

**Inter-Lakes School Board Regular Meeting
Humiston Building – Conference Room*
103 Main Street, Meredith NH
February 21, 2023 @ 6:00 PM**

**Additional Public Access via Google Meet*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Ms. Lisa Merrill, Chair
Mr. Mark Billings, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Howard Cunningham
Ms. Nancy Starmer
Mr. Craig Baker*

**late with notice; arrived at 6:11 p.m.*

Members Absent:

Mr. Charley Hanson, Secretary*
Mr. Duncan Porter-Zuckerman*

**with notice*

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mr. Mark Parsons, Technology Director
Dr. Amanda Downing, ILM/HS Principal
Mr. Jeremy Hillger, SCS Principal

Others Present:

Mr. Chris Mega, Video Recorder
Mr. Patrick Quinn, ILM/HS Art Teacher
Ms. Kate Criscone, ILM/HS Art Teacher
ILM/HS Scholastic Art Award Winners
Members of the Public

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 6:00 p.m.*

No comments.

V. STUDENT RECOGNITION – SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Mrs. Moriarty introduced Mr. Patrick Quinn and Ms. Kate Criscone, ILM/HS Art Teachers, who congratulated the Inter-Lakes High School students who received honors at the district level of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Scholastic is the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for the arts for students grades 7-12. Each year, nearly half a million works of art are submitted nationwide. Thousands of submissions were received in NH, and Inter-Lakes High School students received a total of 29 awards. Three students were honored with the prestigious Gold Key award, and they will advance to national level competition. Only 5-7% of regional submissions receive a Gold Key award. The artwork was on display at Pinkerton Academy for two weeks. The ILM/HS Arts Department went on a field trip with seventeen students to see the artwork and visit the currier museum. There was also an awards ceremony at Pinkerton Academy.

Mr. Quinn and Ms. Criscone presented a slideshow of the winning artworks.

Mr. Quinn, Ms. Criscone, and the Board members presented the award-winning students with Certificates of Achievement. Congratulations to the winners, and to all those who took a risk and submitted their artwork for consideration.

Mrs. Moriarty commended Mr. Quinn and Ms. Criscone, noting that their passion for what they teach comes through in every aspect of their work. They work at every level, from beginner to AP, and the self-directed learning that happens in their classrooms is a beautiful educational opportunity and experience for their students. Preparing for Scholastic is a big undertaking and they do it with pride, care, and compassion for their students, in order to bring them an authentic, incredible learning experience. They are a model for what good teaching and learning looks like. Thank you, Mr. Quinn and Ms. Criscone.

VI. MINUTES

A. January 10, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

B. January 24, 2023 Special School Board Meeting and Budget Review Session

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 Special School Board Meeting and Budget Review Session. The motion carried 5-0.

C. January 31, 2023 Special School Board Meeting and Budget Review Session

Ms. Starmer moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2023 Special School Board Meeting and Budget Review Session, with edits. The motion carried 5-0.

D. February 8, 2023 Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023 Budget Public Hearing. The motion carried 4-0 (Mr. Billings abstained).

VII. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #3022. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #3025. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #3026. The motion carried 5-0.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE – Superintendent, Board Secretary, Board Members

None.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Enrollment Report

Mrs. Moriarty provided an enrollment report. There is currently a total of 929 students enrolled in Inter-Lakes School District. See attached report for detail.

B. School Updates

Jeremy Hillger, SCS Principal, updated the Board on Sandwich Central School happenings. K-1 students are working on opinion writing using the OREO model, and on place value on an open number line. The middle multi-age class is reading non-fiction books and comparing and contrasting using Venn diagrams. Second graders are adding two- and three-digit numbers, and third graders are subtracting large numbers. Fourth and fifth graders are continuing work in English language arts, included guided reading, and in math are doing multi-digit multiplication. The school has 200 baby trout in the trout tank which have been released from their net and are roaming freely in the tank. Mr. Hillger acknowledged Mr. Watson's work on this project in partnership with Trout in the Classroom. Trout Unlimited provided the school with a new tank this year. Sixth graders are preparing for a trip to Washington D.C. They are reading the novel Chasing Lincoln's Killer, and in D.C. they will visit Fords' theatre and the Peterson house across the street. The students are also planning museum itineraries. Each student will develop an insider's guide to an attraction of their choice. The class is also working on a scale model of the national mall right now. The Lego robotics club is up and running. There is also a new library page program this year, where students may elect to spend snack and recess in the library organization and cataloguing books. Student council is holding a pizza and movie night on Friday. Mr. Hillger acknowledged all the people who made the winter activities happen. Thank you to the parent chaperones, the SCS faculty, King Pine, Ollie Anderson and Justin Chapman.

Dr. Amanda Downing, ILM/HS Principal, reported that last week Inter-Lakes Middle/High School hosted an eighth-grade parent night, so families could get information about the high school program of studies and graduation requirements, and ask any questions about the transition into high school. Recently, the Rotary Club held its annual speech competition. Three Inter-Lakes students, and one won first place and the other two tied for second place. During the last three weeks, Dr. Downing reported that she spent a lot of time in the 7-12 classrooms and saw some incredible inquiry-based learning. The PTO sponsored a 7th-8th grade winter themed dance on Friday, which was a great fundraiser for PTO. Thank you to all the chaperones and volunteers who made that possible. In April, a group of students will travel to Cape Cod for a three-night field trip. SATs are coming up after break, so the school is preparing for staff training and getting kids ready for the exams. This week is winter carnival week. Lip Sync will be held on February 22nd at 5:30 in the auditorium. Overall, it has been a fun week with a great deal of school spirit.

C. Financial Updates

Mrs. Moriarty reported that the School District continues to be in a healthy financial position. Next month, the SAU office will start providing regular financial reports as it

has done in the past.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Warrant Article 5 – 2023/2024 Proposed Budget

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve Article 5 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

B. Warrant Articles 1-4 & 6-7

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve Warrant Article 1 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Starmer moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to approve Warrant Article 2 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Ms. Starmer, to approve Warrant Article 3 as presented. Mrs. Moriarty clarified that they are voting on the wording of the article. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve Warrant Article 4 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve Warrant Article 6 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve Warrant Article 7 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that regarding Article 6, she has asked that the architect be prepared to present a long-term visual update of the locker rooms by March 21, 2023.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ESSER III Funds

Mrs. Moriarty reported that the School District currently has about \$170,000 of unreserved ESSER funds. Sandwich Central School has twenty-eight students in the middle and twenty-four in upper. Mr. Hillger expressed concerned about the class size, and explained that it that would be the largest elementary class size they have ever had. Based on the needs of the students, Mrs. Moriarty would like the Board's permission for Mr. Hillger to start looking for a teacher for a one-year class size reduction funded by ESSER. The teacher would be notified that this is a one-year position.

Discussion ensued regarding the details of this potential change. Chair Merrill asked Mr. Hillger which grade levels would be split. Mr. Hillger suggested two options, and noted that either option would require an additional teacher. Mr. Billings noted that there are other things that the District could potentially use the ESSER funds for, and that the Board should not leave any of the funds unused. Mrs. Moriarty responded that a large amount of ESSER funds is set aside for an HVAC system. She

encouraged Mr. Hillger to hire someone with a beginning salary schedule, as this position would be a great opportunity for a beginner. Ms. Starmer asked Mr. Hillger what he plans to do with the K-1 students at Sandwich Central School, since there has been some pressure on that classroom as well. Mr. Hillger explained that staff recently met to discuss what it would look like if the kindergarten students stayed all day. Mr. Hillger will bring those plans to the School Board meeting on March 21, 2023 for the Board to hear and discuss.

B. Professional Climate and Culture/Strategic Planning

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the contracting with AthenaK-12 Educational Consulting Services to support the development of definitions, tools and processes designed to measure and improve our understanding of the current professional culture within our schools and to allocate an initial sum of \$10,000.00 for this purpose

Discussion ensued. Ms. Starmer asked for more information about the consulting firm. Mrs. Moriarty shared that AthenaK-12 is an experienced educational consulting company based in Massachusetts. The company has a number of consultants with different levels of expertise. They will be able to connect the School District with a former superintendent from New Hampshire who understands the various components of the New Hampshire school system. Ms. Starmer asked how AthenaK-12 will deal specifically with questions of culture and climate. Mrs. Moriarty explained that they will start by defining an effective professional climate and culture within a school, and then work on building a rubric with various performance measurements to help identify where the District currently is in terms of building an effective professional climate and culture. They will also help develop a consensus-building process for using the rubric, and professional development for staff to help implement the rubric. This might be focus groups with different staff members to determine a rating. Once there is a rating system and each school receives a rating, the District will use that to develop actual goals and action steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the Board's role in supporting the Superintendent and the staff in their goals.

The motion carried 5-0.

C. Further discussion of ESSER III Funds

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Hillger if it would be helpful to the staff at Sandwich Central School if the School Board acted today instead of on March 21, 2023. Mr. Hillger responded that if the Board acted today, he would begin looking for a candidate now, but if not, they would continue to make it work. Mr. Baker asked Mr. Hillger for more details about the current situation at the school. Mr. Hillger explained that the large group in the upper multi-age classroom feels strained, and that the Special Educator has been supporting that classroom significantly, which was justified by the needs of the students in the classroom but is not a sustainable solution. Mr. Hillger would like to split the upper multi-age group into two classrooms and assign a new teacher to one of those classrooms, so that the Special Educator

can go back to being a whole-school resource. Discussion continued between Board members and Mr. Hillger regarding funding for a one-year position.

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to move as quickly as possible to fill the potential open position, and to pay for that position with ESSER funds as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried 5-0.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 7:06 p.m.*

XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

RSA 91-A3(c) – This includes matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this Board, unless such a person requests an open meeting.

R.S.A. 91-A:3 II(i) – This includes matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.

Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Ms. Starmer, to enter Nonpublic Session. Mr. Billings called the Roll Call Vote.

YES: Ms. Starmer, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Billings, Mr. Baker, Ms. Merrill

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SESSION

Billings moved, seconded by Cunningham to return to Public Session. Mr. Billings called the Roll Call Vote.

YES: Ms. Starmer, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Billings, Mr. Baker, Ms. Merrill

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Date TBD

Inter-Lakes School Board @ TBD

- Preparations for Annual School District Meeting – Time TBD

B. Thursday, March 9, 2023

Inter-Lakes School Board @ Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium (ILM/HS)

- Inter-Lakes School District Annual School District Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

C. Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Town Elections

D. Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Inter-Lakes School Board @ Humiston Building – Conference Room

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

E. Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Inter-Lakes School Board @ Humiston Building – Conference Room

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

The Board discussed scheduling a special SAU #2 Board meeting. The Board reached consensus to schedule a SAU #2 Board meeting for next week, date to be determined.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Bullimore