

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LAMOILLE UNION LIBRARY
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

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

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements and Public Input*

A. Call to Order – 6:26

B. Announcements

J. Teegarden said the National Technological Honor Society induction ceremony is tonight at 7:00 at GMTCC. Last Wednesday there was an open house with the governor, and there was another open house Saturday. The Wednesday event included a ribbon cutting using a contraption built by HVAC students. Dick Cross, T. Bailey, and Governor Douglas spoke. There was a reception and tours, and hors d'oeuvres, cakes etc. prepared by the culinary kids. Saturday was too windy for the ribbon cutting to work well. J. Teegarden estimates 300-400 people came that day. D. Whitcomb said he thought Wednesday's open house was very well done. He heard a lot of people say how nice the building was. (*J. Teegarden left at 6:30.*)

2. *Action – Review and Approval of Negotiated Side Letter Regarding the Future of LNSU 401(a) Retirement Plan*

G. Chicoine distributed copies of a revised project plan. He added a possible retirement planning and investment session with an explanation of the new plan on August 18, 2008. With the support of the boards, he would like to make the session mandatory, or at least strongly suggested, and people would get paid for attending it. He summarized the side letter that has been negotiated. We are offering an incentive to save for the first time. In addition, for next year only, we will kick in an extra percent in contributions for individuals who roll over their funds into the new plan and contribute 4% of their salary. D. Osborn asked why it is advantageous to us for our employees to have this retirement plan. G. Chicoine said most employers offer some retirement plan. His perception is that this one hasn't been very effective. We haven't coupled it with education. K. Roberts said it's something we're already doing, but not many people recognize it as a benefit. The required changes gave us the opportunity to try to turn it into an understandable benefit. D. Osborn asked, what's the benefit to us? G. Chicoine said, why offer any benefits? To make employment more desirable.

W. Sander moved to approve the negotiated side letter of agreement between LNSU and the School Boards of Hyde Park and the Lamoille Union School District and the The Lamoille North Education Association/VTNEA regarding termination of the 401(a) plan, and the motion was seconded and passed.

3. ***Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the March 18th Meeting and Acceptance of Administration Reports)***

B. Schaffer said the new Homework Central on the school website shows every homework assignment from every teacher. They will try it for a year and see how it works out. D. Baker asked if he has had any feedback from parents. B. Schaffer said they love it. K. Roberts asked, what do the kids think? B. Schaffer said their opinions are mixed.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to accept the consent agenda, D. Whitcomb seconded, and the motion was passed.

4. ***Directors' Orders***

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$614,420.77, seconded by W. Sander. The breakdown was as follows: GMTCC Building Project \$259,139.59 (major expenditure - \$228,066.00 DEW Construction), VOC Bldg. Trades \$4,113.22, District #18 \$351,167.96 (major expenditure - \$134,411.68 LNSU 4th Quarter.) She noted the low electric bill for the Hardwick site - lower than central office's bill. **The motion was passed.**

5. ***Administrative Action Items***

A. **Middle School**

Cory Rockwood gave birth this morning, 2 weeks early. Fortunately, her sub had been shadowing her and was prepared to take over. Lori Lisai is pregnant for the second time. She has requested extended leave starting in August. She is asking for an additional 35 days without pay. We have approved such requests in the past.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to approve extended leave for Lori Lisai for Fall 2008, and the motion was seconded. K. Roberts asked when she is due. C. Hindes said the end of August or the beginning of September. D. Osborn asked, would Mrs. Burke substitute for her? C. Hindes said that is yet to be decided. **The motion was passed.**

B. **High School**

ACTION: W. Sander moved to go into executive session for a personnel matter with administration remaining at 6:52, seconded by B. Bailey, and the motion was passed. The board consented out of session at 6:57.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to accept the administration's recommendation for a medical leave of absence, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.

C. **Central Office**

T. Bailey said the electricity was out at central office for part of the day. We got an energy efficiency grant for about \$23K. The new buildings save electricity because they don't burn any unnecessary lights; the lights go off automatically after a while. There will be a DVD available for people who missed last Wednesday's ceremony.

M. Frederick distributed a financial output review list, showing the frequency with which different outputs are reviewed, and which components are reviewed, in order to prevent mistakes. The cutoff for purchase orders

is May 15. They are looking at different procedures to make sure we are in compliance with federal grants. They will be clarifying procedures in writing. K. Roberts asked, in addition to placing signatures and initials on documents that are reviewed, can dates be added? M. Frederick said yes.

6. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

A. **Curriculum Committee**

W. Sander said the committee is examining NECAP results and what they mean and don't mean, and discussing how our results compare with People's and Stowe. B. Schaffer said once the state has established annual measurable objectives and once the action plan is developed, he will have a presentation for the board, probably in May. C. Hindes said he is working on the NECAP data now and will be part of that presentation. Teams are aware of individual students' scores and have the released items. W. Sander said the committee will be examining whether lack of an integrated curriculum may be having an impact. He said we have to realize that at some point we will be labelled a failing school, because the bar eventually gets so high that everyone will be there.

B. **Finance Committee**

B. Schaffer distributed a cost proposal for Powerschool, a student information software package. Three viable replacements for our current student software, which is no longer being supported, were examined. The consensus of those at the HS, MS, and GMTCC was to go with Powerschool, due to its ease of use and accessibility, and the fact that we would get everything we need in one package. At AdCo it was discussed that most of the elementary schools have been using WinSchool, the discontinued program. The HS has enough money budgeted for this purchase to purchase the software for the whole SU, along with a server capable of hosting it. For the first time, all the LNSU schools could be on a consolidated platform, allowing data sharing. We could track students as they move between schools. All the principals have agreed they'd be willing to use Powerschool.

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to authorize purchase of Powerschool SIS for all the LNSU schools, as well as a server, seconded by J. Eisenhardt.

D. Osborn asked if the discussion at AdCo gave any idea about how many transient students come from within the SU as opposed to from outside. B. Schaffer said there seem to be a lot of students moving within the SU, but they didn't discuss numbers. Different schools may use different components of the software initially. The HS will initially focus on attendance. M. Frederick said all our students are transient in a way, because they all come from their elementary schools to this campus. K. Roberts said even if a child moves in from another district, J. Woodard will be able to bring in at least the assessment data for that child. B. Bailey asked, does anyone else in the state have Powerschool – any other union districts? B. Schaffer said, because of WinSchool folding, a lot of schools are going with new systems, and a lot are going with Powerschool, which

is the biggest system out there. B. Bailey asked if he has personally used it. He said he brought it to his previous school. T. Bailey said the principals have all committed to committing personnel to get training. Every teacher could use this as their grade book application. With all schools using the same program, we will have enough critical mass of trained people to help each other. This is probably as cost effective as we could get. T. Bailey said once all children are involved, it will be up to the LNSU board to decide whether the LNSU should pay the annual fees for Powerschool in the future. That would cut down on paperwork. P. Ingvaldstad asked, is there any reason not to do this through the RAB? T Bailey said the RAB includes 3 districts. M. Frederick said each district would still be the legal entity that would have to approve the purchase. D. Osborn asked if mileage fees for consultants are included in the estimate for services. B. Schaffer and M. Frederick said yes. J. Eisenhardt said the question of how to involve parents has been coming up for a long time, and this is a step in that direction. **A friendly amendment was agreed to, clarifying that the board authorizes \$40,000 to be spent to purchase Powerschool licensure for the whole SU, training, and hardware – the amount budgeted for student software next fiscal year, though the purchase will be made in this fiscal year.** M. Frederick feels comfortable with that amount. P. Ingvaldstad asked about student security – is there some protection? B. Schaffer said yes. M. Frederick said protection includes firewalls, encryption, and appropriate personnel who know how to deal with security. B. Schaffer said within the software, there are different levels of users with different access permissions. **The motion was passed.**

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

A. **Future Agenda Items**

D. Whitcomb said at the last meeting the board decided it was not necessary to have a training session on Robert's Rules. He has a Robert's Rules info sheet he would like to have copied and sent to everyone.

D. Baker asked if the closing for the Sweeney House had happened. T. Bailey said the closing went fine. M. Frederick said so far it appears we made \$205,562.06, but bills are still coming in, and the amount is not finalized. W. Sander said we can be grateful to Hirchak's for charging 4%, not the standard 6% they could have charged. T. Bailey said Susan Martin was the realtor who showed the house and actually sold it.

B. **Adjourn**

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:43, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 4/1/08:

2. *Action – Review and Approval of Negotiated Side Letter Regarding the Future of LNSU 401(a) Retirement Plan*
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 - B. *Adjourn*
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