

## ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 8, 2024  
5:00 p.m.

Final Minutes

ERVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Present:** Mackensity Bailey-Chair; Erik Semb, Katelyn Mailloux-Little, Mark Blatchley, members; Caitlin Sheridan-Director of Finance and Operations; Wendy Arnold, Samantha Butynski, Elizabeth DeSorgher, Lori Hale, Melissa Mazella, Kelly Loynd, Michelle Arena, Laura George, Jim Hanson, Heather Peterson, Dr. David Krane, & two illegible names.

### A. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Mackensity Bailey, Chair.

### B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

### C. Public Hearings

No public hearings.

### D. Old Business

- Fiscal Year 25 Erving Elementary and Secondary Budget- Discussion and Possible Vote on Preliminary Adoption
- Statement on Adjustment Counselor position from Superintendent Jennifer Culkeen: "It is my professional recommendation that the position of adjustment counselor remain in the current proposed budget. DESE through their mental behavioral health and wellness supports recommends that schools and districts build internal capacity to meet the social, emotional, and behavioral and mental health needs of their students, families & staff. Studies have shown the value of developing comprehensive school mental health programs in helping students achieve academically and have access to experiences to build social skills, leadership, self-awareness, and caring connections to adults in their school and community. The adjustment counselor role provides a variety of services to students including but not limited to: walk-in informal counseling tier 1, students seen per month who are not formally on the psychologists or counselors caseloads but utilize walk-in counseling services on an as needed basis, general education counseling services tier 2, student groups on the school psychologist's or counselor's caseloads who are seen regularly typically weekly as part of a tier 2 intervention, IEP 504 counseling services tier 3, students on the school psychologist's or counselor's caseloads who are seen weekly or twice per week as part of their IEP or 504, behavioral crisis response, support of students in highly escalated dis-regulated state, other social/emotional supports and initiatives, supporting classroom teachers with tier 1 SEL, read aloud discussions/lessons etc. leading classroom lessons/discussions around specific topics, identity career choices, social problem solving conflict resolution, introducing a school wide behavior system, weekly lunch groups book club for upper grades, regular consultation meetings with teachers outside service providers and families."
  - Adjustment counselor position was posted this year along with BCBA & psychologist. School District was able to hire a BCBA to fill role lost this year. Would like to have an adjustment counselor this year as well. Counselor position was posted three different times and have had 3 applicants that were not credentialed. This is all in this budget, & presented in previous meetings. 2 different versions of budget provided; level service draft & draft version.

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- Proposed budget referred to previous budgets vs. expenditures in the past few years. \$100,000 not spent in elementary budget almost every year. General question of what does budget represent. Will have to find money towards exploring roof assessment, not actual work. Will have to find money for roof repair in the next few years. Town will want us to chip in, as a capital expense.
- Specific questions asked on line items, referred to notes on side bar of document. Need budget to bring to public hearing on Monday. Went before select board within the last few weeks, want to have something to defend.
- Some items listed as U28 (Union 28) were passed in November. Budget would have to be amended. School Committee gets asked explanations on budget line items when presenting to the Town. Nice to give money back to town, nice to have a cushion if in the event more students come into town. Would have to go back and ask for money. Can move money around. Want to be thoughtful and respectful of money and be able to defend budget.
- Have used ESSER money in the past. Considering spending prior to COVID, some members and staff not here then. Committee has no interest in reducing any program related money such as books, or materials. Salaries are contracted.
- Adjustment Counselor: level of service budget document. Candidate would have CAGS & PhD. Salary is in middle range, lower step. \$78,040, can hire for more if candidate is going to work wonders on schools.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> preschool (2 preschool classes). Cost of having 2<sup>nd</sup> preschool w/teacher and paraprofessional \$97000-\$97500. Keep in mind in March meeting. How many preschoolers have registered, what do numbers look like. May or may not need based on #'s & decision. Hoping to make that decision quickly. Registration ends mid-March w/how many kids have enrolled. 6x 3 year old that will be 4 next year. Potentially 12x 4 year old.
- 2x 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes: don't have plans to reduce staff members at this time. Determination has not been made at this time per Caitlin & the principal.
- Line 28- Principal's Salary contract is \$95,000→ budget is for \$98015. Budget FY 2025 is \$101,000. Superintendent/Principal contract may be different than the budget. Committee approves all budgets (teachers, paraprofessionals). Hiring presented at last meeting, contract was not available then. Superintendent can hire principal under terms that they wants. Superintendent didn't share prior to announcement at last meeting. No opportunities to discuss.
- Clarity on Town Capital Meeting: Do you anticipate having funds available or funds to assist with engineering scope? Could take 2-3 years before fruition.
- Line 49- Textbook & Materials: Any large curriculum or textbook purchases? None planned at this time. About \$10,000 planned. Very little has been taken out of this, have been using ESSER. ESSER runs out 9/30/24.
- FY 2025 Budget level service draft without adjustment counselor→ only difference between both documents.
- Motion to go with draft & present on Monday- Erick. Motion seconded by Mackensey. Any other discussion: none. Approve the FY 2025 draft vs. level of service draft. 3 in favor, 1 opposed.
- 2% encompasses level of service. Cost of adjustment counselors salary.
- Secondary budget: requested \$1,409,047. Motion to approve secondary budget: Mackensey, Motion seconded by Katelyn. No discussion, all in favor.

**E. New Business:** none.

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### F. Future Business

- Next School Committee Meeting Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 - 5:30pm at Erving Senior/Community Center
  - ESC/Select Board/FinCom meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024- 7:00pm at the Erving Senior/Community Center
  - Erving Policy Committee – Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 6:30pm. Mtg to follow at 7pm.

### G. Adjournment

- Motion made by Mackensey to adjourn the open session meeting at 5:59 p.m. Motion seconded by Katelyn. All in favor.

Roll Call out

Mailloux-Little, I Semb, I Bailey, I Blatchley

### Follow-up items:

- How much money is being used from ESSER account? Is there money left that could be used before it ends? We are looking to use all ESSER money. Would the BCBA salary be coming out of ESSER Account? Esser \$ written for psych or adj. counselor. Looking to see BCBA qualifies under local budget. There was no position filled for ~6 months.