

Brighton Elementary School Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Members:

Katie Mientka
David Yasharian
Cass Lyons*
Bradley Beth
Tim O'Bar

Administrators:

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

**Denotes absentees*

I. The meeting was called to order by Katie Mientka at 5:31pm.

II. Approve the minutes of September 9, 2020. Yasharian moved to approve the August 12, 2020 minutes. Seconded by O'Bar. All in favor; motion carried.

III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens. Sam and Oliver Yasharian were present. They requested to speak with the Board about two issues: increased recess time and a more traditional (A, B, C) grading system. Sam and Oliver argued that more recess is beneficial for health and academic performance and that a letter grading system would make it easier for them to see their progress and understand their grades. The Board thanks Sam and Oliver for their terrific presentation!

IV. Financial Report

- A. Approve the Warrant. The Board approved the Warrant.
- B. Financial Report. As of October 2020, there is an estimated net balance of \$274,687. Revenues fell short of the budget due to a smaller than expected Small Schools Grant and no tuition monies from bordering towns. The student population has also decreased, but this has negated the need for two paraprofessionals. Beth moved to approve the October 2020 Financial Report. Seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion carried.

V. Principal's Report

Ms. Lane noted that enrollment is down to about 105 students. Six students are doing remote learning, one is attending virtual school with VTVLC, and six have homeschooled. Behavioral issues are down year-to-year, and Ms. Lane reports that social distancing and mask-wearing

are going well. Yasharian moved to accept the Principal's Report for October 2020. Seconded by Beth. All in favor; motion carried.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Castle reported that SU-wide, schools were doing well with the new routines and guidelines. In the event of a positive case, schools may not necessarily have to close. It will depend on the specific situation and levels of contact. Virtual school is also going well. There are concerns about holiday travel and the need to quarantine if going to a "red" area. Mr. Castle also noted that while COVID-19 has dominated leadership team meetings for months, they are finally able to discuss other topics!

VII. Unfinished/New Business

Information/Discussion

A. Equity Discussion. Ms Lane discussed the need for more diversity in our library collection. Ms. Caitlin Wallingford is sourcing new books to increase equity and representation.

B. Fall Forum Planning Discussion. The Board will discuss options for the Fall Forum, most likely to be held virtually.

C. Behavior Team Placement. A new behavior specialist and behavior team assistant have been hired and are shared with Charleston Elementary School. They currently come on Monday, Wednesday morning, and Thursday. This has been effective so far.

D. Update on Bus Driver. Our beloved bus driver, Mr. Ed, was severely injured in a car accident. He is on the mend. We wish him well on his journey to recovery.

E. Update on HVAC Improvements. BES received an Efficiency Vermont grant (\$47,615) to update the HVAC System. Work must be done by December 31, 2020. This will include analysis and modification of outside air vents for each space, installation of two ERVs, inspection of dampers, actuators, and other key equipment, increased filtration and confirmation no filter bypass plus 3 replacement filters, six HEPA units, and bathroom exhaust by the BAS.

F. Storage Options. Ms. Lane reported that BES needs more storage space. Currently, BES pays for a unit and would need a second, larger one. This costs \$2400 a year. For \$3500-\$4000, BES can purchase a forty foot storage container.

Action

A. Approve Hire of Part-Time Custodian. Yasharian moved to approve the hire of a part-time custodian, Luke O'Keefe. Seconded by O'Bar. All in favor; motion carried.

B. Consider Request for Unpaid Days. Mr. Ian Gilpatrick requested two days of unpaid leave to attend a conference in Southern Vermont. O'Bar moved to approve the request. Seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion carried.

C. Accept Contract Extension Bid for Snow Removal. O'Bar moved to extend the snow removal contract for a total of three years at \$9000/year. Seconded by Beth. All in favor; motion carried.

VIII. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting. Support staff salary increases and administrative assistant salary adjustment.

IX. Executive Session N/A

X. Adjourn. O'Bar moved to adjourn at 6:30pm. Seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion carried.