

NEK Choice School District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2020

6:00 PM – Meeting held remotely with public able to call into meeting ID #824 2613 4947

Members Present: Patty Brown, Tim Thompson, Miles Etter, Sharon Ellingwood-White, Lyn Schmucker, Donna Loynd, Melanie Staats, Betsy Fontaine, Carla Curtis, Sonia Peters

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

II. On a motion made by, Tim Thompson seconded by Lyn Schmucker, the Board approved the meeting minutes of September 17, 2020 amended to include Betsy Fontaine as present on minutes; vote 7-0-2.

III. General Public Comments

IV. Report of the Superintendent

1. Reviewed the Superintendent's Report dated December 10, 2020. Provided Board update on potential options for NEK Choice School District as it relates to the proposed Interstate School District. NEK Choice could form their own Supervisory District, be reassigned to another Supervisory Union, or Contract services from the new Interstate School District.
2. Reviewed the NEK Choice School District Presentation slides with questions around estimated tuition costs and tax rates. The Board suggested to schedule a January meeting to wait to approve the budget with updated tuition costs.
3. Director of Student Services provided an update and impact on student services related to COVID.
4. Discussed the utilization of Reserve Funds in the current budget to decrease tax rates and tabled the approval of utilizing this fund for future unanticipated tuition or other costs. Multiple budgets will be prepared for the January meeting to show the impact of using reserves now on town tax rates.
5. Approval of the 2021-2022 (FY22) NEK Choice School District Budget was tabled until the January 14th meeting.
6. Approval of the NEK Choice School District Warning was tabled until the January 14th meeting.
7. Discussed the process for new elections of officers and their terms. Board members expressed an interest to run again for office and will be mailed their consent forms for office.
8. Approval of the NEK Choice School District Australian Ballot was tabled until the January 14th meeting.

V. Appointments and Resignations

VI. Other Business

1. Reviewed the following VSBA Model Policies for Adoption at the next board meeting:

B8 Electronic Communications Between Employees and Students (Required)

C12 Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title I (Required)

C13 Homeless Students (Required)

C29 District Equity Policy (Recommended)

2. Discussed the format for our Annual Meeting to take place on February 22, 2021.
3. Next meeting January 14, 2021, at 5:00 PM to approve the Budget, Warning and Ballot.

Annual School District Meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021, at 6:00 PM – to be held remotely.

VII. The board reviewed recent bills and electronically signed warrants for the total payment of:

NEK Choice Total \$1,277,577.90

VIII. Adjournment

1. Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rena Call