

**Lempster School District
School Board Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2023
Lempster Community School Library
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Present-Board members: Kelly Caron, Jessica Hooper, Bruce Cragin, Rachel Tirrell and Jillian Thomas

Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis

Principal: Ralph Peterson

Call to order

J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 5pm. He asked if there were any nominations for board chair.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to nominate Kelly Caron, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Ms. Caron asked for nominations for vice chair.

Rachel Tirrell made a motion to nominate Jillian Thomas as vice chair, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Ms. Caron welcomed the new board member, Jessica Hooper, to the board and reviewed the board expectations.

Agenda Adjustments

K. Caron

Ms. Caron spoke to the need to amend the agenda to add a non public session and have it moved up to this place in the meeting.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II c at 5:03pm, second by Rachel Tirrell. Roll call-Jessica yes, Rachel yes, Bruce yes, Kelly yes, Jillian yes.

Meeting returned at approximately 5:35pm.

Review of minutes from 2/2/2023

K. Caron

Rachel Tirrell made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2.2.23, second by Jillian Thomas. All were in favor with Jessica Hooper abstaining.

Public comment-

Selena Leite spoke on this topic, as a representative of the preschool parents who have concerns for the preschool students who have to contend with the snowfall and melt from the roof in their walkway into class. Mr. Lewis explained that we are unable to use a snow rake to pull the snow off the roof as it would void the warranty for the roof shingles. He will see that the part time maintenance person will take care of shoveling that snow off the walkway to the preschool classroom and the emergency exits.

She suggested that more classes use ‘sign up genius’ a program for parents and teachers to communicate, currently used by Ms. Dow, preschool teacher. She finds it is easy to use and hopes that more teachers would explore this application, as it seems to work better than the other ways teachers communicate with their student’s parents. It is also possible to have parent/teacher conferences with this application.

Ms. Leite also asked when music and library would be brought back and fully staffed. Mr. Lewis said that staffing is a major issue and we’ve been unable to procure a music teacher. There are plans in place to have a media center in the near future, with a computer bank. The requirements and job would be different than that of a librarian.

She requests that ‘thinkwave’ and tech class assignments be updated weekly. She monitors her student’s work that way and it’s frustrating when that information is not available.

She is concerned that her student never has homework and what a shock it will be to get into high school and have hours of homework per evening.

Ms. Thomas spoke to what Fall Mountain does, when a students doesn’t get their work done, or doesn’t understand it. They schedule time with their teacher where they can get help or extra work to reinforce their learning.

Administrative reports**J. Lewis**

Ms. Caron took time to thank the superintendent and finance manager, Ms. Cross for their hard work on the budget and thanked the board members for their participation at the district meeting.

April is Poetry month**J. Lewis**

Mr. Lewis discussed plans for poetry month. He is requesting public participation with this and has asked Robin Maguire from the Miner Memorial Library for her assistance. The board members were asked to write poems to share. This may become a coffee house style event.

April 13 is the planned day and this will be combined with pancake day and will conclude with a pancake eating contest.

Solar update

J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis recently touched base with the project manager, Joey, on the status of the project. The electrician has looked at the breakers etc. in preparation. The board members discussed the going rates for electric services throughout the region based on member- owned companies versus corporately owned companies.

Ms. Leite asked about tree removal for the solar project. Mr. Lewis said that a few trees may need to come down. Also asked was, who will profit from the lumber that is cut. Ms. Leite suggested that maybe it would be better to have someone local cut the trees for our benefit prior to the start of the project.

Covid Update

J. Lewis

We have several Covid tests to give away to each family and information will be sent out to the parents in tomorrow's newsletter. Also masks and gloves are available.

Webpage design person secured

J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis has found someone to start working on the webpage, Tim McNicholas, who has recently started driving the school van. More details to follow. It was suggested to have a 'live' page for important updates throughout the day. Updating of the current webpage is needed.

Ms. Tirrell left at 6:05pm

Policy IK

J. Lewis

First Reading

There was discussion on this policy with lots of input from Mr. Peterson.

New "full time" bus driver secured

J. Lewis

The new driver has taken some training, met with Fall Mtn., passed the medical and then will pass the online quiz and head to Concord for the main test.

Principal/Sports update

R. Peterson

Boys and girls basketball season went well. Mr. McIntyre is fantastic; he raised almost \$900 for the basketball program. The cheerleaders are fantastic, they impressed all the schools that visited and supported the teams like no other cheerleaders ever! Track starts April 3rd. Mr. Peterson will be coaching. Five

meets are scheduled so far. Mr. Peterson would like to see some 5th and 6th graders participating in the CVL Connecticut Valley League in Lebanon. Plans are underway for a full season.

Planned out reach for Goshen families

J. Lewis/R. Peterson

Our focus will be on reaching out to preschool through third grade. There is an open house scheduled in Goshen for Saturday, May 20th. Ideas are being tossed around to perhaps offer a bus to the school and have tours of the school, Pioneer Village, playground etc.

School Calendar Draft

J. Lewis

The school calendar was reviewed by the board.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to accept the 2023/2024 calendar as presented, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Building maintenance update

J. Lewis

As the building ages, more needed repairs are seen, those items include painting the gym, outside boards need replacing and the entire school needs painting. The asbestos repairs and retiling is scheduled for the summer. Budget concerns are being considered as we move forward and Mr. Lewis said that teachers are cognizant of that.

Other items

The District meeting minutes were reviewed.

Jillian Thomas made a motion to accept the changes to the 2023 School District Meeting Minutes, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Agenda Building

K. Caron

Nominations for next year's staff, second reading on IK, para contract coming up for renewal, bus contract, solar update, webpage, food contract

Time and Place of next meeting

K. Caron

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4th at 5pm.

Adjournment

Jillian Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 6:36pm, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lichty Board Secretary

