

**Brighton Elementary School Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

Members:

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

Administrators:

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

*\*Denotes absentees*

*\*\*Denotes partial absentees*

**I. The meeting was called to order by Bradley Beth at 5:32pm.**

**II. Approve the Minutes of March 10 and April 5, 2021.** O'Bar moved to approve minutes of March 10 and April 5, 2021. No second needed. All in favor; motion carried.

**III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens.** Jody Viereck, who accepted the position as BES principal, was in attendance.

**IV. Financial Report**

- A. Approve the Warrant. O'Bar moved to authorize Mientka to sign on Board's behalf. All in favor; motion carried. Mientka will sign electronically and send to Central Office.
- B. Financial Report. Currently, there is an estimated net balance of \$122,507.79. It is likely there will be a deficit in the food service fund, as is typical. Though, because of higher reimbursement rates due to COVID, this may be smaller than usual. ESSER funds have also offset some expenditures. BES has a deficit of \$29,000 in the general fund and \$33,000 in the capital improvement fund, both the result of overages in the last budget year. The Board will determine how to address these deficits in the coming months.

Information:

A. ESSER Funding Update. Currently, there is approximately \$165,000 in anticipated ESSER 2 funds, as well as \$324,000 in ESSER 3 funds, to be used by September 2024. There are several areas that are considered "allowable expenditures," including purchases of educational technology and sanitation supplies, as well as support for mental health services, summer/extended/afterschool programming, etc. The SU is waiting on guidance as to whether facilities upgrades will fall under allowable expenses.

**V. Principal's Report.** Ms. Lane told the Board she is eager to begin working with Jody Viereck, helping to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership. She also discussed recent positive cases of COVID among the staff that resulted in the pre-K and 1st grade classes going remote. The Board thanks BES staff for responding quickly and diligently to keep students (and each other) safe. Ms. Lane also noted that the ENCORE program has been a big success, particularly this year. There are excellent program options available and several community members have expressed interest in teaching classes. Mientka moved to accept the April 2021 Principal's Report. Seconded by O'Bar. All in favor; motion carried.

**VI. Superintendent's Report.** Mr. Castle noted that the surge in COVID cases in the Northeast Kingdom resulted in several schools, including NCHS and NCJHS, going remote for days at a time. He reinforced that while the goal is to provide in-person learning as much and as long as is safe, schools in the SU have been well-prepared to go remote all year.

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

### Information/Discussion

A. Parking Lot Resurfacing. To accommodate for social distancing and safer drop/off and pick/up, cars travel along a loop to the back of the school. In some cases, cars must drive/park on the grass, which can be challenging during some times of year. There are also several areas that need repair. To expand and repair the entire space, it will cost approximately \$56,500.

Driveway repairs and new parking spots would cost about \$26,000. Repairs only are approximately \$6000. Staymat will likely be less expensive; Ms. Lane will look into this.

B. Mural. BES will participate in the Vermont Mural Project, which "invites communities across the state to join in dialogue to explore and articulate their vision for social and environmental justice in Vermont." a project team will work with VT artists to create the mural.

C. Universal Meals. BES will serve over 7000 lunches and nearly 6800 breakfasts in FY2021. Universal Meals are paid for from the education fund, not by the district. Serving only free breakfast would reduce the cost; more information to come.

D. NCSU Annual Report Highlights. The NCSU Annual Report is available at [ncsuvt.org](http://ncsuvt.org).

### Action:

A. Approve IDEA-B. The Board considered the draft IDEA-B federal grant application. O'Bar moved to authorize the Executive Committee Chair to provide signature for submission of the application to the AOE, pending local action. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried.

B. Award Lawn Care Bid. BES received two lawncare bids: Dayna Jacobs @ \$100/mowing for each of the next three years. NEK Landscaping @ \$130/mowing for the first year, then \$140/mowing the next, and \$150/mowing the final year. Mientka moved to award the bid to Dayna Jacobs. Seconded by O'Bar. All in favor; motion carried.

C. Accept GMFTS Proposal. Green Mountain Farm to School submitted a proposal to increase programming at BES for 2021-2022. At a rate of \$2400/year, BES can take advantage of taste tests and garden workshops. With full membership, at a rate of \$5000, benefits will also include classroom workshops and farm field trips. (Cost will increase to \$6000 for 2022-2023. Mientka moved to accept the GMFTS proposal. Seconded by O'Bar. All in favor; motion carried.

D. Consider Request for Summer Use of Fields by Brighton Recreation. Brighton Rec Director, Paul Chambers, requested the use of BES athletic fields for a summer soccer program. No building access is required, and the program allows easier/more convenient access to athletics for Brighton/Charleston children. Mientka moved to approve Mr. Chambers' request. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried.

E. Support Staff Salary Considerations. Yasharian moved to approve a 3% salary increase for support staff for FY2022, as budgeted. Seconded by Mientka. All in favor; motion carried.

**VIII. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting.** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 @ 5:30pm.

**XI. Executive Session.** O'Bar moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:50pm to discuss Superintendent Evaluation. Seconded by Mientka. All in favor; motion carried.

**XII. Adjourn.** O'Bar moved to adjourn at 7:12pm. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried.