

ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 5, 2023
SCHOOL 5:30 p.m.

ERVING ELEMENTARY

Present: Jennifer Eichorn, Chair; Erik Semb, Mackensey Bailey, Katelyn Mailloux-Little, members; Lisa Canditio, EES Principal; Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent; Caitlin Sheriden, Director of Finance and Operations; Brittanie Mimitz, Minute Taker; Becky Alan, Rinky Black, Heather Peterson, Stephanie Barry, Laura George, Scott Bastarache, Selectman; Samantha Butynski, Megan Gagne, Kerri Lapointe, Jaime Parse, Stephanie Molnar, Chris Thurston, Julian Mendoza, Kelly Loynd, Jessica Niedbala, Scott Nicholas, Lori Hale, Mark Burnett.

Final Meeting Minutes

A. The meeting was **called to order at 5:34pm.** by Jenn.

B. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by all.

C. Public Hearings-

Statement by Kerri Lapointe

I stand before you today feeling great heart ache, disappointment, and frustration. My personal journey With EES began in 2014. I was excited for the opportunity to work at the school where everyone wanted to work. Strong academics, strong traditions, and most of all a strong community. This is what made EES stand out not only to me but everyone.

We all wanted one thing, The accessibility to a strong community for our children. We all wanted to be role models, provide the children the best education that we could offer, and come together as a community to celebrate this special place. Watching endless school committee meetings I am appalled at what this has become. We no longer want what is best for our children. Nor can we give what is best for our children when funding, programs, and teachers/staff are being cut. We can not function and be successful for the children within our school if you choose to take this from us.

We are overworked, short staffed, and quite honestly we are burnt out. We work endless hours, attend numerous trainings, and still can't manage to be our most successful selves because we don't have any help or any room to budge. Cutting a teacher will increase the caseload of another teacher/ staff member / paraprofessional. I am not sure when the last time is that you have stepped foot into the school but we have no room/time to increase individual case loads.

If we take a moment to reflect. It wasn't all that long ago when your own children (some of you) were in this school. Times may have been a little different but the needs were and are similar. In fact our needs are even more now due to the pandemic. Would you neglect the needs of your child/ children? Would you fight or advocate? I can honestly say that you would because that would be the right thing to do. We the staff here at EES are still proud professionals, we the staff here at EES want what is best for the children of this community. Like you have said " We are running a business."

However this business can not operate on greed, nor can this business operate on bare bones, and asking to freeze jobs when we don't have enough staff as is, is very selfish .

If asking to delete job postings and find staff to pay less to operate this building is your wish then the children within this school building are going to be affected more than ever.

Please find it in your heart to treat these children like your own as we the staff here at EES do on a daily basis. Please find it within yourself to make decisions based on the needs of the children. Please find it within yourself to operate this committee with kindness as we ask the children within this community to do the same. These kids have had a lot taken away from them in the last couple of years. We must find it within this strong community to stop taking away from them when so much has already been taken away. Thank you

D. Old Business

- The newest budget incorporates the \$65,000 in Circuit Breaker funding adjustments for teacher salaries; now that there is a better idea of what that amount will be.
 - Line 39 Mackensy asked “Why did the total amount increase for this line?” Caitlin stated that “There were shifts in both directions based on the contract negotiations.”
 - Why do certain categories like the Library teacher have their own line? They are classified this way for end of year reporting purposes for the state.
 - “Can the School Committee bring a budget to the town that does not incorporate the cuts?” Christina Thurston. Jamie Parse also asked “If the School Committee has the power to say the budget cannot be cut any further? Isn’t the School Committee’s job to worry about the school?” Mark Burnett also asked about The School Committees ability to bring forward a budget without cuts. Jen stated “The School Committee is tasked to do what is in the best interest of the children while being fiscally responsible. It’s a balance.” This Budget year is very different from those in the past. The school has the largest budget; which is why it was asked to cut more. All of the town departments went through and cut where they could.
- **· FY24 Amended Budget – Final Adoption of Budget – Discussion and Vote**

A motion was made by Erik to accept the FY24 Erving Elementary Budget of \$3,533,478.00
The motion was seconded by Mackensy. AIF.

A motion was made by Jenn to approve the secondary budget in the amount of \$1,477,406.00. The motion was seconded by Katelyn. AIF.

E. Executive Session

- In accordance with **Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a))**, A motion was made by Jenn to **move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation with the intent to return to open meeting.**

Roll Call out- Eichorn I, Semb I, Bailey I, Mailloux-Little I,

Jenn invited the Superintendent and The Director of Finance and Operations to attend the Executive Session.

F. New Business

- **Settlement Agreement Erving Teachers’ Association and Erving School Committee - A motion was made by Katelyn and seconded by Erik to accept the Settlement Agreement between the Erving Teachers’ and Erving School Committee. AIF.**
- **MOA – Erving School Committee – Erving Education Association Unit B: Support Staff – Possible Vote-Tabled until next meeting.**

G. Future Business

- **Next School Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**

· Erving Policy Committee – **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

H. A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Katelyn to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. AIF.

* Enclosures

Respectfully submitted,

Brittanie Mimitz

Minute Taker