

**Lempster School District
School Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Lempster Community School Library
Public Hearing ~ Approved Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Caron called the public hearing to order at 5:02pm. The hearing is to expend funds from the general fund to the capital reserve fund, to pay for the recent roof repairs. The total amount is \$23,025.

Under public comment; Selena Leite asked questions regarding how old the roof is and what sections will need to be replaced next. Mr. Lewis answered her questions to the best of his knowledge, including which areas are most damaged from weather and sun. It is hoped to replace the area at the older end of the school next. Ms. Leite also asked if there was a set-up fee to have them come out or if that was included in the amount. Mr. Lewis stated that it was a flat fee amount for the job.

Ms. Caron ended the public comment period at 5:12pm.

Norma Proper made a motion to expend the amount of \$23,025 from the building and capital reserve fund, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor.

Present-Board members: Kelly Caron, Norma Proper and Rachel Tirrell

Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis

Financial Manager: Lisa Cross

Absent: Board members: Bruce Cragin and Jillian Thomas and Principal Ralph Peterson

Teacher Guests: Ms. Heather Dow, Preschool and Ms. Joan Fontaine, Interventionist

Call to order

K. Caron

Ms. Caron called the meeting to order at 5:14pm.

Agenda Adjustments

K. Caron

Not needed

Review of minutes from 12/8/2022

Board

Rachel Tirrell made a motion to accept the draft minutes of 12.8.22 as presented, second by Norma Proper. All were in favor.

Review of Nonpublic Minutes 12/8/2022

Board

Norma Proper made a motion to accept the draft nonpublic minutes of 12.8.22 as presented, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor.

Public comment-Selena Leite asked about adding the amount for the remaining asbestos remediation to the budget amount for this year. Mr. Lewis informed her that it is in the works and is a priority and will be added in and voted on at this year's district meeting. (10 minutes)

Administrative reports

Preschool/Intervention

H. Dow/J. Fontaine

Ms. Dow introduced herself and described her background of teaching 6th grade, kindergarten, and a multiage preschool. She shared her goals for her preschool class. Her main concern is that the children's base level needs are met. She looks to see if their social and emotional needs are met; love, care, shelter and food, prior to adding academics to their day. The children are taught how to communicate, fine motor skills, song and dance and how to express their emotions, and the rules and responsibilities of being in school. She said that the parent communication has been excellent. Also implemented has been the Heggerty literary program (www.heggerty.org) She also tries not to say no, but to instead encourage the asking of questions and the why certain behaviors and activities can't be done in school. She went on to emphasize the importance of well-fed, happy children and assure that each student is cared for. There are now 8 children in preschool. She has recently started working with Ms. Fontaine to learn Title I and screen the younger children for additional help.

Ms. Fontaine introduced herself as the school wide interventionist. She started, this time, at LCS, as a fill in first grade teacher and has recently settled into her new position as interventionist. She is excited to be back at Lempster Community School. She described her background, which started as a student teacher with our (now) board member, Rachel Tirrell. She was hired as a part time Title I, second grade teacher here and then moved out of state and taught 2nd and 5th grades and developed interventionist skill there. She then returned to our school, in this new position. Her goal is to be able to help the school and staff makes some strategic, data driven decisions on curriculum programming and intervention for individual students. Using multi data points is very important, we already use the NWEA scores, but to get a more precise picture we are also using the Dibel program (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) and are looking to purchase a new program that will track and analyses to more precise data, with that combined with teacher details and observations we will be able to make some informed

decisions about which service we are using for Title I and her own services to implement them with individual students. Where Ms. Dow's Title I work will be with small groups, Ms. Fontaine's work will be both small group and also more with individual students. They are excited about the new Heggerty program for K-2 and for intervention in the upper grades and Foundation, which is a highly recognized phonics program that is research based data and they are also in the process of seeking programs to help with the literacy block.

The new math program is in place and they are working to strength that with more teacher training.

Ms. Caron asked how the Dibel program is different from the NWEA and what gaps it looks at. Ms. Fontaine answered that word recognition, phonics grasp and reading fluency are some of the key pieces that can be used in association with the NWEA testing. Instead of saying the child needs more help with reading, this program can pinpoint the issue directly.

The board discussed how beneficial these programs are for both our student's emotional health and more importantly for academics.

Three-year-old Preschool

J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis had hoped to have some interested students, and this will be offered again in the fall.

Professional Development Day

J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis described that the main component of this development day is to assist in pinpointing the problem and how we can increase student test scores.

Covid Status

J. Lewis

Updated numbers of hospitalizations being treated for Covid is 60.

Monthly building needs update

J. Lewis

The fire inspection needs are being met with the signs ordered and an electrician hired to place them.

The hood over the stove may need to be replaced; however this is still being verified.

New ceiling tiles have been purchased. More fire drills are needed and planned, including one with the fire trucks making an appearance. We may need to purchase 'space' blankets.

The damage to the front entrance has been temporarily repaired with bluestone and will be permanently repaired in the spring.

Finances

J. Lewis

The manifests were presented and signed by the board.

Mr. Lewis reviewed the ongoing bus needs and hopes that it will be resolved soon. The parents have been helpful at working with us, while Mr. Peterson is out.

Mr. Lewis reviewed the Fall Mountain contract pursuit and they have offered us a 2% increase in tuition, which is what Ms. Cross had budgeted for in our preliminary budget. Kudos was given to Ms. Cross, by the board.

Ms. Caron asked about our Goshen student renewals. Mr. Lewis and Ms. Cross responded that they did not have that information yet.

Budget process

Public Hearing for the budget will be held on February 2nd at 6pm.

The school district meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4th, 2023 at 7pm.

Mr. Cragin and Ms. Proper are up for re-election. Ms. Proper will not be seeking re-election.

Warrant Articles

Mr. Lewis provided the board with a draft of the planned warrant articles. The board reviewed the tax implications with figures provided by Ms. Cross and will continue to review the budget and be cognizant of keeping the tax increase for voters at a minimum.

Review budget presentation

The board requested that Mr. Lewis have a power point presentation ready for the district meeting and which board member will present each warrant article.

The board asked that Mr. Lewis illustrate what the school and board has done this year, the busing issues, solar, our high school students, healthcare and retirement costs and the items that are out of our control.

Other items

Agenda Building

K. Caron

Budget meeting, packets for district meeting presentation, fire inspection review, solar update, bus review

Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2th at 5pm, with the Budget hearing starting at 6pm.

K. Caron

Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II

J. Lewis

Adjournment

Norma Proper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:12pm, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lichy
Board Secretary