

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEW LONDON BOARD OF EDUCATION
AT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Monday, May 8, 2023**

PRESENT: K. Batten, J. Heideman M. Grossman, C. Martinson, H. Schweitzer, T. Wegner, and M. Wilz.

I. VISITORS AND COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC FORUM)

- Brenda Fischer, W9706 Bonnin Road, New London: she explained that she works at New London Middle School; everyone is concerned with the compensation of support, certified and administrative staff; the district has many staffing vacancies and the positions continue to be a challenge to be filled; she asked that the Board please consider the quality and retention of staff members when considering compensation
- Bill Krostue, N3529 Sunset Lane, New London: he attended the Compensation Committee meetings and heard the concerns of staff; he outlined some of the benefits of being a teacher; he also compared New London teacher salaries to area districts, and New London was right behind Waupaca; he believes that this Board has been doing their best to fairly compensate their staff

II. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by C. Martinson, President. A quorum was established. The pledge of allegiance was led by C. Martinson. C. Martinson read the Board norms.

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by M. Wilz to approve the consent agenda items. J. Heideman requested that Resignation and Employment of Personnel be completed in Closed Session. M. Wilz accepted the friendly amendment. T. Wegner seconded the motion to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of Monday, April 10, 2023
- Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of Monday, April 24, 2023
- Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of Monday, April 24, 2023

Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

The calendar, monthly celebrations, and director reports were reviewed.

V. VOUCHERS/RECEIPTS

J. Marquardt reviewed the vouchers and receipts. A motion was made by J. Heideman and seconded by M. Grossman to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$1,313,338.83 as per list of May 4, 2023. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

C. Martinson noted receipts from the receipt register of May 4, 2023, in the amount of \$699,623.48.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Potential Approval of the 2023 Graduating Seniors

It was moved by K. Batten and seconded by M. Wilz to approve the 2023 graduating seniors, pending fulfillment of all graduation requirements. Motion carried.

B. Review of Graduation Ceremony

S. Bleck and B. Yerkey reviewed the graduation ceremony process for Board members.

C. Appointment of Board Committees / Board Representatives

The Board reviewed the committee appointments and representatives established for 2023-24. C. Martinson encouraged the process of appointing a chairperson and note taker for each committee as this has worked well.

D. Review and Potential Approval to Identify Standing Committees Where a Non-Board Member Citizen Taxpayer Within the District or a District Employee Is Desired to Support the Standing Committee Structure

C. Martinson stated that he would like to begin the process of appointing Melissa Anderson or another NLEA rep to the Compensation Committee to provide the continuity of representation. M. Wilz expressed concern for appointing an NLEA member to the Compensation Committee. She had previously been in favor of it, but then realized that it could quickly turn into an “us vs. them” situation, so she preferred staff members being able to speak in public input to provide feedback.

M. Grossman voiced his concern about appointing a non-board member citizen taxpayer to a committee. It is the Board’s responsibility to seek input from the electorate and bring back that feedback rather than appoint a non-board member. It will also be difficult to appoint a citizen when the things that the board are dealing with are so divisive which risks offending the opposing side.

C. Martinson stated that if individual standing committees feel they would like to appoint a non-board member to support the committee structure, those proposals will be reviewed by the full Board as per the process.

E. 2023-2025 Biennium Budget Update

J. Marquardt gave a 2023-2025 biennium budget update.

F. Review and Potential Approval of 2023-24 Base Wages for Certified Staff

It was moved by H. Schweitzer and seconded by M. Wilz to approve the base wage increases for certified staff as presented, with the Board of Education to revisit certified staff wages following adoption of the state biennium budget.

M. Grossman amended the motion to include revisiting this at the July Regular Board meeting and if the state biennium budget has not been passed, it will be revisited at the August Regular Board meeting. M. Wilz seconded the amendment. Motion carried 6-1.

Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0 to approve the base wage increases for certified staff as presented, with the Board of Education to revisit certified staff wages at the July Regular Board Meeting, and if the state biennium budget has not been passed, it will be revisited at the August Regular Board meeting.

T. Wegner made a motion to provide a 3% actual base supplement or stipend to the staff using ESSER funds. No second received. Motion failed.

G. Review and Potential Approval of 2023-24 Base Wages for Administrative Staff

It was moved by J. Heideman and seconded by H. Schweitzer to table this agenda item until after Closed Session. Motion carried 4-3 (J. Heideman-yes; H. Schweitzer-yes; T. Wegner-no; M. Wilz-no; K. Batten-yes; M. Grossman-no; C. Martinson-yes).

H. Review and Potential Approval of 2023-24 Base Wages for Support Staff

It was moved by J. Heideman and seconded by M. Wilz to approve the wage increases for support staff as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

M. Grossman would like to start looking at another option for compensation instead of basing it on the CPI.

I. Review and Potential Approval of the 2023-24 Official School Newspaper

It was moved by T. Wegner and seconded by J. Heideman to approve the *Press Star* as the official school newspaper for 2023-24. Motion carried.

J. Review and Potential Approval of 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Service Agreement

It was moved by T. Wegner and seconded by M. Wilz to approve the 4K Community Collaborative Service Agreement. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

K. Review and Potential Approval of 2023-24 Open Enrollment Applications

It was moved by M. Wilz and seconded by M. Grossman to approve the resident and nonresident open enrollment applications for 2023-24 as recommended, contingent upon the student records received. Motion carried.

L. Review and Potential Approval of 2023-24 Student Fee Schedule

It was moved by T. Wegner and seconded by J. Heideman to approve the 2023-24 student fee schedule as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

M. Review and Potential Approval of Audit Contract

It was moved by J. Heideman and seconded by K. Batten to approve the audit contract with Erickson & Associates as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by K. Batten and seconded by H. Schweitzer to enter into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes as listed on the agenda at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

It was moved by M. Wilz and seconded by K. Batten to enter open session at 8:41 p.m. Motion carried.

IX. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

A. Resignation of Personnel

It was moved by M. Grossman and seconded by K. Batten to accept the resignations of the following personnel:

- Seena Abel, Special Ed, Parkview
- Nicholas Tillema, Language Arts, High School
- Erin VandeGuchte, Special Ed, High School

Motion carried.

B. Approval of Personnel

It was moved by M. Grossman and seconded by H. Schweitzer to approve the employment of the following personnel:

- Avery Behm, Phy Ed, Intermediate/Middle School
- Lexandra Behling, Special Ed, High School
- Emily Marcus, Catalyst Academy
- Brett Pickarts, Alt Ed, Intermediate/Middle School
- Elizabeth Sonnenberg, Speech/Language Pathologist, Middle/High Schools
- Albert Strohm, Special Ed, High School

Motion carried.

It was moved by M. Wilz and seconded by M. Grossman to approve the allocation of administrative compensation. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7-0.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by J. Heideman and seconded by M. Wilz to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Katie Batten, Clerk