

**Inter-Lakes School Board Regular Meeting
Inter-Lakes Middle/High School Community Auditorium
1 Laker Lane, Meredith, NH
January 12, 2021**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Richard Hanson, Chair
Mr. Mark Billings, Vice-Chair
Ms. Lisa Merrill, Secretary*
Mr. Craig Baker
Mr. Charles Hanson
Mr. Duncan Porter-Zuckerman*
Ms. Nancy Starmer*
Ms. Raven Strother, Student Rep.*

Members Absent:

None

*Remote attendance

Administrators Present:

Ms. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mr. Scot Currier, ILM/HS Principal
Ms. Sarah Dumais, Athletic Director
Mr. John Martin, Technology Director

Others Present:

Mr. Chris Mega, Video Recorder
Mr. Jason Cornelissen, Auditorium Manager
Public

IV. "A Day in the Life of a Laker at Inter-Lakes Middle/High School"

Principal Currier introduced Jason Keyser, a member of the Senior Class and Kayla Sasson, Student Council President who spoke about their academics, athletics and other extra curricula activities including clubs that they participate including Interact, a partnership with the Meredith Rotary Club. Ms. Sasson said despite having to abandon some traditions as a result of the pandemic she believes student are still able to do a lot of things, have a good time and have become closer and more creative as a group.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Hanson stated that Public Input would be held until after the Athletic Proposal Presentation.

VI. MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – December 8, 2020

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Special School Board Meeting – December 18, 2020

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman,, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2020 Special School Board Meeting as amended – Mr. Porter-Zuckerman corrected comments to show his children are in Kindergarten and second grade. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Billings and Mr. Baker abstaining.

VII. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses – No action required at this time

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Enrollment

Student enrollment is 931 and remains fairly stable, same as the prior month.

B. District/School COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Moriarty reported that students returned to full in-person learning this week. There have been eight additional positive COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 36, with no evidence of in-school transmission. Staff has been appreciative of the Board's support; remote learning is not easy but it did provide a buffer after the holiday break.

The number of local cases has been influenced by outbreaks in long-term care facilities. School Nurses now have the option of getting vaccinated and educators are in the next grouping cycle for the vaccination. The prospects of being vaccinated should help ease some of the stresses now being experienced by staff.

Some federal funds have been made available to the state; we remain hopeful that some of those funds will be directed to school districts to help with COVID-19 related costs.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Lisa Lorch expressing her thanks for the School Board's support in providing paid time off during the Christmas Holiday was shared.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Winter Athletics

Superintendent Moriarty said the work group has been meeting weekly to determine what sport teams should play at the present time, based on COVID-19 data. As an outside sport Nordic can continue practice and competition. Hockey has two games coming up one at Merrill Fay Arena and the other at Berlin on Saturday. Ventilation at the team's home arena is appropriate and Superintendent Moriarty said the recommendation is that hockey play be allowed this week. The data will be reexamined on January 18th to consider whether they are comfortable with basketball starting up and hockey continuing. There remains a substantial amount of virus in the community, but cases are currently trending in the right direction.

Mrs. Moriarty asked if the School Board wanted to weigh in weekly or whether they wanted to transfer that decision to the Work Group/Committee.

Mrs. Moriarty stressed that ending play could occur with a phone call and that there was no guarantee that team competition would continue. It will remain unknown whether mitigation efforts that have been put in place will work without allowing teams the chance to play; there are many unknowns.

Coaches and students have worked very hard to be allowed to play, but she stressed that the least risky option is not to allow it. Allowing play is the only way to test how well the mitigation efforts work.

Laconia-Winnisquam-Inter-Lakes Hockey Coach Paul Wheaton said the less than perfect environment is making things difficult but that he has been focused on keeping student athletes, safe and feeling both encouraged and cared for.

Coach Wheaton thanked the School Board for so far allowing the team to practice. At the team's home rink, Merrill Fay Arena in Laconia, he said Will Fay has adopted every mitigation effort possible.

Team members are very excited about the prospects of competing and are keeping their grades up to enjoy the privilege, Wheaton said. He stressed the importance of athletics in student's lives and said team members have done everything that has been asked of them to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and urged the School Board not to take the chance to play away from them.

Joseph Spicuzza, Meredith, said both his kids play on the hockey team and said the team is very cognizant that they have to follow all the rules in order for them to continue to be able to play. He praised the District's ability to communicate noting that when there has been a positive case the news has been quickly shared. He also credited the District for the intelligence it has gathered on the health status of team's they will be competing against, the COVID-19 case levels in their home community and the ventilation other details of the rinks they will be skating in.

Julie Hayward who has three children in the District said following extended periods of remote learning kids eagerly look forward to the opportunity to play sports and interact with team mates. The opportunity helps with their social well-being and she urged the School Board not to take it away from them.

Heather Rowell, Sandwich, said she would like see the School Board stay engaged in the decision-making process and not push it off onto another committee. The District has done a great job looking at the probability of risk. She suggested that a threshold level be set.

Reed Leberman, Meredith, urged the School Board to give student athletes the opportunity to prove that they can make the mitigation efforts work. Since the start of the pandemic he has felt much less connected to the District as a result of no longer being able to walk into the schools, or cross paths with teachers. He asked the Board to consider allowing a small number of family members to attend at-home boys' basketball games, one for each of 16 team members noting that social distancing could be maintained; having a camera in the corner of the gym streaming the game is not the same as being able to attend in-person.

Jack Gintoff, who identified himself as a junior on the boys' basketball team told the School Board student athletes have followed all mitigation protocols including wearing masks, frequent hand washing and social distancing. When a team member tested positive, he credited those mitigation efforts with keeping other teammates from becoming infected. He urged the School Board to allow them team to play.

Speaking to the issue of spectators, Superintendent Moriarty said Principal Currier has measured the gym and determined that 24 seats could be made available while still maintaining social distancing for home games.

Ms. Merrill said she supports the proposal but commented that she did think it would become more difficult if limited spectators were allowed. She said she would feel comfortable with the Superintendent making the decision on whether to

continue play, but that the School Board could choose to call an emergency meeting to make the call.

Mr. Baker supports the proposal and expressed his interest in exploring allowing some parents to attend home basketball games. He believes the Board should make the decision either by meeting weekly or calling an emergency meeting.

Chairman Hanson said he supports the proposal.

Superintendent Moriarty recommends reviewing COVID-19 data weekly. The basketball team is scheduled to play on January 19th and she suggests that if the data continues its current trend that the District move forward with play.

Ms. Starmer said if the working group recommends stoppage of play there is time to call an emergency meeting of the School Board.

Mr. Martin, Technology Director read public comments that were emailed to the board.

Tom and Danielle Gintoff, Meredith, said they were appreciative of the work the School Board has done to allow play and for considering allow some parents to attend home basketball games.

Nancy Bickford thanked the School Board for their support of teachers, staff and students. She believes that some spectators could also be allowed into the hockey area to watch games.

Mrs. Moriarty responded that it would be premature for her to speak to that proposal as the fall experience with hockey statewide left all concerned.

Mrs. Moriarty said the District remains on course to play two games next week. The stakeholders will check in next week to reassess and consider plans for allowing a small amount, of spectators to attend home basketball games.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Plan for the Annual School District Meeting During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Superintendent Moriarty shared a Memorandum from Soutel, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward & Loughman, PLLC regarding Annual Meeting procedures and options during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing and face coverings will be required in school facilities; capacity must be limited to maintain social distancing.

The District proposes to use the ILM/HS Community Auditorium, gymnasium, and the band room; equipped with streaming technology and staffed with Assistant Moderators.

Mr. Billings questioned whether the proposal would provide enough room so that no voter who wanted to attend would be turned away. Mrs. Moriarty responded that based on historic attendance she is confident everyone who wanted to attend could be accommodated.

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Ms. Merrill, to approve the Plan for the Annual School District Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Facilities Use Request for Town Meetings During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Town of Meredith which has typically used the Inter-Lakes Middle/High School Gym to hold the Annual Town Meeting has requested such use again. The Town of Sandwich has also expressed interest in using District facilities for their Annual Town Meeting to allow for appropriate social distancing.

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. C. Hanson, to approve the Plan for Facilities Use for Town Meetings as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. March 25, 2021 Partial Remote Day – SAT Day at Inter-Lakes Middle/High School

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Ms. Starmer, to approve March 25, 2021 as a partial remote school day for Inter-Lakes Middle/High School for SAT for juniors. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Nomination of Professional Teaching Staff

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, to approve the nomination of Samantha True as Quarantine Teacher for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year to provide support to students K-8 while in quarantine. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Resignation

Mr. C. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Billings, to accept with sincere thanks and gratitude, the resignation of John Martin, Director of Innovation and Technology effective June 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Leave of Absence Request

Mr. Porter-Zuckerman moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve the leave of absence request for GH as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. POLICY

No action required.

XIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the Board None

B. Members of the Administration None

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

Chris Mega, Meredith, stated that it would set a precedent if the District allows outside groups to use school facilities to hold Town Meetings, noting the School Board has previously denied use of the Community Auditorium by the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra as a result of the pandemic.

XV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Inter-Lakes School Board @ ILM/HS Community Auditorium (LiveStream)

- Special Board Meeting – Budget Work Session – **4:30 p.m.**

B. Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Inter-Lakes School Board @ ILM/HS Community Auditorium (Livestream)

- Special Board Meeting – Budget Work Session – **6:00 p.m.**

C. Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Inter-Lakes School Board @ ILM/HS Community Auditorium (Livestream)

- Budget Public Hearing – **6:00 p.m.**

D. Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Inter-Lakes School Board @ ILM/HS Community Auditorium (LiveStream)

- Regular School Board Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

E. Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Inter-Lakes School Board @ ILM/HS Community Auditorium & Gymnasium

- Annual School District Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

F. Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Town Elections/School District Officer Elections

XVI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:2 (a)(c)

Mr. Billings moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to enter Non-Public Session under R.S.A. 91-A:2 (a) 7:25 p.m. The Board Secretary polled the Board. The motion to enter Non-Public Session passed unanimously.

Public Session

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to enter Public Session at 7:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted.

Bea Lewis Wheeler
School District Clerk

NON-PUBLIC SESSION I

December 8, 2020

Members Present: Mr. R. Hanson, Mr. Billings, Mr. Baker, Mr. C. Hanson,
Ms. Merrill, Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, Ms. Starmer

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Mrs. Moriarty

Others Present: None

7:30 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding reconsideration of a third retirement incentive.

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, the Board approve the third retirement incentive using current funds with the stipulation that the ILEA and School Board bring the contract language forward for binding arbitration. A roll call vote was called as follows:

YES: Mr. Baker, Mr. C. Hanson, Ms. Merrill

NO: Mr. Billings, Mr. R. Hanson, Mr. Porter-Zuckerman, Ms. Starmer

The motion failed 3-4.

Ms. Merrill moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to enter Public Session at 7:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.