

**Brighton Elementary School Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

**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 5:30 pm.**

**II. Approve the minutes of November 12, 2020 and December 9 2020.** O'Bar moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2020; seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion carried. Beth moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020; seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried.

**III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens.** The family of a BES preschool student has moved out of the district. They want their student to continue at BES for kindergarten. No action; Miss Lane and the Board will make further inquiries regarding tuition.

**IV. Financial Report**

- A. Approve the Warrant. Katie Mientka is authorized to approve the warrant on behalf of the Board and will send a virtual copy to Central Office on January 14, 2021.
- B. Financial Report. Currently, there is a net balance of approximately \$124,264. This will change at the end of January. The Teachers' Negotiated Agreement was ratified; monies that were held in contingency will be applied to payroll to accommodate salary increases. Yasharian moved to approve the December Financial Report; seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion approved.

**V. Principal's Report.** Ms. Lane noted that the Encore program was experiencing a significant increase in usage. Often at pickup, there is a line of cars waiting to the Town Garage. One reason may be that many students are unable to play basketball as usual, but BES is also offering great program options. The Board thanks students, parents, and leaders for participating in this terrific program.

Ms. Lane reports that attendance has held steady after the holidays and there has been no increase in absences. BES continues to emphasize safety measures, including mask-wearing and social distancing.

## **VI. Superintendent's Report. N/A**

## **VII. Unfinished/New Business**

### Information/Discussion

A. Recording Secretary (or review open meeting laws). November minutes were not provided in accordance with Open Meeting laws (within five days of meeting, extended to 10 days due to COVID). Yasharian moved to request Ms. Lane inquire about a recording secretary at a rate of \$30 per meeting (including delivery of minutes within five days of meeting). Seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion carried.

B. Anticipated School Director Term Expirations/Board Openings. The terms of Yasharian and Mientka are up in 2021. O'Bar was appointed in 2020 and may run for election to complete the remaining two years of this three year term. Candidates do not need to gather signatures but must submit the Consent of Candidate form to the Town Clerk by January 25, 2021.

C. Board Message for Annual Report. Mientka completed and submitted to administrative assistant, Susan Vera.

### Action

A. Approve FY22 Budget. The FY2022 budget shows an increase of 2.88% at \$2,457,000. Major drivers include increases in salaries and health care costs, as well as loss of revenues (e.g. reduction in Small Schools Grant). Lyons moved to approve the FY22 budget; seconded by Beth. All in favor; motion carried.

B. Considerations for Annual Meetings and Budget Votes. Voting must be conducted by Australian Ballot.

1. Public Information Meeting. Tabled until February 2021. Mientka will meet with the Brighton Select Board on January 20, 2021. Ideally, both the School Board and Select Board meetings can be conducted consecutively on the same platform to allow for continuity and better attendance. Mientka will provide more information at the February Board meeting.
2. Approve Articles and Warning. Yasharian moved to approve the articles and warning for the Annual Meeting on March 2, 2021; seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion carried.
  - a. Consideration of Australian Ballot Voting. *"Pursuant to Act 162 of 2020, I move to conduct the Brighton School District's Annual Meeting using the Australian Ballot voting method for all articles."* Beth moved to conduct the Annual Meeting using Australian Ballot; seconded by O'Bar. All in favor; motion carried.

C. Ratify Teachers' Negotiated Agreement. Beth moved to approve the ratification of the Teachers' Negotiated Agreement; seconded by Lyons. All in favor; motion carried.

D. Approve hire of paraeducator. Yasharian moved to approve the hiring of Jonah Rumball-Petre as paraeducator; seconded by Beth. All in favor; motion carried.

E. Approve Principal Substitute stipend. Ms. Lane was forced to take extended time away from school due to a COVID closure at her child's school. Sarah Tolley, BES Special Educator, acted



as substitute for Ms. Lane, and various paraprofessionals/substitutes assisted in Ms. Tolley's role. Ms. Tolley is requesting a stipend for her extra efforts. The Board appreciate Ms. Tolley's willingness to step up and serve and understands it presents extra hardships, including time away from her own vital role. Ms. Lane will present the Board with figures related to potential compensation in the form of a stipend in February.

**VIII. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting.** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Agenda items include Town Meeting considerations and Informational Meeting information.

**XI. Executive Session.** Not required.

**XII. Adjourn.** Beth moved to adjourn at 6:30 pm; seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried.