

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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To be approved by the Rye School Board at the April 21, 2021 meeting.

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A special meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held through Google Meets on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Margaret Honda, Jeanne Moynahan, Matt Curtin, Scott Marion
Absent: Heather Reed

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Marie Soucy, Principal
Suzanne Lull, Principal

Visitors: Staci Ryan, Jacqueline DeFreze, Andrea Papoutsy, Krista Atwater,
Nicole L'Ecuyer

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Ms. Honda announced that due to the State of Emergency, declared by the Governor, as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Emergency Order 12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body was authorized to meet electronically.

Ms. Honda noted that there was no physical location for the public to observe, however public access was being provided through telephone and video electronic means via Google Meet.

Ms. Honda noted that all the members of the Board had the ability to communicate, and the public could listen, and make comment. Ms. Honda provided the meeting phone in number and meeting link information.

Ms. Honda noted that they had provided the public with notice of the meeting and she provided information for the public to alert the administration if there were problems. Ms. Honda mentioned she could be called or e-mailed if they had any contact problems. Ms. Honda noted that the meeting would be rescheduled if the public was unable to access the meeting.

Ms. Honda took roll call attendance, asking the Board Members to indicate if there was anyone in the room with them, as that was required under the right to know law. All Board Members attending indicated they were present and alone.

UNFISHED BUSINESS

Building Use

Ms. Honda explained that the purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion regarding the use of the Rye Elementary School by Rye Recreation for the purposes of hosting the Town of Rye's Summer Horyezons day camp. Ms. Honda said that due to the unknown factor of who would qualify for the extended school year, which could require full use of the Elementary School, Ms. Lee Arthur of the Rye Recreation Department was asked to tour the Junior High as an option. Ms. Honda asked Mr. Petralia to read Ms. Arthur's e-mail.

Mr. Petralia reviewed Ms. Arthur's email to Mr. Curtin, Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy, regarding the use of Rye Junior High for the Rye Recreation Summer Program. Mr. Petralia noted that Ms. Arthur visited the Junior High and determined that the playground equipment was not sufficient for the camp needs, as they would be following the State recommendations to maintain social distancing as much as possible in an outdoor space. Mr. Petralia continued to read Ms. Arthur's explanation of how the two age-appropriate playgrounds at Rye Elementary School accommodate the requirement and she asked the Board to approve or deny her request for the Elementary School use.

Ms. Honda explained that the Board needed to discuss and determine use.

Ms. Lull said the building would be used for Extended School Year, in which the playground would be used. Ms. Lull noted staff interest in summer school programming, but details were not finalized. Ms. Lull concluded that with the cleaning needs, she did not see how to accommodate a third group in the building.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Epperson, 324 West Road, explained that he had been working with Ms. Arthur on the request for use of the classrooms at the Elementary school. Mr. Epperson voiced that this program was a way to create some normalcy for the kids in the community. Mr. Epperson understood there were unknowns but expressed that they should give their best effort to provide the space to benefit the parents and kids.

Dr. Marion explained that the Board was looking at providing summer school programming. Mr. Epperson noted that he understood that programming for special needs was an unknown at this time, along with cleaning, but stressed that once numbers were quantified the Board should consider allowing Rye Recreation to use the rooms for camp.

Ms. Arthur said she thought a committee was going to meet to discuss all the options and she thought additional structures had been added to the Junior High. Ms. Arthur asked when the programming numbers be known.

Ms. Honda explained that the guidance originates from the State and there was very little insight on when the guidance would be coming. Ms. Honda clarified that the Board's intention for Mr. Curtin to meet with Ms. Arthur to visit the Junior High.

Ms. Arthur said she thought by April 15th one of the programs would be determined. Ms. Lull explained that the determination was on if Rye Elementary would be used but not who or the number of students who would be attending.

Ms. Arthur asked when the numbers would be known.

Ms. Honda expressed that the Board was hoping the option of the Junior High would be accepted because from what she is hearing from Ms. Lull, Rye Elementary wouldn't be able to accommodate another group in the building in July.

Ms. Moynahan agreed with Ms. Honda and she heard that Ms. Lull was saying she did not have the space to accommodate the program.

Ms. Arthur said she was willing to wait if there was a possibility of using the Elementary space, because the alternative was not to have a program.

Ms. Honda clarified with Ms. Arthur that she is stating Rye Junior High was not an option.

Ms. Arthur said the Elementary had the two rooms, the Rye Recreation equipment, a phone line, fridge and accommodated the needs.

Mr. Petralia explained the cleaning process required that rooms be sectioned off and furniture was placed in the halls which limited classroom space. Ms. Lull noted that cleaning with just the two programs would be difficult and take resources.

Mr. Epperson asked if this summer was alien to past years. Ms. Honda noted that the school had never been used during the summer, at least since Ms. Lull had been principal – at least seven years.

Mr. Epperson expressed the desire to work out some accommodation otherwise there would not be a program. Ms. Honda said the Board was offering an option with the Junior High.

Ms. Arthur said she could not run the program at the Junior High because she did not have the resources. Ms. Arthur explained that she looked at the playground and it would not accommodate her needs for the program.

Dr. Marion noted that the Board understood what Ms. Arthur was saying but they could not make it work at this time.

Ms. Arthur asked when the school was running their program. Dr. Marion explained that the planning was ongoing, and the timelines were not synchronizing. Ms. Honda noted the PTA program. Ms. Arthur asked if the PTA could run a longer program to accommodate the public.

Ms. Lull mentioned that Rye Recreation program covered the month of July and 2 weeks in August. Ms. Lull explained that she did not believe that the PTA was looking at running all summer and she would not be able to accommodate the PTA all summer.

Ms. Arthur asked if reducing the number of weeks for the program would help. Ms. Lull said not during July.

Mr. Curtin summarized that the Elementary School was not an option, that the Junior High space was the only option but barring use of that space there were not any options. Mr. Curtin offered again to visit the Junior High space to look at what accommodations could be done at that site, but if there was no interest in doing that visit then the only option was to deny the request.

Mr. Epperson noted that there was not flexibility at the Elementary school and options at the Junior High would need to be explored or a determination to not have the program. Mr. Epperson suggested seeing what the obstacles are at the Junior High. Ms. Arthur said she had a limited budget and could not commit to something she was not able to use.

Mr. Epperson asked what the specific issues were at the Junior High. Ms. Honda noted that they had not toured the space. Ms. Arthur explained that the equipment was at the Elementary School, the proximity, the children know the space, separate parking lots and playgrounds. Ms. Arthur said that if the space she requested was not

available and they could not wait longer for numbers, but from what she heard it would not work regardless of the numbers.

Dr. Marion reviewed the need to address learning due to the circumstances and the Board had asked the staff to create summer programming to assist with the learning needs, the staff was working on that programming and the space was limited.

Mr. Epperson suggested that he and Ms. Arthur discuss and review with the Board of Selectman.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to deny the application for Rye Recreation for usage of the Elementary school for summer program 2021. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Dr. Marion urged Ms. Arthur and Mr. Epperson to look at the Junior High. Mr. Epperson explained that this was a small town, but issues arise from time to time, but this would not interfere with or dictate any hard feelings.

OTHER

None

ADJOURNMENT/NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to adjourn. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

*Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Panek
April 6, 2021*

Matt Curtin

Matt Curtin, Secretary

2021-05-17

Date

Signature Certificate

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Document signed by:

	<p>Matt Curtin Verified E-mail: mcurtin@sau50.org</p>	
<p>IP: 73.149.191.73 Date: 18 May 2021 01:01:02 UTC</p>		

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