

NEK Choice School District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2020

6:00 PM – Meeting held remotely with public able to call into meeting ID #833 9593 4166

Members Present: Darcy Smart, Patty Brown, Tim Thompson, Miles Etter, Sharon Ellingwood-White, Lyn Schmucker, Donna Loynd, Betsy Fontaine, Melanie Staats (Joined Later in the Meeting)

Administration/Public Present: Karen Conroy, Bridget Cross, Jennifer Lawcewicz

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM.

II. On a motion made by, Tim Thompson seconded by Miles Etter, the Board approved the meeting minutes of May 21, 2020; vote 6-0-1.

III. General Public Comments

IV. Report of the Superintendent

1. Discussed the Superintendent's Report dated September 14, 2020 and provided a legislative update.
2. Reviewed handouts on current enrollments, student populations by town and tax impacts on communities.
3. Reviewed the 2019-2020 balance sheet, schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes to the fund balance with an anticipated surplus of \$493,686. Audit for the 2019-2020 will start on September 22nd.
4. Reviewed the Director of Student Services Report dated September 9, 2020 and provided an update on services provided to independent schools. A recommendation to communicate this information to families in our welcome letter at the start of the school year, so that they understand the impact of potential services with independent schools.

V. Appointments and Resignations

1. On a motion made by, Tim Thompson seconded by Miles Etter, the Board appointed Betsy Fontaine as the Norton Board Member representative; vote 7-0.
2. On a motion made by, Tim Thompson seconded by Miles Etter, the Board appointed Carla Curtis as the Bloomfield Board Member representative; vote 7-0.

VI. Other Business

1. Lemington Representative, Sharon Ellingwood-White, shared information on the NEKBroadband.org website and organization working to bring high speed internet to the Northeast Kingdom. Survey to be shared with NEK Choice School District households.

2. Sharon Ellingwood-White also raised concerns around the inequities for some of choice students attending New Hampshire schools along the communities that border the state around access to virtual learning, broadband, pre-k, childcare and lack of NHIAA sports options for those that homeschool in the NEK Choice School District.
3. Next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020, at 6:00 PM – Remote or On-Site to be determined.

VII. Adjournment

1. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rena Call