of these projects. The Superintendent stated that Trust Funds are typically reserved for emergencies when there isn't the opportunity to plan. ● Mr. Paré noted the savings of \$85,000.00 following the transition from one heating system maintenance company to another. ● Mr. Paré noted increases in energy costs across the board, stating that

electrical, heating oil, and propane have all gone up.

- The last line of the budget, Mr. Paré presented the need for 3 replacement lawn mowers.
- Mr. Bates asked if the District could use the school's wood pellet stove more. Mr. Paré noted that storing wood pellets requires a lot of space. Mr. Bates also asked where the District is at on the concept of installing solar panels and requested a proposal.
- Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Paré if he needed to cut \$100,000.00 from the budget, what would he cut? Mr. Paré stated that the largest hit would be the sprinkler systems for Simonds and New London. Mr. Anderson expressed that he wanted to know if the sprinkler systems were absolutely necessary.
- Ms. Mastin asked how students are protected from fires without a sprinkler system. Mr. Bessette stated that there are a number of fire-mitigating factors in place. For example, fire-rated doors and construction zones that are designed to mitigate fires.
- The Superintendent stated that he and Mr. Paré will continue to meet with the Fire Chief in New Lonon and share this thinking with them.

Technology - Barbara Turner, Director of Technology

- Ms. Turner presented the technology department's proposed budget.
- Ms. Turner pointed out increases in software and replacement computers. She also stated that there is a need to replace all the projectors at the Middle School and High School.
- Mr. Bibbo asked how many laptops would be replaced. Ms. Turner stated that it would total up to several hundred Chromebooks and staff laptops.
- Mr. Gorman asked how frequently Ms. Turner anticipates replacing the projectors. Ms. Turner noted that the projectors currently in use at the Middle School are from when the school was first opened.

Special Education - Larry Elliott, Director of Student Support Services

- Mr. Elliott presented the proposed budget for Special Education to the Board.
- Mr. Elliott stated that the James House Preschool is beginning the year with 45 students, a record high. Last year, there were 8 out of District placements, he noted that this school year is starting off again with 8 out of District placements.
- Mr. Elliott explained that the proposed budget is a 6% increase over last year, with the main reason for the increase being two additional teachers and two paraeducators for Bradford PreK.
- Mr. Elliott pointed out a decrease in the budget for contracted services as well as an increase in the supply line for Bradford PreK.

- Dr. Bobruff noted that some positions are not yet filled and asked how the budget would be effected if the District is successful in filling those positions. Mr. Elliott stated that the funds for those positions remain in the budget and should they go unused they would become a surplus. The Superintendent noted that the District is working hard to generate interest in these positions, noting that the District remains down 15 paraeducators.
- Mr. Anderson expressed concerns over the amount listed for new furniture for Bradford PreK. He asked if the District is ever able to get furniture from the closings of establishments in the area. Mr. Elliott noted that the District has done that in the past. The goal is to equip Bradford PreK similarly to how James House is equipped. Mr. Anderson asked when Bradford PreK is planned to open. Mr. Elliott stated that the plan is for the first day of school next year.
- Mr. Elliott stated that 14.5% of the students in the District have special needs. Mr. Anderson asked what changes the District is seeing as it relates to the pandemic. Mr. Elliott stated that the largest impact has been surrounding social-emotional learning (SEL).

Food Service/Federal - Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent

- Supt. Feneberg stated that he would be presenting the SAU, Food Services, and Federal projects budgets.
- The Superintendent noted increases in the SAU budget regarding administration salaries as well as the increase of the clerical position for the facilities department from part-time to full-time. He also noted a small increase in health insurance costs.
- For the Food Service budget, the Superintendent explained that this budget needs to balance out to zero, stating that everything that needs to be paid out needs to be covered by revenue. This budget cannot end in the negative. He explained that this is paid for through purchases of student and adult lunches. Last year, the Food Service budget had a surplus that allowed the District to purchase some replacement equipment for the District kitchens.
- For the Federal budget, the superintendent explained that the District receives Title 1 funds and noted that the amount is determined by the number of students who have signed up for the free or reduced lunch program. He encouraged families to fill out the applications for that program and turn them into the District. He also noted that the District will be receiving ARP Funds (American Rescue Plan Funds).
- The Superintendent noted that ESSER 2 funds are done, noting that those grants were for COVID relief.
- Mr. Schamberg stated that there were certain questions that Mr. Paré

	<p>couldn't answer that he felt should have been directed to the Superintendent. Mr. Schamberg referenced a law suite regarding school boards and went on to state that there are school boards in the state that are spending money on inefficient and obsolete things. Supt. Feneberg stated that he and Mr. Bessette have testified before a number of legislative committees in the last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette stated the District was not selected for the first round of SAFE Grant funding; however, the District remains eligible for any funds from the second round. • The Superintendent presented the Board with the hiring of David Wallace as a math teacher at the High School and requested Board approval. <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the nomination of David Wallace to be a math teacher at the High School. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>VIII. Old Business</p>	<p><i>Building Aid Application - Brett Paré, Director of Facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paré stated that he had recently met with the Department of Education as a part of the building aid application. He stated that the District now has the updated costs of the proposed STEAM Project. The new total would be \$24,505,623.00. Dr. Bobruff asked what the amount was last year. The superintendent stated \$22,270,422.00. • Mr. Bartholomew asked what in the project had increased. Mr. Paré listed that paving and concrete had increased, noting that materials overall increased 10%. • The Superintendent noted that the new price would need to be approved by the Board. <p><i>Mr. Cushing made a motion to approve the new cost of the STEAM Project in the amount of \$24,506,623.00. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Policy JLCB - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette stated that there is no longer a need for the notarization of a child's immunization records. He requested a vote to strike the word "Notarized" from line 14 of the policy. <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to revise Policy JLCB by striking the word "Notarized" from line 14 of the policy. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Policy BEDH - Michael Bessette, Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bessette presented the Board with Policy BEDH stating that this policy now requires a minimum of 30 minutes of public comment during School Board meetings. Mr. Bessette explained the concept that a School

	<p>Board meeting is a private meeting of the Board held in public. He stated that the meetings are a limited public forum, meaning that there is a time when the public can be heard during the meeting, but allows for the business of the Board to be accomplished. Mr. Bessette noted that should the Board ever want to expand the time for public comment during a given meeting the Board is able to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Bessette also presented the Board with the question of how long the Board would allow someone to speak for public comment. Mr. Bessette stated that the recommendation is 3 minutes. The Board has currently been doing 5 minutes. ● Ms. Casey noted that counsel has expressed that the beginning of the policy may be confusing to some. Mr. Bessette stated that counsel urges the Board to consider redrafting the opening paragraph. ● Dr. Bobruff stated his support for giving the public every opportunity to be involved in their school system. He stated that there may be some individuals or groups that have other purposes other than improving the quality of the District. <p><i>Ms. Casey made a motion to approve Policy BEDH for first reading. Dr. Bobruff seconded the Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>IX. School Board Sub-Committees</p>	<p><i>Transportation Committee - Mr. Cushing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Cushing stated that the Committee has discussed the bus contract and requested that the District vote to approve the entering in of a contract with the bus company the District is currently using for another 5 years. Mr. Cushing explained that the price of the contract would be increasing, mainly due to the increase in wages. He stated that the bus company has been raising the wages of bus drivers in an effort to recruit. ● Mr. Elliott stated that the District has 28 bus routes this year, compared to 34 routes last year. ● Mr. Lombard asked if this contract was put out to bid. Mr. Cushing noted that it was put out to bid; however, the District's current bus company was the only bidder. <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the 5-year bus contract. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Cushing stated that the Committee also discussed discontinuing the use of the propane buses. Dr. Bobruff asked if the District had received a formal explanation for the explosion that occurred at the bus yard. Supt. Feneberg stated that the Fire Marshall has released a press release stating that the propane was leaking and an undeterminable spark caused the explosion. ● Mr. Bartholomew stated that this matter is currently being litigated. He noted that the District doesn't know much about what caused the leak. Mr. Bartholomew also expressed that the propane buses may be a hindrance to recruiting and maintaining bus drivers. ● Mr. Bartholomew asked about the possibility of electric buses. The Superintendent noted that the District has applied for a grant for electric

	<p>buses. Mr. Cushing stated that given the terrain and mileage of the bus routes, an electric bus would likely only be available for one-way routes. He stated that the buses take 8 hours to charge after 1 route which wouldn't allow enough time between the morning and afternoon runs.</p> <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to take the propane buses out of circulation. Ms. Casey seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Casey seconded).</i></p> <p><i>Communications Committee - Ms. Mastin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Mastin stated that the Committee has continued to discuss the STEAM renovation noting that the desire remains for the District to give as many tours of the High School as possible. She also noted that the District is working on a video tour. The Superintendent noted that Ms. Bates has put together a two-page brochure on a few different aspects of the project.
<p>X. 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. Gregoire made a motion to close public comment. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>XI. Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cushing seconded. The Motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton
 School Board Note Taker