

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT IN-PERSON: Board Member Robert Weir, Interim Superintendent Tari Thomas, Principal Sue Greenlaw

PRESENT REMOTELY: Board Members Timothy Fleury, James Noyes, Becky Beno, Jennifer Lucas, Business Manager Toni Butterfield

CALL TO ORDER: Board Member Bob Weir called the meeting to order at 5:46 PM.

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARD: Tim nominates Bob Weir for Board Chair and Becky seconds, Tim volunteered for Vice Chair.

MOTION BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, SECONDED BY BECKY BENO, TO NOMINATE BOB WEIR FOR BOARD CHAIR.

ROLL CALL VOTE: WEIR – ABSTAIN, FLEURY – AYE, NOYES – AYE, BENO – AYE, LUCAS – AYE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION BY JAMES NOYES, SECONDED BY BECKY BENO TO NOMINATE TIM FLEURY FOR VICE CHAIR.

ROLL CALL VOTE: WEIR – AYE, FLEURY – ABSTAIN, NOYES – AYE, BENO – AYE, LUCAS – AYE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.

- a. **PUBLIC INPUT:** There are numerous members of the public attending the meeting remotely. Bob asked if anyone has input before the presentations from Sue and Tari begin. No one had input.
Principal Greenlaw began her presentation. New ventilation system and bringing others up to code but not as timely as expected. Worried about students starting Aug 31. May postpone until September 8th. Asked for thoughts from the public.
Chris McGrath: So school will start remotely the 8th?
Principal Greenlaw: yes, then we will go to face-to-face. Research shows the number one most important consideration is that a good ventilation system is in place. Chris McGrath: windows open and safe, maybe we can begin the 31st.
Principal Greenlaw: I need to make sure everyone is safe. We will conduct ventilation tests soon and we will have a conversation.
Chris McGrath: will there be a reduction in budget if start later.
Principal Greenlaw: I will be able to keep everyone working.
Nicole McGrath: have we considered holding classes outside to start?
Principal Greenlaw: we purchased carpports to have outdoor learning but not enough for entire school.
Nicole McGrath: can you create a schedule to accommodate all the students?
Principal Greenlaw: we will take things into consideration; the safety piece is at the forefront of my decision making. We will be posting info on the website for parents as we learn more.
Teresa Wood: Commend you on how hard you are working. Ventilation system: various types of systems. Some can spread the virus. Who is guiding installation and how tested?
Principal Greenlaw: We have a project manager. Filter system and exchange of air. Air exchange units in old part of school. Bring in fresh air and expel old air through window. Discussion ensued. Meeting ended after 40 minutes and then restarted with discussion in progress between Steve Hoyt and Teresa Wood.
Chris McGrath: how long will masks be worn?

Principal Greenlaw: masks will be worn inside, outside – if distancing, no masks. Extremely important to keep students safe and be in school.
Chris McGrath: studies in England about psychological stress of wearing masks.
Principal Greenlaw: ever changing, we can reassess. There will be mask breaks.
Susan Torres: I start work in-person next week. When can you tell parents when school will start so parents can plan for child-care?
Principal Greenlaw: I can't be as exact as I'd like to be due to ventilation system taking longer than expected.
Angela MacKinnon: is there a date when the air quality test will be completed?
Principal Greenlaw: I'd like to do a test to see how it looks with windows only as a base-line.
Angela MacKinnon: will that test inform the decision to open sooner?
Principal Greenlaw: indecipherable
Bob Weir: if no other questions, we can move on.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 10, 2020 BOARD MEETING

Discussion: General typos corrected by board clerk and Governor's checklist added.

**MOTION BY BECKY BENO, SECONDED BY JENNIFER LUCAS, TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 10, 2020, WITH GENERAL TYPOS CORRECTED AND GOVERNOR'S CHECKLIST FOR ELECTRONICALLY HELD MEETINGS ADDED.
ROLL CALL VOTE: WEIR – AYE, FLEURY – AYE, NOYES – AYE, BENO- AYE, LUCAS – AYE.
ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES**

III. FINANCIAL

Business Manager Butterfield reviewed the financials and related data.

a. Audit Engagement Letter – No discussion.

**MOTION BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, SECONDED BECKY BENO, TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER.
ROLL CALL VOTE: WEIR – AYE, FLEURY – AYE, NOYES – AYE, BENO- AYE, LUCAS – AYE.
ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.**

b. General Information – none

IV. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Greenlaw reviewed Principal's Report and related data. Discussion ensued.

a. Re-opening of School Plan: Need to be aware of number of students. Teaching teams. Preschool and kindergarten. 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th and 5th and 6th. Utilizing specialists to be part of the teaching teams. This will allow us to keep numbers down. Distance learning - 30 students. Hoping to have specials each day. Length of school day wearing masks and staff being with students all day is a concern. May have a shorter day – 1:30 5-days a week. This will allow for cleaning and decrease mask wearing until 2:30. Some schools are opting for 4-days with one for cleaning. Will have a lot of social-emotional learning to assist students. Want best plan for education and safety.

Bob Weir: Tari has created a Leadership Team. Sue has been a leader in these meetings. She is balancing safety of students and staff as well as the needs of people in the town. She has done a great job in these meetings. We have someone very strong helping with this.

Interim Superintendent Thomas: The plan is overarching guidance for all areas of school. All the information will be going out to families soon, but the info is dynamic, many changes daily. Impressed with Sue and her staff in making this plan.

Bob Weir: Discussed opening dates and the changes after several proposals. We want to vote on

the 8th but want to open it up to questions. The windows do provide cross ventilation and September is warm but want to balance safety with parent needs. Discussion ensued related to delivery of ventilation units.

James Noyes: What is plan if further delays with ventilation installation and drags into October? If we shorten the school day, what does that mean for after-school care?

Chris McGrath: same questions as James.

Principal Greenlaw: staff prepared to start remote, the engineer felt delivery and installation mid-September or a bit later but not October. Early dismissal will create issues for working folks. The board will have to discuss.

Becky Beno: Ventilation thoughts – is there any way to know how dangerous it is to have students at school with windows open providing the ventilation? Workers back and forth – what if one of them is infected? Knowing more will help me to make a decision.

Principal Greenlaw: air quality testing within the next two weeks, not sure how long it will take.

Becky Beno: it sounds like we will have to make a decision before that occurs.

Principal Greenlaw: we may need an emergency board meeting to update any plans we make tonight.

Becky Beno: workers while students in school?

Principal Greenlaw: there could be other places for students while the work occurs.

Bob Weir: Ventilation options- fans/windows? Board perspective – face-to-face with parents opting for distance learning but the question is when to begin. Thoughts?

Tim Fleury: plans in place for remote – are they similar to the end of last year?

Principal Greenlaw: I will connect families to a platform but will be teacher directed and new learning based on competencies. It will look different than in spring.

James Noyes: when will this be happening during the day?

Principal Greenlaw: staff will be looking at platform options, teaching will take place during the school day.

James Noyes: they will need to be monitored

Principal Greenlaw: ideally, yes

James Noyes: remote learning with two children in different grades plus working, how to manage multiple children while working from home?

Bob Weir: it's a tough decision we have to make. We can table until next week until we have time to discuss and get some more answers. For the public, we are looking to start September 8th.

James Noyes: agree, we need to table and get more information.

Principal Greenlaw: I'm ok holding off on a decision until we gather more information. I hear all the concerns. It's a difficult decision. Reconvene in a week or two.

Bob Weir: We will send a meeting notice to the public. If no other questions, the rest of the meeting will continue with the agenda.

Angela MacKinnon: did the contractors say how long it will take to install?

Principal Greenlaw: No, Wilco is working on some things in advance. The school is ready for installation.

Angela MacKinnon: if air quality ok, start school then close for installation then reopen?

Principal Greenlaw: can move students around so hopefully will not have to close.

Chris McGrath: is all this being paid for by COVID funds? Installation? Discussion ensued.

Principal Greenlaw: \$48,000 in COVID funds. Capital Reserve Fund, too. If more COVID money is coming, we can use it.

Bob Weir: other questions?

Tim Fleury: putting on Rec Director hat. We will offer after-school but heavily modified. Been in contact with other principals. Concerns with mixing groups that have been kept separate all day long. Mixing will happen one way or another. If it's happening at school, there is some level of control. Will get together with Sue and Tammy (Reardon, nurse). Limited capacity right now. Counselors being hired but from Profile School so BES early release may be an issue. Discussion ensued.

Board Member Jennifer Lucas was called away from the meeting.

Teresa Wood: NEST has funds available if there are needs. Please let me know.

Bob Weir: we are going into non-public.

b. General Information: Grants, need a signatory, I am happy to be that person.

**MOTION BY JAMES NOYES, SECONDED BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, TO ALLOW PRINCIPAL GREENLAW TO SIGN FOR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL GRANTS.
ROLL CALL VOTE: WEIR – AYE, FLEURY – AYE, NOYES – AYE, BENO- AYE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.**

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. None

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

a. None

VII. POLICY COMMITTEE

a. None

VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS AS PER RSA 91A:3 I, II (if needed)

MOTION BY JAMES NOYES, SECONDED BY BECKY BENO, TO GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

**ROLL CALL ENSUED: WEIR, FLEURY, NOYES, BENO
BES TEACHERS: HUBBERD, REARDON, PARROT, BOISSEAU, BLAKE**

Bob Weir: Received revised MOA and letter suggesting re-opening face-to-face date proposed Monday, September 28th.

Janelle Hubbard: heard earlier today that the September 14th date may not be able to be met. BEA would be willing to talk about the timeline in proposal. Reasoning within the letter. Guidelines referenced discussed ventilation system testing to make sure working. We can adjust the timeline.

Bob Weir: We don't know when work will be finished. Wayne Fillion said ventilation system will act as though windows are open. If we had a fan system blowing out with windows open, would that air flow work?

Principal Greenlaw: ventilation big part of school re-opening. If we do air quality test sooner that ventilation system installed, can we discuss?

Janelle Hubbard: when doing air quality testing, it should be done when room filled with safe number of people, not empty rooms. Yes, BEA will take this into consideration.

Bob Weir: we don't want children or staff to be unsafe, but we want to find a balance. Parents are concerned with a delay. Wanted to speak to teachers before deciding.

James Noyes: ventilation upgrade is happening at BES but not at other locations, air quality testing will be helpful, not confident about install dates, worried it will be dragged out, what is our plan and next tier of decision making. Many worries about the timeline. If system is pushed back, it is another week parents are trying to figure out what to do with their children. Parents are scrambling now.

Principal Greenlaw: will talk to Steve about doing air quality test with 12 people in the room.

James Noyes: something that would make it easier – remote with multiple children scares me. Can children be staggered? Need flexibility for families who are working from home or adding stress to families who are already stressed. Not sure how this is going to work. Trying to think through parent challenges.

Principal Greenlaw: have not had these conversations with staff yet. Not expecting to have students in front of the computer all day. Daunting and challenging task. It's hard for everybody.

Bob Weir: worried about school closure and how that will look.

Tim Fleury: did we have issues with students and lack of access to remote?

Principal Greenlaw: we were able to give everyone access

Bob Weir: any other thoughts?

James Noyes: trying to get students to advance, testing early on to see if there is an achievement gap for baseline. Test scores for funding? - supposedly not using test scores for funding.

Interim Superintendent Thomas: some want a 3-yr moratorium on testing. Discussion ensued.

Bob Weir: any other thoughts?

Becky Beno: Reemphasize supporting parents by flexibility of remote learning. Is there any way for child development - social piece – offer something social at school?

Janelle Hubbard: discussed this social emotional piece, using carports, etc.

Principal Greenlaw: social emotional piece is important and will need time to reacclimate to school.

James Noyes: if spike in cases and need to go remote for the year, will be helpful to telegraph curriculum so people can see what learning and how delivered. Concern with specials: art, PE and music, huge component of learning and fun. New info coming about re: music safety.

Principal Greenlaw: hoping to work out how to keep special schedule same as last year.

Bob Weir: to Janelle – one of us will reach out to you regarding the MOA. Want to thank all the staff, board and Sue and Tari and Toni. We appreciate everything and hope we can all work together to find a solution.

ROLL CALL ENSUED TO END NON-PUBLIC SESSION: WEIR, BENO, NOYES, HUBBARD, REARDON, BOISSEAU.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

a. None

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, SECONDED BY BECKY BENO, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:42 PM. ROLL CALL VOTE: WEIR – AYE, FLEURY – AYE, NOYES – AYE, BENO- AYE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.

The next Board Meeting will be held September 8th, at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Giarrocco
Board Clerk

A Checklist To Ensure Meetings Are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State Of Emergency

As Chair of the Bethlehem Elementary School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

- a. Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means: We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. 1

All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting by clicking on the following website address:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75529453267?pwd=cStKaEdKaVBJWkRibzN5aTFhemR1QT09>

Meeting ID: 755 2945 3267 Passcode: H3f6i4

Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting: We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided physically as posted outside the SAU #35 office door and on the websites of Bethlehem Elementary School and SAU #35 at: www.bethlehem.k12.nh.us and www.sau35.org

- c. Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public during the meeting if there are problems with access: If anybody has a problem, please email Sue Greenlaw at s.greenlaw@bethlehem.k12.nh.us
- d. Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting: In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

1 Many public bodies are utilizing video conferencing technology, such as Zoom, to ensure the electronic meeting comply with the Right-to-Know law and any applicable due process requirements. In certain circumstances, a regular business meeting of a public body may be conducted utilizing audio-only technology. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of the technology utilized to conduct your meeting, please consult your agency counsel or the Attorney General's Office.