

Lempster School District
SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
To Expend Funds from the Maintenance Trust Fund
5:00 PM
Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Lempster Community School Library
Approved Meeting Minutes

Present-Board members: Kelly Caron, Jillian Thomas, Rachel Tirrell, Jessica Hooper (arrived at 5:18) and Bruce Cragin

Superintendent/Director of Student Services: Jim Lewis

Principal: Ralph Peterson

Public Hearing Call to order

K. Caron

The public hearing was called to order at 5:02pm by chair, Kelly Caron.

Mr. Lewis explained that the purpose of the meeting is to expend funds to remove the asbestos and replace the flooring in the preschool, kindergarten and teacher's room. There previously were rugs in these rooms which are incubators for bacteria.

Mr. Lewis also found a company who could perform the job for much less than the company who did the work on the rooms last year.

The amount of the work performed was \$27,391.50.

Last year, the invoice amount was similar, however only two rooms were completed.

The teacher's conference room off of the teacher's room, the hallway outside of the main office, along with the vestibule doorway floor, remain to be addressed for asbestos.

Ms. Caron opened it up for questions.

Mr. Lewis explained that according to the Building and Grounds Capital reserve funds in the 2022 Annual report, we showed a balance of \$110,343.95.

The request for funds for the roof (\$23,025), the first round of asbestos removal (\$25,358) and the floor tiling (\$7,620) came out after the publication of the annual report. (Requested in February)

Approximately \$80k would be correct when factoring in only the asbestos and tiling from the previous summer. That money was not asked for until February. The roof was not completed until November and was also requested in February.

Mr. Lewis stated that prior to this appropriation there was approximately 54K in the fund which leaves approximately 27K remaining in the trust fund currently.

We calculated the \$54K figure by subtracting \$110,343.95 - 56,003 (\$23,025 + \$25,358 + \$7,620).

The group took a tour to see the new floors.

The board took a vote to expend the funds; Kelly-yes, Jillian-yes, Bruce-yes, Rachel-yes

Jillian Thomas made a motion to close the public hearing at 5:18, second by Rachel Tirrell. All were in favor.

Meeting Called to order

K. Caron

The meeting was called to order by chair Kelly Caron at 5:19 pm.

Agenda Adjustments

K. Caron

None

Review of minutes from (9.5.23)

Board

Bruce Cragin made a motion to approve the minutes of 9.5.23, second by Jillian Thomas. All were in favor with Rachel Tirrell abstaining.

Public comment (limited to 30 minutes)

Representative Hope Damon and Selena Leite were present

Ms. Leite presented a packet to each member of the board, which includes a written request to approve tuition payments for students to attend Mt. Royal Academy in Sunapee as part of having school choice as a Lempster resident. She asks that a formal letter of approval or denial be provided by the November School Board Meeting. She feels that this school would be a good fit for her child.

Hope Damon was present to mention that she and another representative have been working on ways to increase eligibility for the SNAP program which automatically makes children eligible for free and reduced lunch programs. She also updated the board on the latest education bills currently in the house and reminded those present that she is always available to listen and help in any way she can.

Administrative reports

J. Lewis

New First grade teacher

R. Peterson

Mr. Peterson introduced Mrs. Magurk to the board as a great new addition to the staff. She came to us from Claremont as a special education educator and has fit in perfectly as a first grade teacher. She is a nurturer with strong instruction skills. She said she has felt very welcomed and is very happy here! The board introduced themselves and spoke of their children, both still in the school or who used to be in the school. And the member of the board, Mrs. Tirrell, who used to teach here!

Mrs. Murray was kind enough to provide morale support for Mrs. Magurk.

Mr. Lewis also praised Monica Lizotte, the new gym teacher/guidance counselor, who has fit in nicely.

We are still in need of an additional paraprofessional.

Ms. Damon asked if we have ever had a defined mentoring program at the school as there is a bill in the house right now. It is Senate Bill #218.

Academic Progress

J. Lewis

Facts on fire consists of practicing math skills 3 minutes per day and we will continue to strive for perfection until we are tops in the state, per Mr. Lewis.

Webpage progress-**J. Lewis**

We are scheduled to go live on Friday!

Covid Update**J. Lewis**

We have had some staff out, it continues, we will continue to follow the CDC guidelines. Ms. Thomas brought up a recent outbreak of hand/foot/mouth disease which was discussed briefly.

Ms. Liete asked about a cleaning schedule. Mr. Lewis stated that the teachers use their discretion for cleaning and are especially vigilant when an outbreak occurs.

Solar update**J. Lewis**

Towers are in and power cables are installed. We are currently waiting on transistors.

Bus Update**R. Peterson**

Mr. Peterson feels that the best way to find a bus driver is to find someone who is already licensed as we have no way to train someone. It was suggested to place the job opening on our sign for all the traffic that goes by. We continue to advertise in every place we can think of.

We continue to await a contract for the buses.

2023-2024 Goals revisit/adoption**J. Lewis**

Ms. Caron read the goals out loud to the board and

A motion was made by Jillian Thomas, second by Bruce Cragin to adopt the 2023-2024 Goals as read. All were in favor.

Ms. Tirrell also asked Ms. Damon about background checks and rumors she'd heard about them not being required for some non-public schools. There was a lengthy discussion and it was unclear if it was surrounding state funding or what. Ms. Damon will get this clarified.

Also, Mrs. Murray mentioned that the teachers and staff feel much more supported by the special education staff and each other this year, we all feel much more cohesive this year.

Para negotiation**Board**

A meeting to discuss the ground rules has been set for October 18th. Ms. Caron and Ms. Hooper are the board member representatives in negotiations this time.

Policy Committee formation**Board and J. Lewis**

Ms. Thomas and Ms. Hooper have volunteered to serve on this committee. Policy committee meeting date was set for October 27th at 9am.

Monthly Building needs maintenance update**J. Lewis**

5 year plan ideas include; landscaping, floors, windows, ceiling tiles, doors, desks.

Finances**J. Lewis**

The supporting manifests were not provided as the new administrator did not know to leave them out so board members will sign them in the SAU office.

The department of education has been very helpful in training our new business administration, who has done wonderfully. Mrs. Howard continues to be amazing. Training continues for both. A grant has been procured from Stronger Connections for security needs. The 25K grant will be used to replace some doors, probably four doors.

We were fortunate enough to have a resident donate a brand new refrigerator to us for the teacher's room. We are very grateful!

Other items**Board**

The spelling bee is scheduled for Tuesday December 19 at 1pm.

Agenda Building**K. Caron**

5-year plan, policies, negotiations, monthly building needs, budget first draft, solar, sports, web page, bus

Time and Place of next meeting**K. Caron**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14 at 5:00pm.

The Goshen School Board along with their superintendent, Gail Paludi, is expected to be at the November 14th meeting.

Adjournment

Jillian Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 6:14pm, second by Bruce Cragin. All were in favor.

Non-meeting

Conversation with attorney

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lichty

Board Secretary