

ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

ERVING ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL 5:00 p.m.

Present: Present- Mackensey Bailey, Chair; Jennifer Eichorn, Katelyn Mailloux-Little, Erik Semb, Mark Blatchley, members; Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent; Caitlin Sheriden, Director of Finance and Operations; Mark Burnett, Jamie Parse, Katie Lavin, Samantha Butynski, Andrea Elson, Devon Gaudet, Rebecca Bosworth-Clemmens, Wendy Arnold, Melissa Mazella, Aris Touloumtzis, Megan Gagne, Rinky Black, Becky Allan.

Meeting Minutes

A. The meeting was **called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Mackensey**. AIF.

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

C. Old Business

● Number of preschool classrooms –

1. There are currently 17 students registered for preschool this year, 2 students on the waitlist; with one possible early intervention student being added to the roster.
2. The current preschool teacher, Samantha Butynski recommends 2 classrooms.
3. Andrea Elson, the Speech and Language Pathologist at EES expressed the importance of 2 classrooms as well. This group of students has a higher level of need; of the 17 students enrolled at least 8 display some level of concern. Many with speech and language difficulties that are often accompanied by other issues.
4. The smaller class size would allow for more 1:1 time and sensory modeling. It will allow the staff to provide the extra support needed to meet the children where they are at.
5. Katelyn suggested The Committee take another look at the Pre-K policies, deadlines, and numbers for the next school year; with the process beginning much earlier.
6. **After much discussion and input from various early childhood professionals The School Committee agreed that moving forward with two preschool classrooms will be most beneficial to the students.**
7. Rinky Black asked about bringing a policy to The Committee regarding “Universal Services” for all Erving residents eligible for preschool. The Policy Committee meets ½ hour before each School Committee Meeting. That would be the appropriate venue to express concerns about School Committee Policies.

D. New Business

● Special Education transportation –

1. A 7 passenger van has been located and is available to purchase and use for Special Education Transportation. The cost of the van itself is \$46,000. It will require some upgrades to make it appropriate and safe for transporting students.
 2. The town has kindly agreed to pay for the Insurance and fuel. EES will be responsible for the maintenance of the vehicle.
 3. 1-2 full time drivers will need to be hired as well as a substitute driver.
 4. A future goal would be to join forces with The Senior Center or other Union 28 transportation services.
 5. The Committee must vote on where the money will come from. It can either be taken out of the transportation line or unused grants can be used to fund the purchase.
 6. **A motion was made by Mark to expend the money needed to fund the purchase and upgrades of the Special Education Transportation van; approximately \$50,000 from the unused grants. The motion was seconded by Erik. AIF.**
- #### ● Create a subcommittee to investigate withdrawing from U28 -
1. **A motion was made by Mackensey "To vote on establishing a subcommittee to explore the potential for leaving U28 and possible alternative administrative structures. The committee would include a school committee member and members of the community. It would last through June 2024 or longer if needed." The motion was seconded by Erik. AIF.**

E. Future Business

- **Next School Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Erving Policy Committee – Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

F. A motion was made by Katelyn to **Adjourn the meeting at 5:31p.m.** The motion was seconded by Mark. AIF.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Brittanie Mimitz
Minute Taker**

*** Enclosures**