

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

Board members present: J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, T. O'Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, S. Reber, K. Roberts, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: B. Bailey, D. Baker, P. Ingvoldstad. Others: T. Bailey, C. Hindes, J. Teegarden, M. Frederick.

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

1. *Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements and Public Input*  
D. Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:37.
2. *Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting)*  
**ACTION: W. Sander moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by S. Reber, and the motion was passed, with S. Hamlyn-Prescott and K. Roberts abstaining, as they were not at the previous meeting.**
3. *Directors' Orders*  
**ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$119,301.74, and the motion was seconded.** The breakdown was as follows: GMTCC Building Project \$20,181.30; District #18 \$99,121.44 (major expenditure \$20,204.86 Village of Hyde Park – electric.) The Sweeney House electric bill was much less than the previous year's, but still almost \$250, which D. Osborn thought seemed high. Others offered explanations for why the bill might be that high. Nothing for Black River Design was included in the orders. M. Frederick said the advertising we did for the network tech specialist was discovered to have been billed too high in error after D. Osborn commented on the amount, and the extra amount was recently reimbursed. **The motion was passed.**
4. *Administrative Action Items*
  - A. **High School**  
M. Frederick had a contract between Eden and LUSD #18 for OT services for the board's approval.  
**ACTION: J. Eisenhardt moved to authorize the clerk to sign the contract with Eden for Occupational Therapy services, seconded by W. Sander.** T. Bailey explained that the OT was hired by Eden, and they pay all her salary, but subcontract her out. D. Osborn asked, does the OT get reimbursed for mileage when she travels to other schools? M. Frederick and T. Bailey said yes. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, does the contract infringe on our contract with Copley for OT? M. Frederick said no. Copley has not been able to provide all the contract services we need. **The motion was passed.**  
  
D. Whitcomb said B. Schaffer told him test scores will be discussed by administration and teachers on the in-service day April 4, and he will report on them to the board in the future.

**B. GMTCC**

J. Teegarden said that when it was discovered that the new lighting in the tech center was inadequate, Black River suggested a fix that has been piloted in a classroom, but we didn't like it. They said the fix was expected to cost \$48K fix, of which they expected us to pay \$42K, but the board moved not to pay them any more unless it was agreed upon at a full board meeting. Black River design came back today with another solution, which we are going to pursue. We will replace all lights in the regular classrooms, and add lights in the heavy tech area. Black River Design agreed to outfit one regular classroom and one heavy tech classroom with the new lighting so we can be sure it is okay. They also came back with a different financial package. They are now asking us to pay about \$13K. M. Frederick has been asked to look into ways to lower that further. J. Teegarden will come to a future meeting with a proposal for the board to vote on. K. Roberts asked, what are they basing our contribution on? J. Teegarden said the \$13K is the difference between the cost of the original fixtures and the cost of the new solution. W. Sander said we contracted for a properly outfitted building, and shouldn't pay more than what we originally contracted to pay.

There will be an open house at GMTCC March 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. The governor will be there, and Dick Cross and T. Bailey will speak. Saturday, March 29, there will be an open house for the general public from 11-3.

**C. Central Office**

M. Frederick said it had been suggested we might want to change the wording or order of the articles in the warning. She said she didn't think we should change the article that says officers will give reports. Now that we have our own tax rate, the wording of Article IX should be changed. We don't have to continue having an informational meeting in addition to the annual meeting. We only have to have one meeting 10 days prior to the actual vote. The annual meeting does not always have to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in February. S. Reber said at some point we should discuss how to attract more people to the annual meeting. The officers' reports could just be in the printed report. At the meeting, we could have more substantial reports, e.g. administrators talking about curriculum or assessment results. J. Eisenhardt said he is in favor of just abiding by the statute. Attendance at the meetings is poor; it is ridiculous to have a second meeting. D. Osborn suggested that, in addition to the warning, we could put something in the paper explaining in ordinary language what the annual meeting is. The public can't tell from the warning what is going to happen at the meeting. K. Roberts said the original purpose of holding meetings in two places was to make it easier for people to attend. Can we use technology to disseminate the information – maybe use the cable station to televise the meeting, even if it wasn't live? She agrees that there is no purpose in having the board and administration come out twice. D. Osborn

wondered if we could add something to the warnings indicating there would be a report from the board – something more informational, like what S. Reber had suggested. D. Griffiths said the policy manual T. Bailey had distributed referred to the board chair and vice chair as officers, so she thought a report from the board could be included under the warning about reports from officers. D. Whitcomb said we don't need an auditor as a district officer. M. Frederick agreed we don't need one, since we are required to hire an outside auditor every year. T. Bailey said what might bring people out to the meeting may have to be something other than the real purpose of the meeting. J. Eisenhardt said we used to get 100-120 people. W. Sander said people don't seem to feel the need for more information before they vote than what is in the report we mail out. He doesn't think most voters need to come to the meeting. He agrees we should have only one meeting. J. Eisenhardt said the staff and community relations committee will work with M. Frederick on any changes. There was general agreement that moving to one meeting would be good.

T. Bailey said Monday, March 24, will be the next LNSU meeting. He has put the LNSU policy manual in the VSBA-recommended format.

5. ***Committee Reports***

A. **Policy Committee**

S. Reber said the committee would like to be more proactive, and thought it might be time for a review of the policy book. They would like approval for the idea that they would go through the policy with the administrators and use a couple of rules of thumb: They would try to remove procedures when they are not mandated by law, and try to clarify the roles of the board and administrators. The board agreed with that approach.

B. **Finance Committee**

T. Bailey said the the closing on the Sweeney House will be Friday. It looks like a check for \$150.88 as proration of rent will need to be cut between now and Friday.

M. Frederick said our biggest budget concern over the past couple of months has been that it looked like SPED revenues were down. They did a projection through the end of year. SPED staff spent 98.5% of their time on reimbursable activities, which is a great figure. Decreased revenues are offset by reduced expenditures, and that should hold true through the rest of the year.

J. Eisenhardt asked if anyone else wanted to volunteer for the finance committee. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the meetings are usually before 5 PM. The next one is Monday, March 24, at 2:30. K. Roberts said she will attend finance committee meetings when she can.

6. ***Other Business***

K. Roberts said when she was with VSBA in Washington, they spoke with Bernie Sanders about how high our electric bill is. His office is interested in an initiative

that would increase federal funding. Several groups will be having a monthly telephone meeting with federal representatives.

7. ***Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn***

A. **Future Agenda Items**

D. Whitcomb said most board members know the ins and outs of Robert's Rules of Order. VSBA has a Powerpoint on Robert's Rules. How much do people want to know? He's concerned about how we handle reconsideration. S. Reber said over the past year we don't seem to have had issues with Robert's Rules; he doesn't feel the need for training. D. Whitcomb suggested that if questions come up, people could call Carrie Lamb. K. Roberts asked if we could create a lending library of DVD's, etc. T. Bailey said yes. There is a library available to teachers; it could be available to the board, too. J. Teegarden said the board ought to consider if it really wants to have its meetings run by Robert's Rules. He doesn't feel Robert's Rules are being followed now. People interject and have side conversations. W. Sander said Robert's Rules for small groups are more lax. He thinks we are pretty well sticking with them. D. Osborn would like more information on how we could live by Robert's Rules. She said we have fallen into traditions that may not be in line with them. D. Whitcomb said we have to have a problem we want to correct. He can get some material people can read over. He thinks that's the way to go, rather than having a training session.

B. Penberthy said the Waterville town clerk has requested that Australian ballot counting be reconfigured so it doesn't take so long. M. Frederick said the secretary of state had suggested asking the legislature to change the statute so that the ballots could be delivered for commingling and counting by someone other than members of the Board of Civil Authority – perhaps any two taxpayers. The secretary of state also indicated she had some federal money which with she could buy a ballot voting machine for us, and she is willing to do so. We would just have to pay about \$400 to configure it for our articles. It would have to be at one of our polling places. We would keep it there and have people deliver ballots to that locale to put in the machine. W. Sander said Cambridge was the last town to deliver its ballots. They had more than a third of the total votes, and they had to reconcile the votes before delivering the ballots. It wouldn't have made any difference who brought them. M. Frederick said there might be people who would be more willing to stay up late for the ballot counting than many members of the Board of Civil Authority. K. Roberts said Hyde Park has resoundingly rejected electronic balloting. T. Bailey said there were 50% more ballots than ever before, and Cambridge arrived about 2 minutes before 9:00. He strongly supports the idea of commingling the ballots, rather than having each town count its own. The machine M. Frederick mentioned, as he understands it, just counts ballots. People could still use paper ballots. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked how to move forward with a legislative change. M. Frederick said she can come

up with some language and bring it back. W. Sander said this kind of machine is much more accurate than counting by hand, and we would still have a paper trail. We could put it in one place and make that where all ballots were commingled. K. Roberts says she doesn't think a change to allow someone other than Board of Civil Authority members to deliver ballots is one the board would necessarily support. D. Whitcomb said there is a reason for the Board of Civil Authority; it is a security issue. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, could we suggest that members of each town who serve on the Board of Civil Authority have this discussion? T. Bailey said it is a problem of attitude in his opinion. Staying up to count votes is part of the job that has to be done by members of the Board of Civil Authority.

J. Eisenhardt said he would like to schedule a staff and community relations committee meeting right after the first April meeting.

**B. Adjourn**

**ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:40, and the motion was passed.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 3/18/08:

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  - A. **High School**  
**ACTION: J. Eisenhardt moved to authorize the clerk to sign the contract with Eden for OT services, seconded by W. Sander. The motion was passed.**
7. ***Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn***
  - B. **Adjourn**  
**ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:40, and the motion was passed.**