

# **LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

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

## **AGENDA**

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 3:35. Also present were board members Sam Whitener and Pierre Avignon, Lead Teacher Marci Train and Superintendent Barbara Powers.

### **2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Powers requested postponing the final vote on Policy BEDH until the April meeting.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

•February 4, 2020

Ms. Donovan moved approval of the February 4 minutes and Mr. Whitener seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

### **4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

### **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The group then held a discussion about the latest facts and recommendations regarding the coronavirus, which the World Health Organization finally admitted is a pandemic. Mrs. Powers noted that both the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Center for Disease Control have been sending out regular updates. Mr. Whitener said he receives regular updates as well. Mrs. Power recommended having the teaching plan for at home work possibilities, supervising on line work remotely but also sending home

books to read and work to be completed with due dates, etc. Mrs. Whitener asked if the DOE had established any standards yet to have an at home program approved and Mrs. Powers indicated nothing was available yet. She said that the DOE has already explained it will be highly supportive of schools should closures be recommended and/or enforced. It was encouraged that the school wait until recommendations from Maine CDC and the DOE recommend closure. It was further agreed that if this occurs, contracted staff would continue to be paid at their usual rate with duties adjusted accordingly.

## **6. LEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Train reviewed key upcoming dates:

- MEAs will be administered beginning March 23 (as long as school is in session)
- Parent Conferences will be the afternoon of April 5
- Student Art Show April 14 (if groups are allowed to gather)
- Portland Symphony Field Trip May 12

She then spoke about her experience on the research vessel. Her professional expectation was to be on duty 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. assisting with water testing, monitoring of computer screens to watch for phosphorescence, and preparing slides for study. The boat experienced 20-foot swells a few days, which made testing tricky. She also noted that seven weeks was a LONG time to be away! It was quite an international crew and experience.

At school, Mrs. Fabiano did an excellent job following plans and keeping the children engaged with their learning. She and Mrs. Norton also worked together on an immigration unit, which will culminate on Friday with an international foods experience.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

- School Budget Update

Mrs. Powers noted that she and Ed Rea, Finance Chair, have been in touch over a few adjustments including calculation of the maintenance salary and proposed changes to tuition revenues. Final word on REAP also arrived and any reduction in those funds has been postponed. The result is an additional \$10,000 in revenues that initially was considered lost for SY21. A final version of the proposed budget was then distributed. A 1% increase in expense was noted, but overall cost of the school will remain neutral to SY20 based on anticipated revenues.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Policy BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and approval

This item was postponed until a future meeting.

•Superintendent/Principal Position – Interview Committee Timeline

All three board members as well as Mrs. Train and Mrs. Norton wish to be part of the interview process. Mrs. Powers noted that two of the four candidates appear to match Long Island priorities and she recommended beginning the process by meeting those two individuals. Wednesday, March 18 was selected as a time convenient to hold interviews at the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal’s conference room. One candidate will be interviewed at 2:45 and the other at 4:15.

•Consideration of Portland Tuition Request

Mrs. Powers then noted that Xavier Botana has requested a tuition freeze for SY21, meaning that moving from enrolling 5 to 6 children from Great Diamond Island next year will not trigger an increase of one additional tuition. With this year’s tuition billed at \$106,700, she recommended accepting his request. Ms. Donovan moved approval, Mr. Whitener seconded, and the motion passed 3-0. Mrs. Powers shared her draft letter to Supt. Botana, which will be reviewed by a lawyer prior to sending it to him at the Portland Public Schools.

**9. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Saturday, March 21 – Budget Public Hearing, 8:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, April 8 – Early Release, Parent Conferences

**2019-20 School Board Meetings:**

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

April 1 (really!)  
May 6  
June 3