

DEERFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL – LIBRARY - 66 NORTH ROAD
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 ~ 6:00 PM

Members/Participants: Kendra Cohen; Chair, Ellen O'Donnell, Danielle Palmer, Nate Oxnard
Supt. Patty Sherman, Principal Kristen Withee, Recording Secretary Trish Lafond

1. Call to Order – Ms. Cohen, Chair
Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Cohen led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Minutes – December 6, 2023 & December 20, 2023
Minutes of 12-6-23 were tabled until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Ellen O'Donnell, seconded by Kendra Cohen, to move the minutes of 12-20-23 as written.

3-0-1

MOTION CARRIED

4. Immediate Business
 - A. Public Comments
Kim Black followed up on her technology concerns of the past. She doesn't think they are over used but it is a place that could be looked at for cuts. During the recent flooding, she was concerned with students being dropped off at a place other than their home or brought back to school. Mrs. Withee addressed this during Principal's report.
 - B. Agenda Review – Ms. Cohen
Chair Cohen added new bus routes.

A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to approve the new bus routes with six busses.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

- C. Consent Agenda (0 item)
- D. Review of Correspondence
One letter thanking the board for school choice.
Chair Cohen sent a letter to the board of selectmen concerning the solar project.
Ellen O'Donnell will look back at the original warrant article concerning the use of the property on Stage Rd.
Chair Cohen asked if the solar project needs to be put out to bid.
Ellen O'Donnell asked if it could be a source of revenue for the district.
- E. FY 24-25 Budget Update
-\$366,000.00
- F. Draft Warrant Articles
The board discussed the warrant articles and there placement on the ballot.
 - I. Budget-amount may change due to MBC meeting and possible change because a bus was added back in.
 - II. Deerfield Paraeducators Agreement- Kendra Cohen, seconded by Danielle Palmer, recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0
 - III. Special Meeting if Article II fails.
 - IV. Special Education Trust Fund- place \$150,000.00 in trust fund from fund balance. Kendra Cohen, seconded by Ellen O'Donnell recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0.
 - V. Special Education Trust Fund- place \$150,000.00 in trust fund from taxation. Kendra Cohen, seconded by Danielle Palmer recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0.
 - VI. Submitting three high school agreements to Dept. of Education to be schools of record.
Kendra Cohen, seconded by Danielle Palmer, recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0.
 - VII. Create capital reserve fund for unanticipated/unbudgeted high school tuition costs.
Kendra Cohen, seconded by Danielle Palmer, recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0.
 - VIII. Authorizes the school board to enter into a Power Purchase agreement for solar lease.

Kendra Cohen, seconded by Danielle Palmer, recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0.
Information concerning carbon footprint and no cost now will be put in voter's guide.

IX. Will the voters vote to rescind SB2 and return to School Meeting. The town is also doing this.

Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard, recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0.

The voters guide will state that we are following the Board of Selectmen recommendation.

X. Will the school board vote to retain 5% of the fund balance as allowed by law. Each year the school board votes on the amount to retain.

Kendra Cohen, seconded by Ellen O'Donnell, recommended placement on ballot. Recommended 4-0.

G. Technology Subscriptions Review

Principal Withee reviewed all technology subscriptions used by DCS, who uses them and what they are used for. She explained the benefits of each subscription and their use as important resources.

Tech Trek is a popular professional development topic. These subscriptions are often used when students are out of school for various reasons. Subscriptions purchases are based on needs and adhere to NHDOE standards. All are vetted for student privacy and protection. Use is monitored by tech staff.

Ellen O'Donnell asked if parents are aware there are technology standards that are required and must be met for high school. Grade 8 students must prove competency to not have to take a class in high school.

5. Board Reports

- PTO Update

None

- Executive Board Report – Ms. Cohen

Meet next week on 1-10-24.

- Principal's Report – Ms. Withee

Principal Withee reviewed the events and activities that happened at DCS in December.

Principal Withee responded to Ms. Black's concerns from the day of the floods in Deerfield. When Dail Transportation notified DCS that students on Mt. Delight Rd. would not be able to be dropped at their homes and would instead be brought to the Town Hall to be united with their parents for pick-up, Mrs. Withee immediately got in her car and followed the bus to the Town Hall. All students were kept safe, warm and dry on the bus until a parent arrived. Mrs. Withee brought a parent back to the school so the parent could make arrangements for the evening. Mrs. Withee reiterated no students are ever left unattended especially those in Kindergarten through Grade 3 even on a daily basis. **Guidance counselor Heather Swanson also drove to the Town Hall to be with students.

- Curriculum Review Board – Ms. O'Donnell

Ellen O'Donnell stated the art curriculum was presented on 12-18-23. The art staff would like to present to the board on 3-23-24.

- MBC Committee Update – Ms. Cohen

No meeting yesterday. There is a meeting 1-6-24 at 9 am.

6. Policy – Ms. Sherman

Auditors asked if there is a policy for fund balances.

- ACN- Nursing Mothers Accommodations 3rd Reading

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Kendra Cohen, to move policy ACN as written.

Nate Oxnard, seconded by Kendra Cohen, made a motion to amend the policy choosing option2 and eliminating D5.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Kendra Cohen, to approve policy ACN as amended.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

- DIA Fund Balances 1st Reading

Tabled to next meeting. Board send any questions to Supt. Sherman.

- EHAB Data Governance 3rd Reading

A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to approve policy EHAB as written.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

- GBCD Background Investigation and Criminal History Records Check 3rd Reading

A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to approve policy GBCD as written.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

Need clarification of designated volunteers and fingerprinting.

- JCA Change of Class of School Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship 3rd Reading
A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to approve policy JCA as written.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

Parents are responsible for transportation. Use NHSBA version.

- JKAA Use of Restraints and Seclusion 3rd Reading
A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to approve policy JKAA as written.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

7. Informational Items

Supt. Sherman is adding a page of the policies to the agenda to keep them at the forefront of the board's actions.

Supt. Sherman asked about not having a policy for high school students transferring from one school to another. She would like to create a form instead. She would like to create a cover letter explaining there are no transfers in the Fall after the budget has been set.

Ellen O'Donnell and Danielle Palmer said Barrington has a policy concerning transfers and they will reach out to them. It will be added to the next agenda.

Supt. Sherman will get residency affidavit and high school choice form.

8. Public Comments

Kim Black said it is very important to approve Article III. All Deerfield students are our responsibility. The Stage Rd. property was purchased in March, 2001.

Erroll Rhodes thanked Chair Cohen for her article to the Backyard Gazette. Gazette Vol. I #2 has QR code to websites. He reiterated his call for any news to get to the community.

9. Non-Public Session - NH RSA 91-A:3, II, - *if needed*

None

10. Appointments/Resignations – Ms. Sherman

None

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

Next Scheduled Deerfield School Board Meeting: Januar 17, 2024 ~ 6:00 P.M. Deerfield Community School



gladu, ashley <agladu@sau53.org>

Fwd: School choice

sherman, patty <psherman@sau53.org>
To: "gladu, ashley" <agladu@sau53.org>

Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 4:30 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Melissa Oljey** <oljeymelissa@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 6, 2023, 8:52 PM

Subject: School choice

To: <kcohen@sau53.org>, <dpalmer@sau53.org>, <eodonnell@sau53.org>, <zlanglois@sau53.org>, <noxnard@sau53.org>, sherman, patty <psherman@sau53.org>

I want to thank the 3 board members who proved me wrong and finally provided Deerfield with what it has wanted for a very long time...HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE! Kendra, Danielle, and Ellen you have done right by the people of this town and it is seen, acknowledged, and very much appreciated! Zach & Nate, you should be ashamed of yourselves! You're both disgraceful and should never be elected to any elected official position as you do not represent the people, but rather your own selfish agendas!

Sincerely,

A very happy Deerfield voter and 8th grade & 7th grade parent

Melissa Oljey
Mountain Rd