

**Brighton Elementary School Board Meeting
February 12, 2020**

Members:
Katie Mientka
Bradley Beth
David Yasharian
Jeanne Gervais
Cass Lyons

Administrators:
April Lane, Principal
Glenn Hankinson, NCSU Financial
John Castle, Superintendent

I. The meeting was called to order by Katie Mientka at 6:30pm.

II. Approval of January 8 minutes. Gervais moved to approve the January 8, 2020 minutes, pending the addition of specific costs involved in the FY2021 budget (i.e. full-time administrative assistant, full-time special education paraprofessional, full-time guidance/clinician, and addition of one classroom teacher). Lyons seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

III. Staff Presentation: Erica Petre. Ms. Petre, second grade teacher, shared a recent writing project her class completed. The students worked on informational reading and writing and practiced skills such as online researching, note-taking, and using facts in their pieces. They created books that they shared at their Celebration of Learning. The Board thanks Ms. Petre for her presentation and her great work!

IV. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens

There were four staff members/community members present. The Board thanks them for their participation. Cindy Lemay spoke about content in the library collection that she felt was "questionable." The books (children's picture books) dealt with subject matter such as gender identity. Mrs. Lemay indicated that she would not check out these books without parental permission and that she believes they should not be displayed. Ms. Lane advised Mrs. Lemay that in her role as a library aid, she was required to check out the books if chosen by students. She was uncomfortable doing so and was reassigned to a role outside the library. Gina O'Keefe stated that she felt the books should not be displayed or checked out without parental permission.

Per Common Board Policy G.4: Selecting Library Materials, the library media specialist evaluates the existing collection and the school's curriculum and consults "reputable, professionally prepared selection aids and other appropriate sources." Per Common Board Policy G.5P: Handling Complaints of Instructional Materials, no instructional materials will be removed unless a review committee, with agreement from the superintendent, recommends removal. If the review committee's recommendation is appealed, the Board will decide. Under Policy G.5P, citizens can request reconsideration of library materials.

The materials in question are in alignment with Common Board Policy G.4 and no action will be taken at this time. Thank you, Mrs. Lemay, for sharing your concerns.

V. Financial Report

Action:

- A. Warrants were approved.
- B. Currently, there is a budget deficit of \$79,740.02. This is largely due to a new employee electing to take health insurance (\$17,061.41), snow plowing contract, and unanticipated expenditures. Beth moved to approve the Financial Report for January 2020. Seconded by Gervais. All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. Principal's Report

Ms. Lane discussed the issue of classroom evacuations. They decreased from 12 in December to just 2 in January (averaging 10 minutes each). Evacuations are necessary when a student poses a danger to himself or others. Staff works to mitigate the impact on students and instructional time. Also of note: several new students have joined the BES community.

Recently, BES's preschool was inspected. Two (minor) violations were found: the DCF mandated reporter training staff received was different from what was required, and assistants' professional development was not always entered in the database. These issues will be addressed. These are minor infractions and do not reflect the quality of our program and our preschool staff. Gervais moved to accept the January Principal's Report. Seconded by Beth. All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Castle discussed a recent weighting study conducted by UVM. The weighting of equalized pupils is an important element of education funding. Secondary students, ESL learners, and students in high poverty areas are given a higher "weight." It is the opinion of the study's authors that the state's weighting system for poverty and ESL is outdated and needs to be changed. The study also touched on Act 173, which changes the way special education is funded. Block grants are based on student count, not need. The study determines that this is not equitable.

VIII. Unfinished/New Business

Information/Discussion

- A. Prepare for Town Meeting. The Board reviewed the FY2021 budget. Mr. Hankinson provided comparative data for SU budgets in preparation for Town Meeting, as well as Estimated Homestead Tax Rates. The Annual Meeting of the Brighton Town School District will be Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00pm.
- B. Staffing for Next Year. There are two anticipated openings: one classroom teacher (4-5 science) and one math interventionist. We anticipate hiring at least one (more likely two) paraprofessionals to accommodate student need.

Action:

- A. Award Audit Bid. BES received two bids for audit services: RHR Smith & Company (\$3700 per year for 2020, 2021, and 2022) and Pace & Hawley (\$4400 per year for 2020, 2021, and 2022). Beth moved to accept the RHR Smith bid. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor. Motion carried.

IX. Other Business

Action:

- A. Adopt revised NCSU Common Board Policy G.18 CLASS SIZE. Gervais moved to adopt G.18 as revised. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor. Motion carried.

X. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting: March, 11, 2020

- Reorganization

XI. Executive Session

Yasharian moved to enter executive session at 7:55pm. Seconded by Gervais. All in favor. Motion carried.

No action taken. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:05pm.

XII. Adjourn

Gervais moved to adjourn at 8:05pm. Seconded by Beth. All in favor.