

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

DATE: MARCH 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; EMC Representative Carl Edlin.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairman Kerivan

### PUBLIC INPUT

Carl Edlin of EMC (Energy Management Consultants) appeared before the Board to update on the recent LED Energy Audit and present the programs for this purpose offered by Eversource. EMC is one of four contractors with Eversource for this program. Mr. Edlin noted that Lafayette and Profile School Districts are currently entering into this program. Mr. Edlin briefed the Board on the Smart Start Program and financing available through Eversource for this purpose. They offer 60% rebate and charge a 10% fee. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$29,987.00 and would result in a cost to the district of \$13,480.00. There are two lengths of financing available and the payments are paid through the savings achieved on the District's electric bill. If the District chooses to pay for the project without the benefit of financing, the 10% fee would be eliminated. EMC is flexible on time constraints, can be done evenings or when school is not being utilized during the day but the project must be completed by December 15, 2018. EMC will oversee the project and will subcontract with Davis Electric of Whitefield for the actual installation. Following a brief discussion Mr. Edlin left the meeting at 5:22 PM. The Board reviewed the proposal and discussed the various aspects of financing through the Smart Start Program versus paying for the project in full. Following this discussion, MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY TIMOTHY FLEURY TO APPROVED THE LED LIGHTING PROJECT AND ENTER INTO A FINANCE AGREEMENT WITH EVERSOURCE SMART START PROGRAM AND TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN KERIVAN TO SIGN THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY TIMOTHY FLEURY, SECONDED BY MONIQUE ALEXANDER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2018 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

### FINANCIAL REPORT:

Manifests were distributed for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Kristin Franklin briefed the Board on the two types of deficit appropriations as requested by Chairman Kerivan fielding questions as necessary.

Business Manager Franklin advised the Board that they she was notified b NH DRA (New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration) that the checks we issued to return monies to the taxpayers for school lunch revenue estimates which were done incorrectly is not allowed as the tax rate was set on what was submitted. These amounts remain in the general fund and become part of the yearend surplus. We have contacted the towns and requested that they return the checks. Only two had deposited them and the will issue refunds to us. A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Franklin distribute Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$90,401.83 which includes monies not yet encumbered but expected to be spent in the areas of Extension Courses; Conferences, Dues, Workshops; Field Trips, Supplies, and Equipment.

Business Manager Franklin advised that BES has applied for a sidewalk project from the DOE Infrastructure Grant program for the purpose of installing a sidewalk from the school to the Bethlehem Library. A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Franklin distributed School Lunch Reports for Board information and review noting the budgeted amount to cover excess costs for the program is \$10,000.00 and the costs at these costs at the end of January are \$9,000.00. It is anticipated that the program will finish within the amount set aside.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Roberts distributed copies of her Principal's Report and related data.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that fund raising for the BES Playground continues. Currently \$41,000.00 has been raised. Principal Roberts reminded the Board that the 99 Restaurant is holding "Dining for a Cause" to benefit the BES Playground on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. 15% of all dining checks will be donated to the playground fund. BES is hoping for a large turnout of the event.

Principal Roberts advised that there is an Easter Egg Splash fundraiser as well. This is similar to the flamingos on your lawn which area high schools have been doing for some time. This is a Splash of Easter Eggs on your lawn and it operates in the same manner. One person signs up to splash another for a donation amount and Easter Eggs are placed on the lawn.

Principal Roberts provided additional information on the proposed sidewalk grant. The state will pay 80% of this project and the school/town will be responsible for 20% of the total cost. The details have not been worked out as yet. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that BES will not move to the next step in the Eddies program. She has requested input from the committee as to where they need improvement and plans to try again next year.

Principal Roberts advised that this will be Board Clerk Marge Brown's last meeting as she will be retiring April 1<sup>st</sup>. A replacement has not been found as yet so if any Board members have input please let her know.

## SUPERINTENDNET'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that it is time to renew their membership in NCES (North Country Education Services) for the 2018-2019 school year. Currently BES has a full membership in NCES and the cost for this for the 2018-2019 school year will be \$2,265.51. MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY AMY SNOW TO APPROVE THE 2019-2019 MEMBERSHIP IN NCES AT A COST OF \$2,265.51. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture distributed copies of a letter from Kristine Stoddard, Esq., NH Director of Public Policy thanking him for his participation in Community Health Career State House Day on February 14, 2018. Superintendent Couture had accompanied the CEO of ACHS (Ammonoosuc Community Health Services) to this and offered testimony on the need for extended counseling for our students.

Superintendent Couture updated the Board on the status of the Voucher Bill. The Bill was passed by the House and is currently in the House Finance Committee. The stabilization portion of Adequacy Aid will continue to decrease at an annual rate of 4%. It was noted that Commission of Education Frank Edelblut remains in support of the Voucher Bill. A brief discussion ensued. The author of the Bill, Senior Frank Regan was asked if he understood the negative impact that this can have on small rural towns and his reply was that this is a management issue. The NCSAA is against the implementation of the Voucher Bill.

## BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2018.

WARRANT ARTICLE PRESENTATION

The Board discussed who will move and second each of the articles.

POLICY COMMITTEE – No Report

NEGOTIATIONS – No Report

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY AMY SNOW TO ADJOURN AT 6:28 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Brown  
Board Clerk