

**Lempster School District
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 5:30 PM
Lempster Community School Library
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Present-Board members: Kelly Caron, Jillian Thomas (arrived 5:35), Bruce Cragin and Hilary Snide
Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis
Principal: Ralph Peterson
Absent: Jessica Hooper

Call to order

K. Caron

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Ms. Caron, chair.

Agenda Adjustments

K. Caron

The agenda was revised to move Solar up under

Review of regular meeting minutes from (3.19.24)

Board

Hilary Snide made a motion to accept the draft minutes of 3.19.24, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Review of nonpublic minutes from (3.19.24)

Board

Bruce Cragin made a motion to accept the nonpublic draft minutes of 3.19.24, second by Hilary Snide. All were in favor.

Public comment: Selena Leite, Hope Damon NH Representative for District 8 and Jenna Caron

Administrative reports

J. Lewis

Solar presentation by ‘Packy’ Campbell from Bright Spot systems. Mr. Campbell explained that there was a word that needed to be changed on the easement. There were also minor changes to the purchase and power agreement. All the paperwork has been submitted to the NH Electric Coop, and the Coop will still be our power company. They will do an inspection and once the meter is set, do a series of tests, set up the IT infrastructure and they will attempt to see if there can be a way to see, in real time, how much power is made. Through this agreement, the meter will be in the name of Bright Spot Solar, we will be paying the bill on your behalf and we will be billing you for the power that you use behind the meter, so your behind the meter price for power is about 22 cents per kilowatt, we’ll be charging you about 15 cents. If we send extra power to the grid they are only paying about 14.97 cents now, when we first started this agreement they were paying around 18.5 cents, but the problem was the Coop only pays once per year and that didn’t seem right, so to save you money I will pass the \$52 meter fee, 15 cents per kilowatt fee on to you and you’ll get a bill from my office and that is what you pay. We will then send all the power back to the grid. You will run off solar power at night from the batteries that we install (100% solar). Most solar systems don’t have batteries, but we’ll have 175kw of batteries which is more than enough to last through the night.

His company will be providing the maintenance, routine and annual and at the end of the one year whatever is sent to the grid will be paid off and we will get the savings and school will be locking in on the price of their power for 20 years, a flat rate which will be a benefit.

In the event of a power failure, we will have 120 kw of power in our system which should be more than enough to run everything. The batteries are lithium ions. Each battery has a hybrid ac/dc inverter which can be fashioned to a generator. He then went on to explain how each battery could store enough energy to power a generator to power the school if need be. He noted that since there was an old generator switch already in the building (they are expensive) they were able to connect to that one. He recommends a 25w propane generator. The first time that we lose power the system may need some adjustments to make sure that it is working properly.

Tonight he is requesting notarized signatures on the new easement and the power agreement. Ms. Caron is a notary and was able to notarize the forms.

Ms. Leite verified with Mr. Campbell that the 15 cents per kw is a fixed charge and she asked why that is, if the NH Coop rate is now at 13 cents per kw? Mr. Campbell answered that the Coop rate is a default rate of 13.9 cents and that multiple fees are added into that rate. She also asked how long the batteries would last and Mr. Campbell thought approximately 10 years, but said it would depend on how many kilowatts you are cycling, so it's hard to estimate.

The Coop will not be charging us a supply or a demand charge. We will no longer be taking power from the Coop. The power will be used 'behind the meter'. The energy we produce will be stored in our batteries. It will save the school money to have a fixed rate contract for 20 years. He estimated that the school will save approximately \$6000 per year.

Mr. Lewis asked when exactly we could have our public relations moment? Mr. Campbell said that after the Coop comes, the meter is set, the system is powered up, the batteries are tested, the software programmed and then perhaps run it for a week and then have our public relations moment.

Ms. Damon asked Mr. Campbell to come and speak to the state house about legislation regarding clean energy.

Calendar revisit- The board reviewed the calendar, this time aligning with Fall Mountain Regional High School.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to accept the 2024-2025 calendar as presented, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Eclipse April 8- Although some schools are canceling school that day or having an early release day, our school will be utilizing the event as a teaching moment. The bus will be available to return students who choose, to school and (then back home) to join together to watch the eclipse as a school community, with volunteer staff, free glasses and other memorabilia.

Slate of Teachers for next year- The board was given a slate of next year's teachers for review.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to approve the slate of teachers for next year, seconded by Hilary Snide. All were in favor.

Ms. Caron inquired about the substitute pay increase. She and the board would like to see some area comparisons for the next meeting.

Monthly Building Needs Update

PFOA in water will probably be addressed with a reverse osmosis system. It is costly, but there is a grant available to help with costs.

Ms. Caron asked Ms. Damon if there are any grants available and she stated that there are some grants funds left over that need to be used by September that we could look into.

Mr. Lewis researched some cleaning services. Servpro does not do schools and some of the local businesses do not do schools. He has not heard back from all of them yet.

Finances

J. Lewis

Manifest The manifests were reviewed and signed by the board.

Para contract typo was addressed and corrected, thanks to Ms. Snide for noticing the (long standing) typo.

Business Software Plan - the finance staff has found a system that they like but it is costly (\$17K), so if grant funds are left at the end of the year, perhaps it can be purchased then.

Alma systems- is a state of the art new system that connects directly with the state. They hope to have all districts enroll in this system and have frozen the cost of it for a number of years. They have trained some of the administrative staff and will be here on the 17th to present it to the remaining staff.

Agenda Building

K. Caron

Substitute pay discussion with area comparisons, para contract, summer programs, graduation, solar, policies (Ms. Hooper and Ms. Snide will be on the committee) building needs

Other items

K. Caron

Ms. Snide has signed up for the new school board member workshop.

Ms. Damon provided the board with a list of the latest bills that are up in the house.

Ms. Lichty asked Ms. Damon to look into milk options for one of our students who is lactose intolerant.

Ms. Damon indicated that Federal Guidelines require that options be provided.

Ms. Damon complimented the board on their being so welcoming and courteous to their guests and for accomplishing so much in their meetings.

Time and Place of next meeting

K. Caron

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 IIc at 6:45pm, second by Hilary Snide
Roll call; Kelly-yes, Bruce-yes, Hilary-yes, Jillian-yes,

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lichty Board Secretary

