

Bridgewater-Hebron Village District
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2022

Board Members Present: Terry Murphy, Derry Riddle, Bill White

No others were in attendance.

The meeting began at 9:03 a.m.

Going forward it was decided that Julie will email all board members with meeting dates and times so everyone receives adequate notice and reminders of the meetings.

The minutes of March 23 were approved as written on motion by Bill, seconded by Terry.

The manifests were reviewed and signed and new vendors were approved.

The Profit and Loss Report was discussed. The bond payment for the roof and boiler will be paid this month. The bond will be paid off in mid-2023.

Our savings account balance is \$100,048.88.

Although the reimbursement of \$24,458 for the UV lighting from the ESSR Funds has been accepted and approved, we still have not received the money (which will come through NASD/SAU4).

The greenhouse programs have started up again at the school. Thank you to Louise Migliore for volunteering during COVID closures and for getting the program up and running again. Louise purchased new hoses to replace the broken ones and Derry purchased step stools for the younger students to reach the tables. Both have been reimbursed for the expenses.

We need to obtain a credit card for the village district so that purchases like this can be made directly online rather than by reimbursing individuals.

Terry has not contacted Brackley Shaw yet regarding the estimate to draw the additional classrooms.

The veeder-root system for the oil tank has been installed.

We still are having issues with the chimney. It appears to be sulfur and water condensing on the exterior of the chimney inside the building. Terry will contact BP&S about getting a specialist to assess the issue. We may need to install a stainless-steel liner. Unless it is deemed to be needed right away, this will probably not happen this year. We also should investigate whether insurance will cover it.

The septic pumping system access port still needs to be done. We also need to replace the two pumps. A rough estimate of costs is \$8,000-\$10,000.

The gymnasium floor is scheduled to be refinished on June 20.

The floors in the boiler and generator rooms need to be repainted.

The night custodian is being outsourced to an independent contractor by NASD/SAU4.

Terry asked Jerry, the daytime custodian, to wash the painted sign at the front of the building. He will check to see if it has been done.

The manholes need to be cleaned out.

The fields and lawn are doing well.

Corrections of minutes will be reflected on the next meeting minutes

The utility shed by the soccer field needs some repair. Hogan & Co. Builders will be hired for this.

The server for the camera surveillance system needs to be upgraded sometime this year.

Some projects for the future include:

- Paving
- Redoing the ballfield
- Installing a sprinkler system, possibly using the well from the old Wescott property
- Replacing the playground equipment and adding new equipment for the younger and special needs students for the back of the building
- Replacing the locks in the building
- Upgrading the fire alarm and burglar systems

Security of the building was discussed. Some school doors have been left propped open quite often. This practice needs to be addressed. It was also mentioned that our local police have been encouraged to drive through the school grounds on a regular basis to show police presence.

Terry reported about the SAU4 Apportionment Committee meetings. They have had two meetings with the next one scheduled for June 8. Terry presented some figures to our board including the real town tax contributions to SAU4 considering the SWEPT (State-Wide Educational Property Tax). Any discussion about apportionment is incomplete if SWEPT (which goes directly from some NASD towns to SAU4) is not also considered. SWEPT is effectively a state mandated form of equalized value. It was also pointed out that some towns in NASD also receive state funds in addition to this. Terry also mentioned that the 50/50 formula that had been proposed would not benefit NASD, but only shift the payment responsibility to other towns. These along with some other facts will be presented at the June 8 meeting.

The group felt that in addition to the devastating financial consequences that changing to the 50/50 formula could have on some towns in NASD, there could also be various unexpected consequences impacting the entire Newfound community such as jobs, educational impacts, etc.

Terry moved: **If the SAU4 apportionment formula is modified, the lease agreement between B-HVD and SAU4 will be terminated by B-HVD and the school will be closed to SAU4.** Bill seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The group discussed that if the formula changes it is effectively incentivizing other actions that might be taken, some of which could be:

- Creating a charter school
- Having Bridgewater and Hebron and possibly other towns leave SAU4
- Converting the school to a K-8 hybrid model with students from Bridgewater, Hebron and likely Groton, plus charter school students

It was noted that the current lease agreement with SAU4 is good through June 30, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m. on motion by Derry, seconded by Terry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Derry Riddle, Commissioner