

LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

3:30 p.m. – Long Island Library Conference Room

MINUTES

Citizens in the audience are invited to speak during public comment and/or on a topic that is introduced during the course of the meeting under New Business. Each citizen is to be limited to one presentation per citizen, per topic, of not more than three minutes unless the chair gives special permission. Audience participation shall cease on a topic at such time as the chairman calls for board discussion.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Annie Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:36. Also present were board members Pierre Avignon and Sam Whitener, along with Supt. Barbara Powers and Interim Lead Teacher Katie Norton.

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

•January 8, 2020

Mr. Whitener moved approval and Ms. Donovan seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Powers reported that all of her comments will be made during old and new business.

6. LEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs. Norton, serving as Lead Teacher in Mrs. Train's absence, talked about the continuation of school routines with Mrs. Fabiano in grades 3-5, and that all is going well with the help of Mrs. Brown and Mr. Murry.

On February 12 there will be a Valentine's Day soup lunch and tea, with seniors invited. Special centerpieces, take home cards, and the Valentine exchange between children will all take place then as well. Cliff Island children will be present too.

Immigration studies have begun. The wonderful picture books under the theme "Welcoming Neighbors" in the library have really enriched the study.

Mrs. Train's blog has been included in the classroom too. The children are following her work and voyage and sending along questions.

A field trip to the symphony has been planned for May 12 to listen to the music of John Williams.

7. OLD BUSINESS

•School Budget Update/Presentation to Selectmen

Mrs. Powers distributed updated copies of the proposed budget. She noted that hard numbers have now come in for General Purpose Aid (down \$10,000) and REAP (down \$12,000) from revenues initially anticipated. She noted that even with those losses, the net cost of school for the town is still below the 2019-20 amount.

Mrs. Powers noted that the questions posed by Finance Committee members and Selectmen present regarded special education costs and employee pay adjustments. She also reported that Portland may be looking at the tuition agreement between Long Island School and Great Diamond Island children as part of their budget review for 2020-21, though the contract we have with them is binding through June of 2023. Further communications and/or negotiations with Portland may or may not be necessary. Mrs. Powers will ask an attorney to confirm that the contract is binding.

8. NEW BUSINESS

•2020-21 Proposed Calendar – First Reading

A copy of the draft calendar for 2020-21 was presented. Mrs. Powers noted that she based the proposal on the calendars being considered in both Falmouth and Cape Elizabeth, since all districts need to closely match the PATHS calendar by state regulations. Portland's calendar will not be approved until a month or two from now so slight adjustments may be made. The biggest change is that Labor Day is late this fall – September 7 – so the other districts are starting school for a few days the week before that holiday.

•Superintendent/Principal Position Posting

The board next reviewed language for the position opening, which will be placed on ServingSchools.com immediately. Mrs. Powers noted that she learned about the position five years ago from an article in the FORECASTER about Bump's pending retirement. She offered to send a short blurb to that publication to possibly catch the eye of other candidates.

•Policy BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings – 1st reading

Finally, it was explained that there's new regulatory guidance about public participation in board meetings. While this will likely not be an issue on Long Island, she suggested adopting policy language that clarifies what topics are appropriate for public meetings and also the role of the Chair in moderating public comment. The board had no further comment about the policy and will vote in March.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 17-21 February School Break

Saturday, March 14 – Public Hearing on the Budget, 8:00 a.m. in the Great Room

Saturday, May 9 – Town Meeting, 8:00 a.m. in the Community Center

2019-20 School Board Meetings:

School Board meetings will occur on the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise indicated. Upcoming dates:

March 4

April 1 (really!)

May 6

June 3