

**ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING \*\*\* FY21 BUDGET \*\*\***

**Meeting Minutes**

**TUESDAY, March 10, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**ERVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Present:** Erik Semb; Chair, Jenn Eichorn, David Chagnon, members, Jennifer Culkeen; superintendent, Bruce Turner; Director of finance, Brittanie Mimitz; Minute Taker, Lisa Candito; Principal, Mary Glabach, Makenzie Bailey, Mark Burnett, Lora George, Rinky Black, and Tracy Saharceski; EES staff.

- A Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting called to order by Erik at 7p.m. AIF.
- B Pledge of Allegiance** – The pledge was recited by all present at the meeting.
- C Public Hearings-**
  - **FY21 Budget-** Discussion moved to later in agenda.
  - **Other Public Hearings** - None
- D Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2020\*** - A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Jenn to approve the edited version of the minutes from February 10, 2020. AIF.
- E Warrants** – Batch # 118 for payroll date 3/5/2020 in the amount of \$106,988.53. Batch # 117 for payroll date 2/20/2020 in the amount of \$111,602.28. Voucher No: 1021- Food service in the amount of \$4,313.97. Voucher No. 1022- Elementary Budget and Student Activity in the amount of \$32,603.10. Voucher No. 1110- Secondary Budget in the amount of \$292,920.41.
- F Report of the Gill-Montague Representative-** Not available.
- G Collaborative for Educational Services Report-** Next meeting is March 25, 2020.
- H Regionalization Update-**Next meeting is March 18, 2020. Jenn stated that they have contracted the Abrams group. They are charging \$49,000 to do the study. Transportation will be conducting a bus study as well.
- I Capital Planning Committee Update-** Carpets have been put in at EES and look great. Principal Candito is waiting to meet with the finance committee to see what they have approved.
- J Superintendent's Report-** Central office is currently preparing the plan for Union 28 that is required by The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education relative to The Student Opportunity Act. The superintendent will be sharing this plan at The Joint Supervisory Meeting on March 16, 2020. The plan is due on April 1, 2020. The plan is needed because of the money sent out relative to the student opportunity act. A small amount was sent to Union 28. Three schools received \$3,000 and Erving received \$8,000. This was only a small portion of what was sent out to other schools. Leverett Elementary hosted a Union 28 professional collaboration afternoon. The topics teachers were looking at were wide ranging, including Math, Science, ELA, Literacy Education, and Early Childhood Education among many others. At the January 28th Mass Board of Education Meeting Jeff Riley; The Education Commissioner shared his proposal of an alternative path to licensure for teachers that repeatedly fail to pass the MTEL. Riley is concerned that where 83% of

white candidates pass the test. Candidates of color pass less than 60% of the time. He believes that based on the student populations in Massachusetts. The test may need to be changed. He will write up a proposal and present it in April. Due to the current outbreak of Covid-19 The Corona virus the Superintendent has meetings with the board of health in each town and has spent time emailing and contacting various agencies. The leadership team is beginning to set up a plan for any situations that may arise.

**K Director of Finance and Operations Report\* FY21 Draft Budget** – The Superintendent, Principal, and Director of Finance and Operations met to come up with some recommendations to reduce the budget. The reductions they came up with are:

- Network support and maintenance has been reduced \$10,500.
- Office supplies have been reduced to \$2,000.
- Volunteer Coordinator has been reduced by \$500.
- The After-School Academy has been reduced by \$5,000.
- Early Childhood RF will be increased by approximately \$30,000.

These changes bring the budget down to 3.6%.

Erik proposed a motion to accept the FY21 budget in the amount of \$3,288,903. The motion was made by Jenn to accept the FY21 budget and seconded by Brian. AIF.

A motion was made by Jenn to accept the FY21 secondary budget in the amount of \$1,386,128. The motion was seconded by Brian. AIF.

**L Principal's Report \*** EES hosted a Great Falls Middle School information session for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders on February 24, 2020. There was an amazing student panel that was made of all former EES students. They did a great job. Diane Ellis and Joannie Menard did a fantastic job of coordinating with Principal Candito and Superintendent Culkeen. On February 24, 2020 EES had their first Tech Free Tuesday Night for students and families. Andrea Elson made a very informative presentation for parents and guardians talking about the dangers and benefits of too much screen time for kids. PTO sponsored a pizza dinner for all participants. Emily Stewart put lots of work into a screen free art activity for the students attending the event. The next event will be at the end of March which will be followed by an event coordinated with the Erving Police Department in April. They will be presenting the dangers that can happen on the internet. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders had their D.A.R.E. graduation March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to French King Bowling Alley for hosting. Last Friday was the MCBA Book Party. This was the first time Erving has hosted the event in several years. It was a huge success! The food was fantastic. Ryan Betters did an amazing job with the Cuban Cuisine.

**M Budget and Personnel Committee Report**

- Next Meeting Date – None

**N Union #28 Committee Report**

- Next Meeting Date – Monday, March 16, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. – Swift River School
- JSC – Policy Sub-Committee – Monday, March 16, 2020 @ 6:15 p.m. – Swift River

School

**O Old Business-** None

- **Enrollment Request** – Kerri Lapointe a staff member at EES has requested enrollment for her daughter in the 2020-2021 Pre-Kindergarten class. A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Brian to accept Kerri Lapointe's request for her daughters' attendance in the 2020-2021 Pre-k class: dependent upon class size. AIF.
- **FY21 Academic Calendar** – The leadership team has proposed a start date for EES of August 24<sup>th</sup> for staff and August 26<sup>th</sup> for students for the FY21 school year. This would mean the school year would end June 11<sup>th</sup> or June 16<sup>th</sup> with the 5 planned snow days. The other schools in Union 28 have been divided. Leverett and Swift River voted to begin the 24<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> and Gill Montague voted to begin Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> and Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The school committee would like further study this before a vote takes place. They would like a survey to go home to EES families and staff. It was also questioned why EES cancels school with all of Union 28? After discussion the committee has decided to continue the vote until further information has been gathered.
- **Identification of School Choice Seats**- Lisa Candito stated there are no school choice seats available.
- **Preschool Tuition**- Lisa Candito stated that as of now; Erving Elementary only has enough money in the budget for one paraprofessional in the Preschool program. This year at least 3 families have not paid the \$5 per day tuition yet continue to send their children to EES Pre-K. One family has worked out a plan to volunteer in the library another has agreed to partial payments. The last family has not responded or paid the tuition. Principal Candito proposed that we increase the cost of attending the EES Pre-K program to a mandatory \$10 per day, \$7.50 for reduced lunch students and \$5 for free lunch students. Principal Candito asked for support that if all families do not pay their child will not be eligible to attend the program. As of now the projected attendance for pre-k students is 16 3-year old's and 21 4-year old's. There are also 4 more students eligible but have not responded yet. Lisa Candito would like the support of the committee to enforce the payment of tuition for all EES Pre-K families. A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Jenn to accept the Principals recommendation for a new tuition plan of \$10 per day (with a sliding scale) with payment enforcement. AIF.
- **PTO Report**- The PTO has been very busy with the annual calendar raffle. Tickets are currently being sold for \$5 apiece. Calendars can be purchased from all EES students and staff members as well as the EES main office. French King Entertainment center will also have calendars for sale. Calendars will be sold throughout the month of march. The drawings will begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. A new winner will be drawn every day in April. The PTO is also working on the Erving Station Easter candy fundraiser. Erving Station has created an amazing fundraiser just for EES. Candy will be in just in time for Easter.

## **Q Policy Review and Update**

### **Final Vote on:**

- IHBG-R – Home Schooling\*
- BDB – School Committee Officers\*
- BDFA – School Councils\*

- BDFA-E-1 – School Improvement Plan\*

Jenn made a motion to accept policies IHBG-R, BDB, BDFA, and BDFA-E-1.

The motion was seconded by Erik. AIF.

**R Future Business**

- **Next School Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:00 p.m.** ☐  
Erving Policy Committee – **Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:30 p.m.**
- The Committee will be called to vote on the FY20-21 Academic Calendar. Date is TBD

**S Adjournment-** A motion was made by Erik to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. The motion was seconded by Jenn. AIF.

\*Enclosures

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brittanie Mimitz  
Minute Taker