

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840
Phone (603) 422-9572 Fax (603) 422-9575

To be approved by the Rye School Board at the January 20, 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 Monday, January 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent

Visitors: Andrea Papoutsy

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 attend, however public access was being provided through telephone and video electronic means through Google Meets.

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 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 noted that the meeting would be rescheduled if the public was unable to access the meeting. Ms. Honda took roll call attendance and asked Board to indicate if there was anyone in the room with them.

NEW BUSINESS

Logistics for Deliberative Session

Ms. Honda explained the purpose of the meeting based on correspondence between Attorney Robert Eaton and members of the Rye School Board. Ms. Honda asked Dr. Marion to summarize options that the Board should consider regarding the Deliberative Session and Town Meeting. Dr. Marion mentioned email communications he had with Robert Eaton, Town Moderator.

Option 1 would convene the deliberative session as usual with the election to follow. That would require that the deliberative session be held between January 30th and February 6th. That option was discussed at length by the Select Board Given the current threat from the Covid-19 pandemic, and based on the latest medical advice, it appeared to be the consensus of the Select Board that pursuing this option would be an unwise and unsafe path to pursue.

Option 2 would follow guidance in HB1129. That would permit the Board to conduct two virtual meetings followed by a “drive-up” election. Although the law does not expressly say it, it is presumed

that this option would track basically the same schedule. Dr. Marion mentioned that Mr. Eaton was strongly opposed to Option 2.

Option 3 provides a postponement requirement. RSA 40:4, II, provides that, if an "emergency occurs which the moderator reasonably believes may make the use of the meeting location unsafe, the moderator may, at any time prior to the scheduled deliberative . . . session, postpone and reschedule the session to a date, place, and time certain." The deliberative session cannot be postponed for more than 72 hours. However, if the emergency still exists on the postponed date, the moderator can postpone for another 72 hours, and so on until the emergency no longer exists. Dr. Marion indicated that Mr. Eaton supports Option 3 and suggested that the Rye School Board follow a similar plan.

Ms. Honda asked Mr. Petralia to summarize his communications with Attorney Michael Elwell, who offered guidance on employment contracts typically issued each spring as well as district spending if the FY 2022 budget is not passed until July 2021. Mr. Petralia mentioned that RSA 189:14-a sets the non-renewal notification deadline as April 15th, or fifteen days after the adoption of the budget by the legislative body (but no later than the Friday after the second Tuesday in May), whichever is later. Further, Paragraph 3 of the Governor’s Emergency Order # 38 waives the prohibition on notice after the Friday following the second Tuesday in May. If the Rye School Board postpones the annual meeting pursuant to Emergency Order #83, Emergency Order #38 will allow the District until fifteen days after the voting session takes place to issue non-renewal notices to teachers.

Regarding district spending, Mr. Petralia mentioned an email communication with Sheryl Pratt, from the auditing firm Plodzik & Sanderson. Guidance from Ms. Pratt indicated that the District would continue spending the current FY 2021 and not use, make purchases, or engage in contracted services with FY 2022 funds until the budget is approved at Town Meeting.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to change the date of the Rye School District Deliberative Session from February 2, 2021 to June 1, 2021. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Roll Call Vote:4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

*Salvatore Petralia
February 3, 2021*

DocuSigned by:

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Matt Curtin, Secretary

2/20/2021
Date