

**Inter-Lakes School Board Meeting
Humiston Building – Conference Room
103 Main Street, Meredith NH
March 19, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.
*Additional Public Access via Google
Meet***

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Mary Moriarty called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Mark Billings
Ms. Siobhan Connelly
Mr. Charley Hanson
Mr. Jim Locke
Mr. Duncan Porter-Zuckerman
Mrs. Nancy Starmer
Mr. Edward Twaddell III

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator
Mr. Mark Parsons, Technology Director
Ms. Sarah Dumais, Athletics Director

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Mr. Chris Mega, Videographer
Mr. Derek Kline, ILHS Parent
Ms. Gracie Kline, ILHS Student
Mr. Dean Golezian, Meredith Rotary Club Representative

IV. REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

A. **School Board Chair**

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Ms. Connelly, to elect Charley Hanson as the Chair of the School Board. The motion carried 7-0.

B. **Vice-Chair**

Mr. Porter-Zuckerman moved, seconded by Mrs. Starmer to elect Mark Billings as the Vice-Chair of the School Board. The motion carried 7-0

C. **Secretary**

Ms. Connelly moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to elect Duncan Porter-Zuckerman as the Secretary of the School Board. The motion carried 7-0.

V. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

A. **Committee Assignment Interests**

Chair Hanson told the Board to let him or Mrs. Moriarty know if they have a particular committee assignment that they are interested in. The Board reached

consensus that committee assignments would be made at a later date.

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Caleb Theriault, Student Representative provided the following updates to the School Board. The Laker-Bots competed at the PSU event on March 9th & 10th and will be traveling to UNH on the 28th for New England's. Spring sports are in full swing. On March 8th ILMHS staff and students participated in the 2024 Winni Dip to benefit the Special Olympics. There were over 30 students participating. The high school earned about \$12,000 and was the top earning high school as well as top earner per dipper for the event, and the middle school earned about \$5,500 and was the third highest earning middle/elementary school. Overall, Inter-Lakes raised \$17,390. The high school math team competed at the state math meet on March 11th with a total of 40 schools in attendance. Overall, Inter-Lakes placed in the middle of the pack in the competitive small school division, which was impressive considering the number of people and how young the team is. Special recognition to Thea Wright and Caleb Theriault for perfect scores in Recreational Math, and Sam Weil-Cooley for a perfect score in Algebra I.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 6:07 p.m.*

VIII. MINUTES

B. **February 7, 2024 School Board Budget Public Hearing Minutes**

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024, School Board Budget Public Hearing. Mrs. Moriarty noted that there were a few small grammatical edits made to the minutes. The motion carried 6-0-1, with Mrs. Starmer abstaining.

C. **February 13, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Porter-Zuckerman moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Moriarty noted her appreciation for Sarah Briggs who has filled in for Heather Bullimore as Recording secretary during Mrs. Bullimore's maternity leave. Ms. Briggs has done an excellent job with the minutes.

IX. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. **General Operating Expenses**

Mrs. Starmer moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #3020. The motion carried 7-0.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. **Year-To-Date Financial Report**

Mrs. Dolloff presented the year-to-date financial report. The report shows about \$815,000 available. The business office will be digging into open purchase orders soon to see where the District is at for the end of the year.

Mr. Twaddell asked if there is a plan for expenditures that states how much will get spent and when it will be spent throughout the year.

Mrs. Moriarty said that this is something the District looks at regularly. Sometimes, some things that were planned for come off the table for various reasons. That has not been the case this year. The budget is in a healthier place than anticipated, based on the additional special education expenses this year. Not hiring all paraeducators has helped offset the special education costs. The District tries to encumber year-long expenses at the start of the fiscal year like putting in purchase order for all of payroll and for contracted services.

Mr. Billings asked if we have capped the previous year's encumbrances completely.

Mrs. Moriarty responded yes, she thinks so. There were also encumbered funds for a new school resource officer, who was not hired until January so some of those funds will assist with next year's expenses.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Softball & Minority Groups (Citizen Request)**

Mrs. Moriarty shared an overview of a citizen request regarding high school softball. Last year in the fall we only had eight students interested in high school softball. There was a need to get the info to NHIAA by a certain deadline for scheduling purposes. The idea number of players would be eleven; a team could have nine players, but if someone had to sit out, the team would have to forfeit. The high school softball program needed some time on order for students to develop their skills and to garner more interest.

For these reasons, the high school was unable to run a softball program last spring. Arrangements were made so high school students could play on the middle school team, as an opportunity to develop skill and garner interest. Last spring, eight high school students played on the middle school team. It appeared that there would be enough players to run a junior varsity team for the 2023-2024 school year. However, when this year's spring athletic interest was sent out, only three students indicated interest in softball. Ms. Dumais was able to get the number of interested students up to five, but that still was not enough for a team, so the high school was unable to offer JV softball this year.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that they would love to have a JV softball team at the high school if enough students were interested. For a small school, ILMHS offers a wide variety of athletics. The school also pursued potential cooperative teams with other school districts with no success.

Derek Kline, ILMHS parent, shared that his daughter Gracie Kline has interest in playing softball. When he found out there was not enough girls to field a team, he met with Superintendent and Principal and was told they needed more time because of NHIAA scheduling. His daughter participated in the middle school team, which was fun but at a lower level. At the sports awards, he polled the girls and it seemed like there would be enough for a team next year at the high school level. This February,

Mr. Kline found out from his daughter there would not be a team. It was disappointing and he wishes that he was informed of this, considering the efforts he took to make sure there would be a team this year.

Regarding cooperative efforts, Mr. Kline said he had asked to review the documents related to those efforts, and there were none. He suggested writing letters to some other school districts than just Moultonborough and Newfound. He appreciates Mrs. Moriarty spending the time to discuss this matter, but feels that Inter-Lakes can do better and make more of an effort to provide this sport.

Dr. Amanda Downing responded to Mr. Kline's comments, noting in regards to the efforts to create a cooperative team, there is a process which includes reaching out to another district with the proposal as Mr. Kline described. Another district will not sign on for a cooperative if they already have the number of players they need in order to be competitive in that sport. ILMHS made the effort and reached out to every district that would have fit our needs, and nobody was interested or willing.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that when a cooperative is created, NHIAA will take the combined enrollment of the two schools in the cooperative, so for some places it would bump them up a division, which would make them less competitive. A school can petition down, but they would forfeit being able to earn a state championship.

Dr. Downing noted that this was discussed in the meeting she had with Mr. Kline and Mrs. Moriarty regarding this topic.

Mr. Kline disagreed, saying he did not remember discussing that element, but maybe there was a miscommunication.

Ms. Dumais added that regarding cooperatives, the NHIAA will not allow two districts to cooperative team if one of the districts can self-sustain on their own. Cooperatives are only allowed if both districts need each other to make the team.

Mr. Billings asked what the longer-term ramifications would be if Inter-Lakes could get enough students for next year, even though we didn't field a team this year. Can the school get back in the league?

Mrs. Moriarty said that the funds are in the budget, it's whether the skillset will be at a varsity level. Since the high school did not have JV this year but the middle school had a team, there would likely be a JV team starting next year.

Ms. Dumais agreed that next year we would definitely be a JV team, due to skills and schedule. But in the year after that, the high school could petition NHIAA to allow us to jump up to varsity.

Discussion continued regarding existing cooperatives and NHIAA rules regarding cooperatives.

Mr. Billings noted it may make sense to review enrollment in all spring sports.

Ms. Dumais pulled up enrollment numbers for spring sports. Currently there are 16 students for HS baseball, 25 for HS boys' lacrosse, 21 for MS baseball, 5 for boys' HS

tennis, 50 for co-ed MS track, 27 for HS track, 13 for HS girls' lacrosse, 17 for MS softball, 13 for HS tennis.

Mr. Twaddell noted that it sounded like Mr. Kline was saying that some of the information shared today was not clearly communicated to him previously, and asked if he now had more clarity.

Mr. Kline said yes, but noted that he put a lot of effort to ensure there was a team and was shocked when there was no team and it was not brought to his attention. He would have liked to know how he could help to try to develop a solution as a parent. He suggested fielding a team that does not have eleven or even nine students, but using other students from other schools to field a full team. The team would not play for wins and losses, but the students could still gain skills at scrimmages, so the sport would still be offered. Mr. Kline said he mentioned this at his initial meeting and it was shot down, but he feels it is a viable option.

Dr. Downing responded that she had previously informed Mr. Kline that this idea was rejected because it is not allowable.

Ms. Dumais noted that the NHIAA does not allow scrimmages at the high school level from the first day of the season to the last day of the season.

Ms. Connelly asked how often girls opt to play baseball instead of softball, just because they want to play ball.

Ms. Dumais said it is an option, but it is not very common.

Gracie Kline, ILMHS student, noted that she tried this last year, but there was an overwhelming amount of baseball players, so she did not get much playing time and it was not a reliable option.

Mrs. Moriarty reiterated that Inter-Lakes offers many spring sports for such a small school, and this is a root cause of this issue.

Mr. Billings asked if a student could play two sports in a season.

Ms. Dumais said technically yes.

Mr. Kline noted that maybe the high school could negotiate with other districts that they would need to provide some softball players if they wanted to have athletes from Inter-Lakes play on their other cooperative teams such as football. He expressed appreciation for the School Board's time and effort regarding this issue.

A. Rotary Youth Exchange Student Request

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, to approve Rotary Youth Exchange Student as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Starmer asked if the student already has a host family.

Mrs. Moriarty explained that the Rotary Club takes care of that and is working on it, and that students are always placed in very positive environments.

Mrs. Starmer noted that she spoke to Rotary Club member Dean Golezian and he said it was getting increasingly more difficult to find host families with a student in the school.

Ms. Connelly asked if host families get a stipend.

Mrs. Starmer said she does not think so, but is not sure.

Dean Golezian, Rotary Club representative, called in to the Board meeting to say that they have already found families for next year, but nobody in the host families is in the school system. Nobody receives a stipend to host.

B. Professional Employee Nominations 2024-2025

Mrs. Moriarty suggested looking at the nominations in Nonpublic Session and making a motion afterward. The Board agreed. Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mrs. Starmer, to approve Teacher Nominations as presented.

C. Donations

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mrs. Starmer, to accept with gratitude the following donations for the After-Prom Party Student Activity Club:

- Inter-Lakes PTO, in the amount of \$1,000
- Davenport West, in the amount of \$250
- Meredith Landing Real Estate, LLC., in the amount of \$250
- Hearts and Hands Thrift Shop, in the amount of \$1,000

The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Twaddell moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman to accept with gratitude the following donations for the Robotics Club to be used for future robotics activities

- Peak Properties – Belknap, LLC., in the amount of \$750
- Miracle Farms Landscape Contractors, in the amount of \$500
- Bryant Paving, in the amount of \$852

The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Connelly moved, seconded by Mr. Twaddell, to accept with gratitude a donation from the Meredith Rotary Club in the amount of \$480 for the Quebec City Trip for the Band and Chorus. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Porter-Zuckerman moved, seconded by Mrs. Starmer, to accept with gratitude a donation from Hearts and Hands Thrift Shop in the amount of \$1,500 to be used for the Principal's Fund to assist the Student Support Room and Student Needs. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Twaddell, to accept with gratitude a donation from Meadowlark Natural Building in the amount of \$280 Alpine Ski Team Race Fees, Practice Fees, and Equipment. The motion carried 7-0.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **2024/2025 School Calendar**

Mrs. Moriarty brought forward the 2024/2025 School Calendar for the Board's review. The calendar has 179 student days and provides an additional day for professional learning to assist with the number of training required for staff.

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Ms. Connelly, to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE – Superintendent, Board Secretary, Board Members

None.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 6:49 p.m.*

XV. NONPUBLIC SESSION

A. **Enter 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.

Mr. Twaddell moved, seconded by Mrs. Starmer, to enter Nonpublic Session. Mr. Hanson called the roll.

YES: Mr. Billings, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Locke, Mr. Porter-

Zuckerman, Mrs. Starmer, Mr. Twaddell

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Nonpublic Session at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Locke, to return to Public Session. Mr. Hanson called the roll.

YES: Mr. Billings, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Locke, Mr. Porter-

Zuckerman, Mrs. Starmer, Mr. Twaddell

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board reentered Public Session at 7:13 p.m.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS (Cont.)

A. **Professional Employee Nominations 2024-2025**

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mrs. Starmer, to approve Teacher Nominations as presented.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

➤ **Tuesday, April 09, 2024**

Inter-Lakes School Board @ Humiston Building – Conference Room

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

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Connelly moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m.
The motion carried 7-0.