

BETHLEHEM SCHOOL BOARD
BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MAIN STREET
BETHLEHEM, NH 03574

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2018
TIME: 5:00 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Carol Kerivan; Board Members Amy Snow, Monique Alexander, Timothy Fleury, Robert Weir; Superintendent Pierre Couture; Business Manager Kristin Franklin; Principal Shelli Roberts; State Representative Erin Hennessey.

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM by Chairman Kerivan

PUBLIC INPUT

State Representative Erin Hennessey appeared before the Board to see if there are any questions on the recently passed KENO Bill which will provide funding for full day Kindergarten. Ms. Hennessey noted that it is not necessary for the towns to vote to approve this in order to receive funding. This funding is available to all schools regardless of whether or not they received Adequacy Aid. A brief discussion ensued.

LED LIGHTING PROJECT

Carl Edlin was not able to attend this evenings meeting pertaining to the LED Lighting Project and financing through Eversource. It is anticipated that the cost to the District for this project will be \$14,984.00. Utilization of the Smart Start Financing will result in a return on investment of 2.49 years. Mr. Edlin is waiting to get the financing in place to know that there are available funds available before returning to the Board. A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY MONIQUE ALEXANDER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2017 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Manifests were distributed for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Kristin Franklin distributed Financial Reports for Board information and review briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary. The current projected yearend balance is \$81,473.33 which includes monies not encumbered but anticipated to be spent in the areas of Extension Courses, Conferences, Dues, Workshops, Field Trips, Supplies and Equipment. Ms. Franklin further pointed out that most of the balance is the sizable savings on health insurance premiums. A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Franklin distributed School Lunch Reports for Board review and information. There is a significant increase in the number of breakfast meals being served.

Business Manager Franklin advised the Board that she has an elevator contract from ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation for Board review and signature. Currently the school is contracted with Otis Elevator for the maintenance contract for the elevator at an annual cost of \$4,152.12. This contract will expire on August 1, 2018. BES has received a bid from ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation at an annual cost of \$2,153.40 for elevator maintenance which is a signification savings. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY AMY SNOW, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO APPROVE THE ELEVATOR CONTRACT WITH THYSSENKRUPP ELEVATOR CORPORATION. EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,153.40 AND TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN KERIVAN TO SIGN THE CONTRACT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Roberts called the Board's attention to her written report included in their agenda packets.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that the sensor for the light on the side of the building illuminating the parking lot has been adjusted.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that the heat issues have been resolved.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that the interviews for the Special Education Teacher/Coordinator will be held in early March.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that BES has been invited to move forward with the next step in the Eddie's Award process. The Eddies Committee was established to provide a process to honors exemplary practices and educational excellence at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels throughout the State. The winning school at each level will receive state-wide recognition as the Eddie School of Excellence, \$2,000.00, a school banner, and an engraved school bell signifying excellence in education.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that the Winter Benchmarking has been completed. Copies of the results were included in their agenda packets. Teachers have met to review the results and determine best instructional practices to put in place as we move forward as well as making decisions based on individualized education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that they need to revisit the e-mail poll taken to hire the Head Custodian. Superintendent Couture recommended the appointment of Michael Charron to the position of Head Custodian. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY TIMOTHY FLEURY TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL CHARRON TO THE POSITION OF HEAD CUSTODIAN AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture recommended the acceptance of the resignation of Kelsey Rayburn from her position as paraprofessional. MOTION BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, SECONDED BY MONIQUE ALEXANDER TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF KELSEY RAYBURN FROM HER POSITION AS PARAPROFSSIONAL AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture recommended the appointment of Heather Nearing to the position of paraprofessional for the 2017-2018 school year. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY MONIQUE ALEXANDER, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF HEATHER NEARING TO THE POSITION OF PARAPROFSSIONAL FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture updated the Board on Adequacy Aid noting that HB 525 was voted down in the House Finance Committee. This means that the annual 4% decrease of the stabilization portion of the Adequacy Education funding will remain in force.

Chairman Kerivan distributed information pertaining to Adequacy Aid – 2017 vs 2018 Breakdown for Board information and review briefing the Board on the contents and addressing questions as necessary. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that SB 193 known as the Voucher Bill passed the House. The author of this bill, Senator Regan, recently met with the NHSAA (New Hampshire School Administrative Association) Executive Board. Senator Regan advised that this bill was designed to promote competition between schools in NH. In this meeting Superintendent Couture asked Senator Regan if he is aware of the added stress that passage of such a bill will have on towns in the North Country who are already losing funding due to the reduction in the stabilization portion of Adequacy Aid and stand to lose even more (up to \$36,000.00

annually) if this bill passes. The reply was simply that this is a management issue. It appears that the Senate does not understand the undue hardship that this will have on our districts. Voucher type bills have been passed in other states and not produced the results anticipated. A brief discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS BUDGET PRESENTATION

Business Manager Kristin Franklin distributed copies of the Budget Hearing Data which will be distributed to the public this evening. It consists of the Warrant Articles, Budget Summary, Estimated Income and Proposed Budget. She also distributed detailed budget data for Board members.

Chairman Kerivan explained the Budget presentation process and how she will present to the public at tonight's hearing.

The Board discussed the LED Project addressing the actual project costs from Eversource / EMC and the rebates available resulting in the District's costs being \$14,984.00. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY AMY SNOW TO APPROVE THE LED PROJECT AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. This will result in additional revenue in this amount being added to "other revenue".

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the overall budget is down \$59,000.00. This Budget also includes reducing three positions. This will still address the Minimum Standards for Education Student to Teacher Ratio. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture reminded the Board that they need to approve the final proposed budget prior to its presentation to the public later this evening. MOTION BY AMY SNOW, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,295,553.000. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Principal Roberts presented Policy EFAA – Meal Charging for second reading and approval. The changes discussed at the last meeting have been incorporated into the policy. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, SECONDED BY AMY SNOW TO APPROVE POLICY EFAA – MEAL CHARGING FOR SECOND READING AND APPROVAL AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, SECONDED BY MONIQUE ALEXANDER TO ADJOURN AT 6:03 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk