

INTER-LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT
Inter-Lakes School Board Special Meeting Minutes
Inter-Lakes Middle/High School – Community Auditorium
Livestream Access
June 15, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Richard Hanson, Chair
Ms. Lisa Merrill, Vice-Chair
Mr. Mark Billings
Mr. Charles Hanson
Mr. Duncan Porter-Zuckerman
Ms. Nancy Starmer
Mr. Craig Baker (arr 6:40pm)

Administrators Present:

Ms. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Ms. Trish Temperino, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Scott Currier, ILM/HS Principal
Mr. Jeremy Hillger, SCS Principal
Mr. John Martin, Technology Director
Mr. Mark Parsons, ILMHS Asst. Principal

Members Absent:

Ms. Raven Strother, Student Rep

Others Present:

Mr. Chris Mega, Video Recorder
Mr. Jason Cornelissen, Auditorium Manager
Public & Guests

IV. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Billie Jo Sweeney introduced recent Inter-Lakes graduate Jason Keysar who served as Editor-in-Chief of the student yearbook. Keysar recounted that 2021 was a unique time to be a Laker and that the goal was to capture the special moments of the graduating class that had to deal with the pandemic.

Ms. Sweeney, who serves as the advisor to the Future Business Leaders of America, also recognized Mykyle Merrill who was the state champion in marketing and awarded a "Who's Who in FBLA" scholarship. The group also won a Goal Seal Award for being an outstanding FBLA Chapter in the state and Sweeney was named the NH FBLA Chapter Advisor of the Year.

V. STAFF RECOGNITION

Superintendent Moriarty commended Facilities Manager Brian Swanker for his vision to create tiered balcony style seating overlooking the football field and the mountains beyond, creating a beautiful backdrop for graduation ceremonies. She also lauded the efforts of Principal Currier, Holly Vieten, Alicia White, class advisors, School Resource Officer Kyle True, Auditorium Manager Jason Cornelissen, and many others for their role in making graduation memorable.

Superintendent Moriarty said after six years of leading the District's Technology Department that John Martin would be leaving to move to Hawaii. She cited his ability to see the future of learning and his work to create a solid and secure infrastructure. The District expressed its gratitude for his service with an engraved captain's chair to be shipped to his new address.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Lindsay Weiner, Meredith, praised the efforts of the Virtual Pathways Team and the administration, citing standout efforts by Kim Bannon and Kathy DeTolla for helping students not only survive but thrive.

Karen Sticht, Meredith, suggested the School Board table the agenda item requesting the District sign on in support of a letter written by New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility standing in opposition to the language of House Bill 544, citing the political nature of the topic.

Paul Borsch, Meredith and Allen Robinson, Meredith disagree with the Board signing the opposition letter stating that the issue makes schools politicize themselves and noting that anti-discrimination laws are already in place.

Kelsey Libbey, Sandwich, also expressed her concerns about the political nature of the proposed legislation. While kids are being told to be more accepting she said more needs to be done about bullying and suicide.

Allen Robinson, Meredith stated that taking on someone else's political agenda is not something the School Board should do.

VII. MINUTES

A. Special Board Meeting – June 1, 2021

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021 Special Board Meeting as written. The motion passed 5-0-1; with Mr. Baker abstaining.

B. Special Board Meeting – May 21, 2021

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Ms. Starmer, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2021 Special Board Meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Ms. Merrill, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #3023. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Enrollment

Superintendent Moriarty reported that enrollment is at 923 students; five less than in September. Many students have shifted between Virtual Learning Pathways and physically in-person, requiring staff to be nimble and pivot.

B. Financial Report

Assistant Superintendent Temperino reported that the estimated fund balance at the end of June is approximately \$1.2 million. The majority of savings were from health insurance, transportation costs, the loss of field experiences, and reduced athletics.

The recommendation was made to shift \$293,597 in ESSER Funds to pay for touchless faucets, soap and towel dispensers, outdoor seating and HVAC improvements.

Mr. Billings commended the administration for proposing to spend non-reoccurring federal funds on non-reoccurring District needs.

The consensus of the School Board was to approve the adjustment in ESSER II Funds as proposed by the administration.

X. CORRESPONDENCE None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibilities Stands in Opposition to Language of House Bill 544

New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility stands in opposition to language of House Bill 544, an act relative to the propagation of divisive concepts, which is now amended to the budget in HB 2. Our vision, *New Hampshire will thrive when we engage the power of business and our people to build a sustainable and prosperous state for all, inspires us to stand together to achieve our best. The ambiguous language of HB 544 included in the budget amendment may appear to be supportive of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), but its intent is to restrict businesses that contract with the state and organizations receiving funding from the state, from offering DEI training to employees, as they deem appropriate.*

We know that diversity and inclusion builds workplace cultures that thrive because of the innovative ideas and supportive environment that are built on inclusion. We invite businesses, nonprofits and educational institutions around the state to sign on to this letter and raise your voice in support of open and honest exploration of racism and sexism, and in opposition to restrictions within HB 544's language and its inclusion in the House Budget.

Ms. Starmer said she favors signing the letter for exactly the same reason as those who spoke against it. It is a highly politicized bill that impacts local decisions regarding curriculum on race and gender.

Chairman Hanson said he concurred and agreed with the people who spoke and but also echoes the sentiment of Ms. Starmer's statement. He said there is concern with government dictating what to teach and how to teach it; just six months ago he didn't know what Critical Race Theory was and now it is spoken about everywhere. The Chair stated that the District had no interest in being political but feels that not responding would be negative.

Mr. Baker said the Board should not be political; his interpretation of the Bill doesn't seem to be as drastic as others see it. He believes that language in the proposed legislation allows conversations about race and gender to occur but that those discussions must be fair. He asked who approached the District with this information; how did we learn of this group?

Superintendent Moriarty responded that the District was not approached or solicited; information received from the organization Reaching Higher was shared during a discussion with the Chair. The communication from Reaching Higher was informational relative to how businesses and organizations were responding to proposed HB 544.

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve the Inter-Lakes School District taking a stand in opposition to language of House Bill 544 by signing onto the New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility letter opposing the language of House Bill 544 addressed to State Representatives, State Senators, and Governor Christopher Sununu. The motion passed by a vote of 5-2; with Mr. Baker and Mr. C. Hanson opposed.

B. End of Year Encumbrances

Assistant Superintendent Temperino explained that the Board has the ability to vote to retain up to 2.50% of the fund balance or about \$675,000 the maximum allowed to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation for 2022-2023. While municipalities can retain fund balance for multiple years, by law school districts can only keep it for one year.

The administration proposed three different versions of requests for end of year encumbrances. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Ms. Starmer, to adopt Version 3, which retains \$506,793 for assessment reduction in school year 2022-2023. The Board also agreed to encumber the requests as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Encumbrances approved:

Retirement Incentive	\$56,559
NYC Trip for 9 th Grade	\$20,000
Merrowvista September 2021	\$33,350
21/22 Food Service Support	\$10,000
Facilities	\$255,800
Unanticipated Out of District 50%	\$61,386
Humanities Curriculum	\$45,000
Replace School Campus Sign	\$40,000
Professional Learning	\$50,000
Touchless Faucets	\$100,000
Bleacher Seating (15 rows x 66')	\$126,500
	\$798,595

C. Program Assurances

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Ms. Starmer, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign and complete the FY 2021 Program Assurances and General Education Program Act Requirement (GEPA). The motion passed unanimously.

D. Permission to Hire/Accept Resignations

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept resignations and hire candidates prior to the August School Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

E. New Hire Nominations of Professional Teaching Staff

Mr. Porter-Zuckerman moved, seconded by Mr. C. Hanson, to approve the nomination to hire five professional teacher staff members as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief III (ARP ESSER III) Fund Grant Program Assurances

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Ms. Merrill to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the FY 2022 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER III) Fund Grant Program Assurances. The motion passed unanimously.

B. School Mini-Bus Request for Proposals

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman to authorize the Superintendent to develop a school mini-bus request for proposal.

It was the consensus of the Board that the RFP would be for traditional gasoline powered mini-buses not electric vehicles.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Data Governance Plan Update

Technology Director John Martin said state law requires an annual School Board review of the Data Governance Plan to protect student and staff data. If there are questions, they should be addressed in non-public session to protect those tactics and strategies he said.

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the Data Governance and Security Plans as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Update on Mitigation Efforts for the 2021-2022 School Year; and 2021-2022 Inter-Lakes School District – Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service

Superintendent Moriarty said the recommendations rely on current data and trends. If data and trends warrant increased mitigation efforts, the School District will respond accordingly.

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Ms. Merrill, to approve the 2021-2022 Inter-Lakes School District – COVID-19 Mitigation & Response Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Band and Chorus Field Trip to Quebec City June 3-5, 2022

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, to approve the Band and Chorus Field Trip to Quebec City, June 3-5, 2022 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. POLICY - No Action Required

XIV. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the Board

Mr. Baker suggested, given the recent vote regarding House Bill 544 that the School Board should draft a position paper in the event the issue continues to be a political lightening rod and prompts public outcry.

B. Members of the Administration None

XV. PUBLIC INPUT

Karen Stitch, Meredith, said the opposition letter the School Board just voted to support is as political as the proposed legislation. She said the hypocrisy was not lost on her and noted that local Boards usually stay apolitical.

Lindsay Weiner, Meredith, thanked the School Board for agreeing to sign the opposition letter.

Kim Spencer, Center Harbor, expressed her thanks for all the hard work District employees have done throughout the pandemic.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Inter-Lakes School Board – ILM/HS Community Auditorium
(Livestream Access Available)

- Policy Review Committee – **5:00 p.m.**
- Regular School Board Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

XVII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II(c)

Mr. Porter-Zuckerman moved, seconded by Ms. Merrill, to enter Non-Public Session at 8:20 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Board Secretary C. Hanson polled the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Session

Mr. Billings moved, second by Ms. Merrill, to move to Public Session at 8:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bea Lewis Wheeler
School District Clerk