

Seabrook School Board - Public Hearing and Regular Meeting (Tuesday, May 12, 2020)

Generated by Rhonda Evans on Monday, May 18, 2020

Approved by the Board - June 9, 2020

Members present

Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Superintendent Bill Lupini, Assistant Superintendent David Hobbs, Executive Director of Student Services Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Matt Ferreira, SES Principal Stephanie Lafreniere and SMS Principal Erin Milbury.

Absent: Jessica Brown.

Meeting called to order at 4:32 PM**1. Call to Order**Procedural: A. **Roll Call**

As Chair of the Seabrook School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means: We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Seabrook School Board, have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 646 876 9923 and Webinar ID 919 9846 0580 Password 620526 or by clicking on the following website address: (listed on the agenda)

<https://zoom.us/j/91998460580?pwd=OGtIVDdORzlhbU1JaDFuK1RTYlkvZz09>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the SAU 21 Office at www.sau21.org.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-926-8992 ext. 103 or email at revans@sau21.org

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law

Discussion: B. **Public Hearing on the Trust Fund**

Chair Rabideau opened the Public Hearing by reading the public notice at 4:37 p.m.

Matt Ferreira explained the purpose for the withdrawal.

Hearing no questions or comments the public hearing was closed at 4:41 p.m.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Procedural: A. **Public Comment** - none received.

3. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. **April 14, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 14th regular school board meeting.

Motion by Kelli Hueber, second by Jennifer Hubbard.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Michael Rabideau, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Abstain: Forrest Carter

4. Reports

Information, Reports: A. **Finance Report**

Matt Ferreira reported that some savings are occurring due to the school closures the bulk of which is related to transportation costs. We anticipate ending the school year with approximately \$180K in unexpended funds which will then be reduced \$125K by funding the expendable trusts that were approved by the voters in March (\$75,000 to Building Maintenance and \$50,000 to Special Education). There are additional items to be considered such as retirement stipends and some anticipated revenues which will result in approximately \$30,000 being returned to the town to offset assessments. We were originally operating in a default this year with the additional \$330K for Special Education that was not budgeted.

5. Continuing Business

Information, Procedural: A. **Administrative Update on Covid-19 Relative to School Closure**

Dr. Lupini reported that a large amount of time has been spent on planning end of year events but that is starting to shift to the Task Force and working groups for the return to school. Task Force group memberships and structures were published last week. We expect to publish a report by mid-June. Working groups are split into the following: Crisis Intervention, Return to Instruction, Post-Secondary, Technology and Operations. Each group is working on 3 different scenarios: return to school with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), continue remote learning with no return to school and rolling closures. The purpose is to try to provide answers as to what each scenario might look like for students, staff and parents. We have learned that the State is working on a similar report but it is not expected until June 30th. We feel that date is too late.

Dr. Hobbs reported that conversations have primarily been on end of year preparations. He is chairing the Return to Instruction Working Group. They are focusing on four items: assessing student learning progress during the remote instruction, augmenting instruction to meet students where they are when the return to school, structural supports that will be needed in terms of school schedules and staffing, and lastly professional development to help teachers with technology and integration and new teacher orientation. The committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday.

Dr. Arakelian is chairing the Crisis Response Working Team. Their first goal is to create a climate of caring for staff to work with students during this traumatic time. They are gathering resources and creating a common language as they move forward. A Special Education update was provided noting that summer school will be held remotely as no restrictions have yet been lifted to ensure a safe environment. There may be a need to provide private settings for individualized instruction in special situations. Last week the State of NH McKinney-Vento conference was held remotely with over 60 homeless liaisons attending. Some items discussed included the McKinney-Vento law during Covid-19 and local challenges currently being faced. Work is continuing on the meal distribution program throughout the summer which includes staffing. Discussed daily structures put in place to work with students remotely.

Matt Ferreira reported that meetings have been held with town administrators with a focus on understanding challenges faced by towns in regard to revenue collections. We shared with them our financial outlook including steps we are taking to decrease costs and additional funding sources we are looking into such as the CARES Act and FEMA funds. The town expects to have a better idea after July 1st which is the date for the next property tax collection.

We received notification that Seabrook will receive approximately \$205K from the CARES Act. The funding is currently hung up at federal level. Issues involve how the Department of Education has defined 'equitable'. This means that the entire amount may not be coming to assist Seabrook. The federal government may disperse some funding to other schools (private) in the school district.

Mr. Ferreira is chairing the Task Force Operations Group. They are currently gathering estimates on costs across all five working groups.

The SAU Office is also looking at budget assumptions across all schools including new hires, prioritizing expenses among other items.

He thanked the Seabrook School Board and school nutrition department for their continued work with the food service program. Over \$10,000 have been raised through the Gofundme account to assist with the summer meals distribution. He reminded everyone that this is for all families to help to take the burden off of preparing meals while working from home, helping with students schooling, etc.

Seabrook Middle Principal Erin Milbury reported that staff continues to work hard at keeping kids engaged and successful while not stressing out. They are also helping families as they are stressed out and trying to find a balance. She expressed she is very proud of her staff for what they have done during this pandemic. She thanked school nutrition and facilities for their work. The school is working to finalize the end of the year plans. She reported that a celebration will be held to honor the 8th grades on June 8th. It will be done with social distancing and include a remote portion. She is also working on recognizing retirees.

Seabrook Elementary Principal Stephanie Lafreniere offered praise to all staff including technology, custodians, food service. The staff and social workers have been doing remote family checks and working hard on creating personal connections with students. Preschool and Kindergarten information nights were held virtually and recorded. An interest survey was distributed for registration. Screening has been done virtually. They are planning for the 4th grade to 5th grade transition night. She acknowledged the challenge of staff to engage families while also finding a balance. They are multi-tasking and seeing where they can assist one another without overwhelming parents.

They are considering sending packets home for every student for summer programming as summer scheduling is becoming difficult.

6. New Business

Information: A. **Donation** - Principal Milbury reported on a donation received from the Community Oven for the 8th grade class in the amount of \$287.73.

Information: B. **Federal Grant General Assurances**

Matt Ferreira provided an explanation to the Board on the general assurances which is a yearly requirement of receiving certain grants.

Information: C. **NHDOE Federal Fiscal Monitoring**

It was reported that periodic auditing is done as part of receiving federal grants. A recommendation was received regarding the updating of policies. The Policy Committee will continue to review all policies. No further action is required of the Board.

Action, Information: D. **2020-21 Lunch Price Recommendations**

Motion to approve a lunch price of \$2.15 and a breakfast price of \$1.15 respectively for the 2020-21 school year.

Motion by Jennifer Hubbard, second by Forrest Carter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Action, Discussion: E. **Course Reimbursement Procedures**

Motion to change course reimbursement procedure to eliminate the course tuition pre-payment option.

Motion by Kelli Hueber, second by Jennifer Hubbard.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Action: F. **Withdrawal from Building Maintenance Expendable Trust**

Motion to withdraw \$64,752 from the building maintenance expendable trust for the purchase of middle school replacement lockers and additional building maintenance and repairs.

Motion by Jennifer Hubbard, second by Kelli Hueber.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Action: G. Award of Bid - Chromebooks

Motion to award the Chromebook purchase bid to Axis Business Solutions in the amount of \$18,540.
Motion by Forrest Carter, second by Jennifer Hubbard.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Action: H. Award of Bid - Natural Gas Generator

Motion to award Natural Gas Generator bid to Morrill Electric in the amount of \$31,500.
Motion by Jennifer Hubbard, second by Forrest Carter.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Action: I. Award of Bid - Replacement Computers

Motion to award replacement computer bid to Staples in the amount of \$21,299.55.
Motion by Jennifer Hubbard, second by Kelli Hueber.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

7. Personnel

Information, Procedural: A. **Nominations** - to be discussed in non-public session.

8. Next Meeting Dates:

Information: A. **Operations Committee Meeting - Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:30 p.m.**
Information: B. **SAU 21 Joint Board - Covid-19 Update - Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**
Information: C. **SAU 21 Joint Board Meeting - Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**
Information: D. **Seabrook School Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

9. Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3 II (a-e)

Action, Procedural: A. **Roll Call to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b).**
Motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 5:47 p.m.
Motion by Jennifer Hubbard, second by Kelli Hueber.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Discussion: B. **Nomination H. Stone**

Discussion: C. **Nomination L. Villemarie**

10. Resume Public Meeting

Action: A. **Resume Public Meeting after the Non-Public Session.**
Motion to end the non-public session and resume the public meeting at 5:55 p.m.
Motion by Kelli Hueber, second by Forrest Carter.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Action: B. Recommendation: 7th Grade Math

Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of Hannah Stone for the 7th Grade Math position for the 2020-2021 school year.
Motion by Michael Rabideau, second by Jennifer Hubbard.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

Action: C. Recommendation: School Psychologist

Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of Lisa Villemarie for the School Psychologist position for the 2020-2021 school year.
Motion by Michael Rabideau, second by Jennifer Hubbard.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber

The Board congratulated and welcomed both Ms. Stone and Ms. Villemarie.

11. Adjourn

Action: A. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.
Motion by Jen Hubbard, second by Kelli Hueber.
Final Resolution: Motion Passed
Yes: Michael Rabideau, Forrest Carter, Jennifer Hubbard, Kelli Hueber