

## ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**THURSDAY, March 9, 2023**  
**SCHOOL 4:30 p.m.**

**ERVING ELEMENTARY**

**Present:** Jennifer Eichorn, Chair, Erik Semb, Mackensy Bailey, Katelyn Mailloux-Little, Lisa Canditio, EES Principal; Caitlin Sheriden, Director of Finance and Operations; Brittanie Mimitz, Minute Taker; Becky Alan, Rinky Black, Lori Hale, Heather Peterson, Steve Kaczmarcuz, Jess Galvin, Jennifer Smith, Tom Smith, Kathryn Buell, Stephanie Barry, Jim Hanson, Melissa Mazella, Wendy Arnold, Andrea Elson, Rebecca Bosworth-Clemens, Laura George, Mark Burnett, Nettie Harrington Pangallo, Scott Bastarache, Samantha Butynski, Michelle Arena, Mark Blatchley, Megan Gagne, Beth Flaherty, Pamela Burke, Elizabeth Desorgher.

### **Final Minutes**

**A. The Meeting was called to Order at 4:33pm. by Jenn.**

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

**C. Public Hearing-**

**Scott Bastarache** spoke to the Committee about what the selectboard is asking all departments to do. What concessions can each department make and still keep running. Salaries etc. go up but level funding everything else. Absolute needs vs. wants. The town is currently \$800,000 over budget.

Erving has always prided itself in putting EES in a spot to have all the staff to do what it needed to do to keep students in house. Now that is being done and \$400,000 to send two students to out of district SPED programs. What do you have in house that can keep our students here and keep the education costs down. For an amount of funds that can be sustainable for the future.

**Statement read by Melissa Mazella.**

**Dear School Committee Members,**

We would like to begin by expressing our shared respect for our colleagues' dedication and continual investment for the students of EES. This week, we were asked by your committee to quantify our positions as reading specialists at Erving Elementary. We wanted to be sure that you and the town budget decision makers understand what our current literacy needs look like and what is planned for September.

Based on the DIBELS and MCAS data, the needs are so abundant that there are not enough hours in the day for two reading specialists to provide intervention to all struggling students. Our focus has been heavily placed on the early primary grades (K-2) based on the data. We have had to be strategic in how we can support the neediest students in the upper grades and work with the classroom teachers to achieve this. As an example, currently one of our 6th grade teachers is the additional support for 4 of her students who, in another scenario, would likely receive direct instruction from a reading specialist.

For the first time in more than 8 years Erving will be choosing a comprehensive research based Language Arts curriculum to implement in September. This will support students in grades K-6. The role of the reading specialists will be heavily relied upon to help support this change. We will be supporting teachers and students in the classroom through co-teaching, while still providing targeted intervention and supplemental support to our struggling readers. We are excited about this new endeavor, as it will have a significant impact on Erving's literacy data and will also begin to shift the numbers within our multi-tiered system of support into more typical proportions.

This year, the reading specialists were trained and responsible for implementing a DESE mandated early literacy screener for all students K-2, 3x a year. Best practices have us extending this screening process schoolwide to identify students at risk. We are thankful for the renewed position of a Director of Curriculum who is helping us to look at creative ways to progress and monitor the overwhelming number of students (currently 51) while maintaining the teaching of our 17 intervention groups daily.

It will be critical that we have the full staffing of our reading specialists to ensure that classroom teachers will not be tasked with implementing a new reading curriculum without additional support and that struggling readers will continue to receive intervention. Our students deserve our full effort to implement this.

We hope that the committee will support a budget that will allow for us to change our current trajectory in literacy. This will greatly benefit our reading and writing scores for years to come.

Thank you for this consideration,  
Melissa Mazella and Wendy Arnold

#### **D. Old Business**

##### **• FY24 Draft of Budget\* - discussion and vote**

Jenn started by asking the committee to look at cutting \$200,000 from the budget due to the \$800,000 town wide deficit.

- **Review and approve the budget.** Katelyn- Discussions bring out a lot of emotions. May feel personal or emotional. The committee does care about the kids; They are asking the questions because they want to know all the information to do their jobs and make the best decisions.
- Unfilled para position for 22-23 is in the budget for next year.
- Researching what vans will need. Who will take care of them? Should there be a wheelchair lift? Would we need two vans? All departments should be able to work together over the summer to make a decision if it would be beneficial for the town to own and oversee its own vehicle. Monthly updates on the Agenda on progress of the research.
- Look into Non-staff cuts first.
- Spending has been reduced for the current school year. The school is on a spending freeze due to the partial reimbursement for the unanticipated SPED transportation costs.
- There is currently one substitute so spending for that is down this school year.
- Textbooks have been cut in half.
- The Principal is looking for a dollar amount and general area of where the cuts should come from. The Pre-k numbers are currently low for next year.
- School Choice is on the next agenda as well as increasing the preschool tuition. School choice would need to be approved by the October numbers. School choice has been typically denied because it could end up being an added expense.
- Life skills programs may be able to be something we could look into for the future. Meetings have been happening all year about creating a union wide supportive classroom. It would be across four schools but would be at one. Could also be something Erving looked into.
- Parents have the final say as to where the child attends.
- It is an extensive process that Karina Winslow goes through with the families after the team has come to a decision.
- May need to make wishlists or ask families to donate supplies.
- Lisa said that these are salaries. The money has to come from somewhere.

- P.E. does not only include P.E. classes. Jess Galvin teaches P.E., Health, doing tier 2 social emotional sensory breaks. She does Recess and bus duty.
- The adjustment counselor position is included in the ESSR money next school year.
- The selectboard did not instruct the School committee to cut a dollar amount.

<b>Line:</b>	<b>Reduction</b>
2	\$1,500
31	\$400
32	\$2,000
42	\$1,000
46	\$4,000
48	\$10,000
49	\$500
54	\$3,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$22,400</b>

**A motion was made by Erik to cut \$22,400 from the current budget. The motion was seconded by Mackensey. 3 yes, 1 no.**

**E. Future Business**

- **Next School Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023-7:00 p.m.**
- **Erving Policy Committee – Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

**F. A motion was made by Jenn to Adjourn the meeting at 6:04pm.** The motion was seconded by Katelyn. AIF.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Brittanie Mimitz  
Minute Taker**

**\* Enclosures**