

BETHLEHEM SCHOOL BOARD
BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2297 MAIN STREET
BETHLEHEM, NH 03574

DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2015
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Carol Kerivan; Board Members Steve Gorman, Amy Lane Tuohy, Dawn Ferringo, Robert Weir (arrived at 5:45 PM); Superintendent Pierre Couture; Business Manager Tina Peabody; Principal Shelli Roberts; Staff Member Steve Hoyt; Community Members Cheryl Jensen, Patrick Doughty, Ernie Ferland, Tara Craig, Aaron Gahoon; Trustee of the Trust Funds Don Lavoie.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Kerivan.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

PARKING LOT DISCUSSION

Chairman Kerivan briefed those present on the current parking situation. It is a known fact that there is not adequate parking for BES employees on site. Ten cars are parking at Rosa Flamingo's on a daily basis along with 1-3 parking on the Cedar Croft property owned by Herb Lahout. The district had looked into enlarging the parking lot utilizing the land give to the district from the Cedar Croft property and received an estimate of \$250,000.00 +/- . At that point any further thought of this was tabled do to the cost. Herb Lahout has offered to let the district park on his property at a cost of approximately \$400.00 per month plus maintenance and plowing costs. There is currently no money in this year's budget to be utilized for this purpose. The Board has explored many options including requesting staff members to park at the Skate Board Park on Agassiz Street and/or having students bused there. The Board needs to let Mr. Lahout know if they are interested in leasing the property from him by the end of the year as without an agreement no parking will be allowed there following Christmas Break. Ms. Kerivan further informed the Board that a staggered release will begin in January to afford parents the ability to drive up and pick up students as parking on the Cedar Croft property will no longer be allowed.

Ms. Kerivan is seeking input from those present this evening. She is suggesting that the school could possibly utilize the library parking lot for a limited amount of vehicles. She has also received a rough estimate from a local contractor to expand the parking lot adding a few parking spots. The school has been looking into possibly increasing the parking to the rear of the building by eight or so slots.

Ms. Kerivan advised that it will be necessary to spend monies in order to create enough on-site parking for all employees. She will also approach the library trustees about possible usage of the library lot. Steve Hoyt suggested that they might also be able to park at the Bogestow Ski House on the opposite side of Main Street.

Don Lavoie suggested that perhaps the building of additional parking spaces at the school could involve community volunteers as the construction of the Town tennis courts had a number of years ago.

Following a brief discussion, Ms. Kerivan thanked all present for their input. The Board will continue researching a practical solution to this issue.

EEI PRESENTATION – MIKE DAVY

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Mike Davy of EEI was unable to be here this evening. He will be providing Superintendent Couture with the results of the energy audit at BES and their recommendations. This will be available for the January meeting. Superintendent Couture further advised the Board that basically only the lightening was targeted in the audit. A brief discussion ensued.

TRUSTEE OF THE FUNDS – CHANGE OF FUND INSTITUTION

Trustee of the Trust Funds Don Lavoie appeared before the Board to discuss moving the trust funds from the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool to a private investment management firm. Mr. Lavoie has been advised by legal counsel that pursuant to RSA 35:9-a, this would need to be a warrant article at the March meeting. The interest on these funds should be more significant with this change and the fee percentage would come from the interest. Mr. Lavoie provided the Board with a copy of the proposed warrant article for this purpose. Chairman Kerivan advised that the District's Legal Counsel will need to review and approve it. A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY AMY LANE-TUOHY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed copies of the SAU Adequacy Aid for November 2015 which includes FY17 Estimates. Bethlehem School District will gain \$42,515.68 however Profile School District will lose (\$34,705.61) making the net gain for the Town of Bethlehem \$7,810.07. . A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Peabody distributed copies of the school lunch report for Board information and review noting that the meal counts are up. The program continues to run smoothly.

Business Manager Peabody distributed Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$93,520.00. Ms. Peabody advised the Board that they will need a warrant article to close out the Oil Tank Expendable Trust Account. It appears at this point that the monies needed (estimated at \$25,000.00) to enlarge the parking lot may be available from surplus. A warrant article for up to this amount will be drafted.

Business Manager Peabody presented the Froling Energy Maintenance Contract for Board review and approval. Froling will provide cleaning and maintenance of the two OkoFEN pellet boilers along with providing additional maintenance/repairs on an as needed basis for the annual fee of \$1,125.00. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DAWN FERRINGO, SECONDED BY AMY LANE-TUOHY TO APPROVE THE FROLING ENERGY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,125.00 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BUSINESS MANAGER TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Roberts called the Board's attention to her written report included in their agenda packets and the related data attached, briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that she has had very little feedback from the issuance of the new report cards. A question was raised pertaining to the continuation of the honor roll program and Ms. Roberts replied that she is unsure at this time if this practice will continue. This is currently being researched and she will keep the Board informed as to any decisions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture recommended approval of the resignation of Marie Stevenson from the position of van/bus driver effective November 20, 2015. MOTION BY ALM LANE-TUOHY, SECONDED BY DAWN FERRINGO TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MARIE STEVENSON AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. Principal Roberts advised the Board that this position has been assumed by in-house employees and it will not be necessary to hire a driver. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the dates have been set for the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting. The Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 7:00 PM at BES. The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM at BES. The Board meetings will be held on the same nights beginning at 5:00 PM.

Superintendent Couture distributed copies of the December 1st enrollment for Board information and review. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture recommended the approval of RSA 189:68, part IV which states "IV. No school shall record in any way a school classroom for any purpose without school board approval after a public hearing, and without written consent of the teacher and the parent or legal guardian of each affected student. MOTION BY DAWN FERRINGO, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO APPROVE RSA189:68 AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture thanked the Bethlehem Board members who attended the SAU Full Board Meeting at Profile School on December 2, 2015. At that meeting the SAU Budget for the 2016-2017 was approved along with the SAU Calendar for 2016-2017. The Administrative Team will be adding early release dates to the calendar. A brief discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

This was covered in Superintendent Couture's update of the Full Board meeting.

POLICY FOR SECOND READING

Amy Lane-Tuohy presented Policy JLCJ – Concussions and Head Injuries for second reading and approval. MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY DAWN FERRINGO TO ACCEPT POLICY JLCJ – CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES FOR SECOND READING AND APPROVAL AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

NEGOTIATIONS

Chairman Kerivan advised that the negotiations with BESP are basically settled with one item still waiting for a legal opinion.

School District Legal Counsel, Jay Boynton, is moving ahead with the application to dissolve the BESP based on the fact that there is only one member. A brief discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Gorman advised the Board that he has been reviewing information on Stand Up Desks for students and wondered if the Board felt this was something to be explored. A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY AMY LANE TUOHY, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO ADJOURN AT 6:37 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk