

ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, January 19, 2021 Remote Meeting - Google Hangouts Meet

7:00 p.m. Public can Join by Phone: 1 929-277-6679 PIN: 677 846 019# THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED

Final Minutes

Present: Erik Semb; Chair, Jennifer Eichorn, David Chagnon, Brian Guerin; members, Jennifer Culkeen; Superintendent, Lisa Candito; Principal, Brittanie Mimitz; Minute taker, Bruce Turner; Director of Finance and Operations, Lora George, Netti Harrington-Pangallo, Beth Flaherty, Stephanie Barry, Lisa Bartlett, Mackenzie Bailey, Melissa Mazella, Elizabeth Desorgher, Kerri Lapointe, Tracy Saharceski; EES staff members.

A. Call Meeting to Order- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Erik. AIF.

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

C. Public Hearings- None apparent.

D. Approval of Minutes from

· **December 10, 2020*** A motion was made by David to approve the minutes from December 10, 2020. The motion was seconded by. AIF.

· **December 15, 2020*** A motion was made by Jenn to approve the minutes from December 15, 2020. The motion was seconded by Brian. AIF.

E. Warrants –

#114 1/7/21 \$101,014.41

#115 1/21/21 \$102,192.58

#1026 12/28/20 \$513.61

#1027 12/28/20 \$18,582.90

Erving Secondary

#1028 12/28/20 \$41,484.38

#1029 1/11/21 \$19,375.02

#1108 1/11/21 \$3060.00

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

G. Collaborative for Educational Services Report- Next meeting January 27th, 2021.

H. Regionalization Update- The committee went over the report and discussed how to present it to the towns involved. The report will be sent out this Thursday.

I. Capital Planning Committee Update- Lisa is working with Brian and his assistant in hopes the town will approve phase 3 of the carpet project. That way phase 2 and 3 could be completed this summer. They have been working with the Police Department on energy saving weatherization. The sidewalk repair has been put in for, The cost of repair will come out of the DPW budget. A new phone system is in the works. Lisa and Tom will meet to plan. There is a small capital amount involved in the cost as well as a yearly fee for services. In the kitchen the freezer and refrigerator replacement have been moved forward. The stand up mixer and tip kettle are hopefully soon to follow. The storm drain out front needs to be replaced. It has been turning into a sinkhole over the last 2 weeks.

Jenn asked about the roof replacement and if it would be wise at this point to focus on the skylights.

J. Superintendent's Report- The Superintendent stated that the Department of Secondary Education has reduced MCAS testing time in grades 3-8 and in some secondary testing. The Department recently did a survey on online synchronous learning time. Hybrid learners must spend 35 hours over 2 weeks and remote learners must spend 40 hours of synchronous time over 2 weeks. Beginning today the Governor will be checking to make sure all times are met and conducting another survey. The Governor revoked the flu shot requirement for students in MA. The leadership team met to discuss the possibilities of "Pooled Testing". A screening/ testing strategy for staff and students. There are costs and additional teacher requirements. Next month there will be an agenda item looking for 2 school committee members to serve on a committee with Lisa and a staff member to serve on a committee to review sabbaticals.

K. Director of Finance and Operations Report* The Corona Virus Relief Fund has been

extended for an additional year. A small amount of money \$1,300-\$1,400 that was supposed to be a grant for the food service department was sent to the town. Bruce stated that they are looking forward to a large amount of money coming into the budget. There hasn't been any updates on the budget yet.

L. Principal's Report * There are two new students at EES. A new kindergartener and a new first grader. There are currently 75 in-person students and 35 Remote learners in Grades Pre-k-5. All 6th grade students attend in-person learning. The in-person students were welcomed back today. They will be reviewing the importance of mask wearing and contact tracing. Pamela Burke has integrated into the building very well. She worked over vacation in the library. She received a very warm welcome from everyone. The Virtual Book fair sponsored by School Council begins Feb. 1st. A big thank you to Katie McLaughlin and High Five books. Lisa stated she thinks it will not be safe to discuss returning to full days until it is warm enough to feed students outside. The Town has made a subcommittee to help staff members access the COVID vaccine. Phil wonka has done a great job looking into ways to get the vaccine and PPE.

M. Budget and Personnel Committee Report

· Next Meeting Date – TBD

N. Union #28 Committee Report

· Next Meeting Date – Monday, March 15, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

O. Old Business

· **2020/2021 Reopening-** Continue with the Hybrid plan and put on the Agenda once it's warmer outside.

P. New Business

· **MCAS Resolution Letter – Discussion and Vote** The Department has been listening to letters asking to remove or reduce the MCAS test. Most districts and members of Union #28 have decided to send letters in. Jenn read a letter from Amherst school District. Jenn Eichorn said she thinks it is a great idea! With everything going on there are more important things to focus. David and Brian both agreed the test is too stressful. The superintendent said she will put together a letter for the next meeting. A motion was made by Jenn and seconded by Erik to send a letter about MCAS. AIF.

· **EEA Unit B – Settlement Agreement – Discussion Possible Vote-**The Superintendent stated they heard from Attorney Dubery. The ETA would ratify the agreement and then send it to the Committee. The last correspondence had not been ratified. Move the item to the next agenda.

· **1% Virtual School Issue – Discussion and-** There have been 2 memos from DESE. There is a statute that relates to virtual schooling. The state has a cap that at no time can it exceed 2% of enrollment. Jenn stated that the committee can vote to restrict enrollment. There are only 2 students so far. The vote would not affect those two students but all students from now on. Lisa stated that she believed the rise in enrollment was due to COVID. The committee is also able to vote to table the vote until the next meeting. A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Brian to push the vote until the next meeting; February 8th. AIF.

· **Family/Student Handbook – Discussion and Vote** There are not many changes in the handbook for this year. The only changes are central office staff that have relocated and the staff directory. A motion was made by Erik to accept the Family/Student Handbook. The motion was seconded by Jenn. AIF.

· **School Improvement Plan – Discussion and Vote-** Lisa stated that the School Council met and their big concerns are family and student engagement. How can we engage more families in non-traditional activities and keep them connected? What can we do to move forward and repair the connections that have been lost once we are able to move toward a new normal? They are also working on Tiered instruction. A student support team for if a staff member brings forth a social or emotional concern for a student. Sharon Jones has been working with Laurie Hale and staff members to revamp the plan this year and release a brand new model next year. The Literacy Group is working with DESE. Mackenzie

Bailey wrote a grant for early childhood literacy. EES will be shifting from a large focus on math to literacy. The school will be looking to hire a new literacy coach/interventionist in the Spring. This person would do what Polly Wagner does for math but instead for literacy. A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Jenn to accept the school improvement plan. AIF.

· **PTO Report-** The PTO has just completed and distributed the Holiday cookbooks. A big thank you to Jennifer Smith we couldn't have done it without her! The PTO is currently looking into a fundraiser with Sweet Lucy's bakery for near the Easter holiday. They are also trying to work on virtual payment options to make fundraisers easier and run more smoothly.

Q. Policy Review and Update

First Reading on: All policies were read.

- o BEE – Special Procedures for Conducting Hearings*
- o BG – School Committee Policy Development*
- o BGB – Policy Adoption*
- o BGC – Policy Revision and Review*
- o BGD – School Committee Review of Procedures*
- o BGE – Policy Dissemination*
- o BGF – Suspension and Repeal of Policies*

Second Reading, First Vote on: A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Brian to accept all policies. AIF.

- o IHBEA – English Learner Education*
- o BEDB – Agenda Format*
- o BEDF – Voting Method*
- o BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee

Meetings*

Final Vote on: A motion was made by Erik and seconded by Brian to accept a final vote on all policies. AIF.

- o IHBHE – Remote Learning*
- o JLCB – Immunization of Students*
- o EBC-S – Policy on COVID – Related Issues*
- o JQB – Non-Payment Policy*

R. Future Business

- Next School Committee Meeting Date: **Monday, February 8, 2021 7:00 p.m.**
- Erving Policy Committee – **Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:30 p.m.**
- **To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation**

S. Adjournment- A motion was made by Erik to adjourn the meeting at 8:04p.m. and to not return after the executive session. The motion was seconded by Brian. AIF.

* **Enclosures**

Respectfully Submitted,
Brittanie Mimitz
Minute Taker