

**Inter-Lakes School Board Regular Meeting
Inter-Lakes Middle/High School Community Auditorium
1 Laker Lane, Meredith, NH
October 13, 2020**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Richard Hanson, Chair
Mr. Mark Billings, Vice-Chair
Ms. Lisa Merrill, Secretary*
Mr. Craig Baker
Mr. Charles Hanson
Mr. Duncan Porter-Zuckerman*
Ms. Nancy Starmer
Ms. Raven Strother, Student Rep.

Members Absent:

None

*Remote attendance

Administrators Present:

Ms. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Ms. Trish Temperino, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Elaine Dodge, Student Services Director
Mr. Michael Bryant, Principal ILES
Mr. Scott Currier, Principal ILM/HS
Ms. Sarah Dumais, Athletic Director
Mr. Jeremy Hillger, Principal SCS
Mr. John Martin, DoIT Director
Mr. Brian Swanker, Facilities Director

Others Present:

Chris Mega, Video Recorder
Jason Cornelissen, Automation Technician
Public

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

None

V. MINUTES

A. Regular School Board Meeting – September 14, 2020

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the payment of bills, manifests #3009. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Enrollment

There has been some movement in various learning pathways from September. At Sandwich Central School 52 students are learning in person an increase of three over last month. At Inter-Lakes Elementary School student enrollment in the physically in-person model has increased from 324 to 335 from September to October. In grades 7-12 a total of 8 students have joined the physically in-person model.

The shift in enrollment impacts transportation due to limited seating capacity on all buses. Kindergarten enrollment remains lower than anticipated and is proving difficult to track. There are currently 51 Kindergarten students with the four-year total averaging low to mid-70s with June 2017 dipping to 63.

Mr. C. Hanson said it is prudent to expect a bit of a bump in Kindergarten enrollment. Superintendent Moriarty agreed classifying the current enrollment as an anomaly given the five-year trend.

B. District/School COVID-19 Update

The COVID Advisory Team met this afternoon and reviewed data from the area including an uptick in infections in Belknap County that is concerning. Mrs. Moriarty shared concerns and the immediate responses by coaches and administrators regarding reported cases of COVID-19 within the athletic communities Inter-Lakes competes with. She further noted that Inter-Lakes teams may continue to play this week but that reconsideration would occur on Friday as to whether further play is wise. While the administration agrees that students have been appreciative of the opportunity to play, sports poses an added risk of contracting COVID-19.

Mrs. Moriarty reported that the Advisory Team has not reached a consensus regarding the continued play of sports; and that even with input from the school nurses and others the recommended response was mixed. The two health experts on the team are concerned that the data is shifting but maintain there is a need to be mindful of it.

Discussion regarding the substantial risk for infection during the weeks between Thanksgiving and the first of the year. The District can wait to see if the data supports making a change or can decide to be more proactive, plan for it and bring more awareness to it.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the continued play of athletics now and consideration for indoor winter games. Mr. Billings noted there were four five before Thanksgiving and while he agrees it is important to monitor the infection rate data, he is not yet convinced that athletics needs to be suspended at this time.

The Superintendent said the pandemic has resulted in substantial costs some of which have been offset by the CARES Act, Title II and other grants. Some costs will be covered by savings realized in other areas. Assistant Superintendent Temperino continues to monitor district expenses closely and has been able to shift savings realized in transportation and overnight field trips as examples to help cover pandemic-related costs.

C. Financial Report

Mrs. Temperino provided an overview of District's finances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 based on the DOE-25 report submitted to the State. The unreserved fund balance is \$333,580 and will be used to offset the amount of taxes to be raised in the following fiscal year. \$323,561 is reserved for encumbrances and comprises \$230,000 of Board approved year end encumbrance and \$93,561 of outstanding purchase orders.

There have been some financial challenges and some areas of the budget are in the red including special education that is up 6.4%, special education transportation, legal services, and buildings and equipment. Savings have been

realized in health insurance that is three percent less than the guaranteed maximum rate, and in field trips, athletics, co-curricular and vocational tuition.

There were added costs for Food Service that operated 188 days and served a record amount of meals.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

IX. School Approval Facility Review for School Year 2020-2021

State law mandates that the N.H. Department of Education is responsible for ensuring schools meet minimum standards. Verification is completed through school approval visits. Inter-Lakes Elementary School is scheduled for review this year. Typically, the review includes a content review and a facility review. Due to a lack of resources the DOE is unable to complete the content review at this time. The facility review will take place on Tuesday, October 27th.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination of Professional Teaching Staff

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, to approve the nomination of Patrick LaFreniere as Special Education Teacher at Inter-Lakes Middle/High School for the 2020-2021 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Leave of Absence Request

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve the leave of absence request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Gentle Person COVID-19 "Handshake" Agreement with ILEA and ILSSA

Mrs. Moriarty indicated that the proposed Agreements are a collective effort to ease the challenges and difficulties caused by the pandemic. It will pause the evaluation system for non-tenured staff; increase the sick bank, make collaborative periods for teachers optional this year, and recognizes some of the additional duties educators are shouldering as a result of COVID-19.

Under the terms of the Agreement approximately twenty staff members ranging from Life Skills Para-Educators to Nursing Assistants will receive a \$1,000 stipend. The Agreement is effective through June 30, 2021.

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Ms. Starmer, to approve the Gentle Person COVID-19 "Handshake" Agreement with ILEA and ILSSA as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

D. School Calendar Proposed Adjustment

The Administration is recommending the current Parent/Teacher Conference Day scheduled for November 6th be changed to a Teacher Workshop Day for Professional Learning. Teachers will still be reaching out to families where support may be needed.

Mr. Baker asked how the District makes sure educators are still communicating with families about their child. Mrs. Moriarty responded that family's grades 7-12 are able to monitor their child's grades on ALMA and see if they are meeting standards. If a teacher has a concern about a child's academic performance the expectation is that they will connect with the family.

Discussion ensued regarding how communication by teachers with families is ensured and documented.

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve changing November 6th to a Teacher Workshop Day as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Summer Wellness Encumbrance

Wellness remains a concern, because of the significant positive impact for families and students of the summer programming the Administration is recommending the remaining \$31,238.05 be encumbered to Student/Staff Wellness Programs; extending the use of these funds through August 31, 2021.

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the Summer Wellness encumbrance extension and adjustment as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Donation

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to accept \$4,174 from Hannaford Helps Schools Program to support student activities in Grades PK-6 at Inter-Lakes Elementary School. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Athletics – Fall Competitions

This item was reviewed under the Covid-19 Update.

H. NH Retirement System Employer Contribution Rates

Effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 New Hampshire Retirement System Employer Contribution Rates will increase in total by 25.87% for Group I employees and by 18.09% for teachers. The three factors driving the increase include the reduction of assumed rate of investment return from 7.25% to 6.75%; the adoption of updated post-retirement mortality assumptions and a reduction in the payroll growth factor.

I. Rental Agreement Between Inter-Lakes School District and Lakes Region Planning Commission

The Administration is recommending the Lease Agreement between the District and the Lakes Region Planning Commission be extended two years, for second floor office space at the Humiston Building.

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to extend the Rental Agreement between the Inter-Lakes School District and the Lakes Region Planning Commission through June 2022 at a monthly rate of \$806. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. POLICY

Mr. Baker asked if there is an Air Quality Policy in place as required by the Facilities Review; he was told there is.

XII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the Board

Mr. Billings stated that a meeting on the development of an outdoor curriculum for the Page Pond Property was scheduled for Thursday. A physically distant but very meaningful field experience is being developed by Everett Bennett and will be used in a year when there will be no field trips to Cape Cod or New York City.

B. Members of the Administration

None

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

Lindsay Weiner, Meredith commended the work of Ms. Bannon and Ms. DeTolla in the Virtual Learning Pathway. Ms. Weiner commented that both her children are learning and growing. Mr. Porter-Zuckerman echoed Ms. Weiner's comments.

Chris Mega, Meredith, asked if there is a statewide notification system that alerts schools to possible COVID-19 exposure. Mrs. Moriarty said the State has a dash board on its web site that provides infection rates for all ten counties. She further noted that the Lakes Region Superintendents are in close contact; there seems to be good communication occurring between districts and athletic directors.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, October 27, 2020 – Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium

- Inter-Lakes Special School Board Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

B. Tuesday, November 10, 2020 – Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium

- Inter-Lakes Regular School Board Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:25 p.m. the Board reconvened to act on an overlooked Agenda item requiring Board action.

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve a military leave extension through November 30, 2020. The motion passed 5-0; with Ms. Merrill and Mr. Porter-Zuckerman not voting as they had already closed their remote connections.

Respectfully Submitted.

Bea Lewis Wheeler
School District Clerk