

PUBLIC HEARING * FY24 BUDGET *****

ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

ERVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7:00 p.m.

Present:Jennifer Eichorn, Chair, Erik Semb, Mackensity Bailey, Katelyn Mailloux-Little, members;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, Jennifer Smith, Tom Smith, Kathryn Buell, Stephanie Barry, Jim Hanson, Melissa Mazella, Wendy Arnold, Andrea Elson, Rebecca Bosworth-Clemens, Laura George, Nettie Harrington Pangallo, Scott Bastarache, Samantha Butynski, Michelle Arena, Mark Blatchley, Megan Gagne, Beth Flaherty, Pamela Burke

Final Minutes

A. The meeting was **called to order at 7:00pm.** by Jenn. AIF.

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

C. Public Hearings

• **Public Hearings**

Statement by Erik-

To whom it may concern,

I spoke with the State Ethics Commission today as well as the schools Attorney and both confirm that although it may appear to some of you that my participation in this meeting and vote tonight may be a conflict of interest. It is not a conflict of interest. I have written documents and files with the town hall confirming this. I am and always will be impartial when it comes to School Committee matters.

Erik Semb

D. A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Katelyn to **approve the minutes from February 8, 2023*, February 13, 2023*, and March 9, 2023*.** AIF.

E. Warrants –

Accounts Payable Elementary:

1029	2/23/2023	\$50,185.22
1030	2/23/2023	\$3,277.03
1031	3/9/2023	\$4,016.07
1032	3/9/2023	\$36,961.17

Accounts Payable Secondary:

1113	2/23/2023	\$33,704.04
1114	3/9/2023	\$265,210.54

Payroll:

117	2/16/2023	\$102,623.59
118	3/2/2023	\$102,989.33
119	3/16/2023	\$101,407.89

• **Grants: Acceptance Vote**

• **Updated Allocation amounts as of March 2023-**

- Title 2A- Fund Code 140. Initial allocation amount- \$4,061- Additional amount \$38- Total allocation amount- \$4,099.
- Title I- Fund Code 305-Initial allocation amount- \$30,502 Additional amount- \$44- Total allocation amount-\$30,546.
- IDEA-Fund Code 240-Initial allocation amount-\$52,812- Additional amount- \$237- Total allocation-\$53,049.
- Fund Code 262- Initial allocation-\$1,582- Additional amount- \$6- Total allocation- \$1,588.

A motion was made by David and seconded by Mackensy to accept the above grants. AIF.

F. Report of the Gill-Montague Representative- Not Available.

G. Collaborative for Educational Services Report- Next meeting March 29th.

H. Regionalization Update- There is a meeting tonight. Katelyn will provide updates at the next meeting. If regionalization happens there will be no tuition agreement. Erving should have a seat at the table.

I. Capital Planning Committee Update- None

J. Superintendent's Report - Working to complete the Student Opportunity Act plan reports for DESE. Visit at Swift River School with Representative Aaron Saunders and the Department of Environmental Protections. They are working with the towns of New Salem and Wendell with Their PFast Issue. On March 10th, 2023 there was a literacy Professional Development with the leadership team. They spent time looking at new literacy programs and how we can better support our students. Will continue to meet across union #28 with the director of curriculum and instruction. At the union #28 level received a grant for regional efficiencies operational study for union #28. They have interviewed most of the central office staff. The superintendent and her executive assistant will meet with them this Thursday.

K. Director of Finance and Operations Report*

- The Wellness Advisory Council met earlier this month for our third meeting. The school nurse Gail was present representing Erving. This was a great group to have since we focused our time on assessing our current practices in Modules 3 and 5 of the CDC's School Health Index. These two modules are Physical Education and Physical Activity Programs, and School Health Services. The Physical Education teachers had some great insight. Some of the ideas that came up were increasing PE time for students and increasing time for PE teachers to collaborate with teachers from other schools to share curriculum, programs, and communication to families and community members. Also, encouragement and access to professional development for classroom teachers to provide more opportunities for movement breaks in all classrooms. Also, opportunities for in house professional development for school nurses. The next meeting scheduled is in May.
- There are no recent concerns or unanticipated changes to the expenditure report, but if you have any questions about the report please feel free to ask questions.

L. Principal's Report- Starting another round of Literacy Data assessments. Mid year data focusing on what the staff have learned from the Hills Science of reading training. Three part parent series offered by the amazing adjustment counselor and psychologist. All school Talent Show April 13th. There will be two performances. P.I.E.E. will be having a basket raffle and concession stand. Outreached to families for donations. School council had a meeting this week. They will be sponsoring a Bingo for books night in May where students can have pizza and play bingo.

Current Enrollment

Pre-k 22 **14 enrolled for Pre-k next year.**

K-12

1-18

2-16

3-17

4-14

5-13

6-13

M. Budget and Personnel Committee Report – none at this time.

N. Union #28 Committee Report

- Next Meeting Date – March 27, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

O. Old Business

- **Preschool Tuition Payment – Program Update** – There are currently 22 families in Pre-K. 14 families pay tuition. There are Socio Economic considerations. There is a tipping point. Need to be mindful that all families may not be able to afford it. Consider using sponsorships or a sliding scale. \$20 is far less than any other childcare option.

Who will decide the sliding scale?

What will it be?

Come back and talk about it.

A motion was made by Erik to raise the Pre-School Tuition to \$20 a day with a sliding scale for FY23. The motion was seconded by Jen. AIF.

P. New Business

- **FY24 Budget** – The positions posted for are unfilled. One is a long term sub and another is a para position that has been open. The math interventionist position is for next school year. The School Committee would like the advertisements for the math coach and para positions taken down. The Town and the School committee are looking into SPED Services with a contract along with purchasing a vehicle and hiring drivers to see if the SPED transportation costs can be lowered. The amount increase for the line item was based on if no discount at all were received. The town is not in a position to have “just in case money.” Scott Bastarache. The School Committee reduced the SPED transportation line to \$150,000. There are too many variables in place to know about the discount. The company is not willing to sign a year long contract with a fixed discounted rate. Brian is working on contracts with renewal clauses for the future. The current agreement has a rate but no termination date for the agreement. It is an email agreement. SPED transportation is different from other SPED contracted services. More information is needed. The town and the School Committee would like a signed contract for the remainder of the year. The Secondary Transportation Budget has increased substantially. Caitlin stated that the line could not be decreased. There is an increase in needs for Secondary SPED transportation. They are not asking about specific needs of children. The Committee would like to know how the cost increased. They will need more time. The ESSR money currently is used to fund the adjustment counselor position. The \$40,000 is used for professional development, about \$10,000 in supplies, and \$9,900 in stipends. Mackensy stated that her priority is keeping staff in building. ESSR funding pays for a portion of the summer program. It needs to be used for specific reasons. Jenn suggested that the school committee could recommend a \$200,000 to be cut in staffing. There should be enough free cash available to cover the purchase of transportation even if funds need to be used for other parts of the school budget. Looking into different ideas for pre-k and hard decisions will need to be made. Would rather split the first grade.

A motion was made by Jenn to reduce the EES FY23 budget by \$200,000 and the transportation line 74 by \$30,000. The motion was seconded by Erik. AIF. Mackensy would like a policy created around the administration adding items to the budget without school committee approval.

- **2023-2024 Academic Calendar*** – Start date will be August 28th for staff and August 30th for students. October curriculum day is on a 3 day weekend. It can be hard for families to take the Friday before a long weekend off. Going to try to move the March date away from a long weekend but keep the October date. Pre-k and kindergarten will begin September 5th, 2023. They have a pre-k and kindergarten open house or home visit. Bus tours as well. Screenings take place during the school day.

A motion was made by Erik to accept the FY23-FY24 Academic Calendar. The motion was seconded by Jenn. AIF.

- **Identification of School Choice Seats-** If EES were a School of Choice there are seats available. Grades 5 and 6 are only classes that have seats available for next year.

- **School Play** – Becca B.C. the EES music teacher would like to see the play return. The play needs certain things to be successful, especially time during the school day, access to the gym,

and staff and administration support. Lisa presented a survey from staff that came back with mixed reviews. A lot of staff would like to see a version of the play return. The survey showed that about half wanted M and M to return. Katelyn will send out a survey to the staff regarding the play and M and M.

Emily Samuels, former EES music teacher; Shared valuable information about the play and how beneficial it is for students. She encouraged the committee to send out a survey to a wider group of individuals. The P.E. teacher does not have room in her schedule now that she is teaching Health, acting as an interventionist, and teaching P.E. The community wants to see the play back at EES. It is a hugely beneficial opportunity that teaches skills for the future.

- **Recreation Commission-School use for Summer Park & Field use for T-ball-** The Recreation Committee would like permission to use the EES field for T-ball May- June and Summer Park July 3rd-August 11th. The Cafeteria will be off limits because of updates. The School Committee fully supported the use of the school by the Rec. Department. It is policy for a formal request to be submitted to the Principal for approval.

- **Erving Police Department Collaboration Update-** Officer Gordon and Ziva have been visiting EES every Friday. They spend time in each classroom. The kids love it and they are helping to train Ziva as a comfort dog.

- **Request for Town Census Report** – A motion was made by Katelyn to approve the request for the Town Census Report to be sent to Community Network for Children and Karina Wislow. The motion was seconded by Jenn. AIF.

- **PIEE Report**

P.I.E.E. has some very exciting things happening this Spring. The greatly anticipated reopening of the Erving Apparel store will be happening April 1st with an even wider variety of options. Think Erving wear for every season!

PIEE will have a snack bar with themed baskets to raffle off at the Evening performance of Erving's Got Talent coming up on April 13th.

We will be selling pizza and snacks at Bingo for Books on Friday May 8th. Hosted by The Erving School Council. Keep an eye out on class dojo and in the Eagle Express for more information on how you can get involved and for the date and time of our May meeting.

Q. Policy Review and Update- Moved to next meeting.

Policy Review and Update

First Reading on:

- o DGA – Authorized Signatures*
- o DH – Bonded Employees and Officers*
- o DI – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting*
- o DJ – Purchasing*
- o DK – Payment Procedures*
- o KCD – Public Gifts to the School*

Second Reading, First Vote on:

- o DD – Grants, Proposals and Special Projects*
- o DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules*
- o DBD – Budget Planning*
- o DBG – Budget Adoption Procedures*
- o DBJ – Budget Transfer Authority*
- o DJE – Procurement Requirements*

R. Future Business

1 item School Committee meeting- April 11, 2023 at 5:30p.m.

- **Next School Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Erving Policy Committee – Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

S. A motion was made by Jenn to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Katelyn. AIF.

**Respectfully submitted,
Brittanie Mimitz
Minute Taker
* Enclosures**