

**Brighton Elementary School Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 11, 2021**

Members:

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

Administrators:

Annsunnee Swift, Principal
John Castle, Superintendent
April Touchette, NCSU Financial

**Denotes absentees*

I. The meeting was called to order by O'Bar at 5:41.

Addition to the Agenda: virtual school request from Brighton parent.

II. Approve the minutes of June 9, 2021. Yasharian moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2021. Seconded by Mientka. All in favor; motion carried.

III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens N/A

IV. Financial Report

A. Approve the Warrant. The Board approved the warrant.

B. Financial Report. The Board was happy to meet April Touchette, NCSU Director of Finances. Of note in the June Financial Report was expenditures for driveway repair/repaving (approx. \$14,000) and building expenses (approx. \$25,000). Yasharian asked about the heating system and obtaining an estimate for repairs/replacement. Ms. Swift is in contact with Efficiency Vermont re: conducting a building assessment. Currently, BES has an estimated net balance of \$8,210.69. In positive news, updated information indicates the tax rate will decrease by 5 cents, a greater decrease than projected in spring. Mientka moved to approve the June Financial Report. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried.

V. Principal's Report

Ms. Swift discussed the successful Encore Summer Program, which had great turnout and a variety of activities. Thank you, Mrs. Cindy Lemay for coordinating this program. Also, there has been a lot of work on facilities, led by Mr. Roger O'Keefe. The building has been cleaned inside and out (thank you to former BES students Nick and Victoria for working so hard on this, and to Ms. Susan Vera for putting everything back together!).

Tardif's replaced the grease traps and cleaned the boilers, and work on the fire alarm, refrigerator, and exterior front doors was completed. Ms. Swift is looking forward to the start of school and meeting the children. Mientka moved to accept the June/July Principal's Report. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried. The Board would like to welcome Ms. Swift and thank her for all of the work she's already done in preparing for a successful school year.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Castle discussed recommendations from the VT Department of Health and the Secretary of Education re: masks. Honoring those recommendations, NCSU students will start the school year with masks. Current recommendations indicate that if the school population reaches 80% vaccinated, masks will not be required, but it is unclear if this includes both students and staff. With most students at BES under the age of 12, it is unlikely that this will be a factor. With the Delta variant, the SU is prepared for possible disruptions and has the capacity to move to virtual learning. However, these days will not count towards the required school year per the VT Agency of Education.

VII. Unfinished/New Business

Action:

- A. Accept Resignation. Mrs. Cindy Lemay announced her resignation, effectively immediately. She will, however, continue to act as Encore coordinator. Mientka moved to accept Mrs. Lemay's resignation. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried. The Board thanks Mrs. Lemay for her service to the BES community.
- B. Annual School Report. Prior to her departure, former BES principal, Ms. April Lane, prepared the annual BES School Report. This includes information on class sizes and configurations, enrollment, demographics, discipline, professional staff experience, ESSA Accountability Scores, and the Action Plan. The Board thanks Ms. Lane for this helpful information. Yasharian moved to approve the 2021 School Report. Seconded by Mientka. All in favor; motion carried.
- C. Approve Adult Breakfast and Lunch Prices. The price for adult breakfast is \$2.50, while the price for adult lunch is \$4.75. All students have free lunch for the school year 2021-2022. Yasharian moved to approve the adult breakfast and lunch prices. Seconded by Mientka. All in favor; motion carried.
- D. Assign VSBIT Proxy. Yasharian moved to assign a proxy for the upcoming Vermont School Board Insurance Trust (VSBIT) Annual Meeting (November 5, 2021). Seconded by Mientka. All in favor; motion carried.
- E. Hire 0.4 FTE Art Teacher. Mientka moved to approve the hiring of Sarah Sprague for the 0.4 art teacher position. Seconded by Yasharian. All in favor; motion carried. Ms. Swift also noted that we will have access to a school-based clinician two days a week. Kristin Mason is hired through the SU and will be at BES Mondays and Fridays, with occasional Wednesdays.
- F. Consider Virtual Learning Request. Dr. Elizabeth Moore wrote an email to the Board, requesting that her children receive virtual instruction via VTVLC and that BES pay for the program. Dr. Moore cites concerns over her unvaccinated children (under the age of 12) being in contact with other unvaccinated students and staff, particularly as she works as an emergency room physician. Dr. Moore's children have been successful in virtual learning since the pandemic started. She indicates that she will not allow her children to return to school at this time. The Board thanks Dr. Moore for her advocacy for her children - and her work on the frontlines. As the Chair was unable to be present and the full BES Board was not convened, the Board tabled the discussion and took no action. A special meeting is planned for next week.