

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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. Reber, S. Hamlyn-Prescott. Others: T. Bailey, C. Hindes, B. Schaffer, M. Frederick, G. Chicoine, M. Spaulding, Cathy Frankfurter, David Hallquist.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Input

A. Call to Order – 6:29

B. Adopt the Agenda

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed agenda, and the motion was passed.

2. Scholar’s Bowl Recognition

B. Schaffer said the LU Scholars’ Bowl team has had a stupendous season. He introduced English teacher Cathy Frankfurter, the Scholars’ Bowl coach. She explained that the Scholars’ Bowl is an academic competition that promotes excellence in academics and good sportsmanship. This year our team made it to the championship playoff, which is further than Lamoille has ever come before. She introduced the team members, and P. Ingvaldstad presented each of them with a certificate. C. Frankfurter said our captain is on the VT All-Star team and will be going to Florida to compete in the National Panasonic Challenge.

3. Consent Agenda Items

ACTION: D. Baker moved to accept the consent agenda, and the motion was seconded. J. Eisenhardt said that the dissenting vote on the motion to pay Black River Design \$6,420 was made by D. Whitcomb, not himself. It was also noted that the name of the Belvidere chair who resigned is Kathy Hobart, not Kathy Holbrook. **The motion to accept the consent agenda with minutes amended as noted was passed.**

4. Directors’ Orders

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors’ orders in the amount of \$526,602.21, and the motion was seconded. The breakdown was as follows: GMTCC Building Project \$281,472.62 (major expenditure - \$259,102.05 DEW Construction); VOC Bldg. Trades \$5,050.19; District #18 \$240,079.40 (major expenditures - \$12,491.93 Cambridge Town School Dist.; \$42,501.27 First Student; \$14,414.00 Hewlett Packard Express Service; \$21,340.66 Laraway Youth \$ Family Services; \$20,961.65 Village of Hyde Park.) **The motion was passed.**

5. Administrative Action Items

A. GMTCC

Introductions were made for the benefit of David Hallquist, president of the Vermont Electric Co-op. D. Hallquist said that the VT Electric Co-op is working on a variety of renewable energy projects, and he is proud of GMTCC’s leadership in developing a renewable energy program. One problem electric companies are having is finding replacement workers for an aging workforce.

As we go to local renewable resources, dollars will come into the local economy. Renewable energy programs will create employment opportunities for young people coming into the workforce. We need a workforce that can install and service renewable energy resources. This year the Co-op hired a graduate from GMTCC's HVAC program. T. Bailey said that J. Teegarden was unable to attend tonight. He said D. Hallquist is chairman of the advisory committee for the new electrical technology program. Dennis Downer, an electrical inspector with IBM, with 24 years of experience, has agreed to come on board as the new electrical technology instructor. He is highly regarded and the committee endorsed him 100%. We are fortunate to have someone of this caliber. D. Hallquist said that D. Downer is an amazing certified trainer.

ACTION: D. Whitcomb moved to hire D. Downer as electrical technology instructor, and the motion was seconded. K. Roberts asked how many students are enrolled in the program. D. Hallquist said 9 so far. M. Spaulding asked where the program will be housed. T. Bailey said where electronics used to be. D. Whitcomb asked how many students the program can take. T. Bailey said a maximum of 16. P. Ingvaldstad said he is excited about the new program and thanked D. Hallquist for his support. **The motion was passed.** *(D. Hallquist left at 6:51.)*

B. Middle School

Science NECAPs have been completed. It has been impossible to fill the 1.0 FTE position that was to be split between math and reading, and there is a growing need around math, so C. Hinds is going to be searching for a full time math teacher. W. Sander said he liked the idea of a full time math teacher, but was troubled by not having someone to help with reading remediation. C. Hinds said they can use the English teacher in the Discovery program to provide reading support. The new teacher will relieve her of math responsibilities. He thinks that will be sufficient. W. Sander asked how NECAP makeup sessions are staffed. C. Hinds said he supervises them. W. Sander said he understands that students are scored zero if they don't take the NECAP. C. Hinds said that is right. All our students have taken it. The action plan is well in order. The 8th graders leave tomorrow for NYC, accompanied by parent chaperones, faculty members, tour guides, and Chris Miller.

C. Hinds talked about planned summer school courses and how the HS and GMTCC have supported MS summer school plans. In addition to regular summer school, there will be an online high school prep course called EdOptions. B. Schaffer said this is a service we purchased, and we are taking it in a direction outside what it is typically used for. The course is targeting students who could use a boost from their current level of function. There is also a Transitions course for incoming freshmen, with a concentration in language arts and math. It will be for 12-15 students who need additional support in order to be ready for high school. EdOptions is for students who need skill strengthening, and Transitions is for those who need remediation. C. Hinds is asking teams to identify 2-3 students each who would benefit from Transitions due to demonstrated academic failure, behavioral issues, and lack of progress.

B. Schaffer said they can add more sections if needed. C. Hindes said Liam Callahan will be one of the Transitions teachers. He doesn't know yet who the others will be.

C. Central Office

G. Chicoine reminded everyone about the LNSU meeting on May 29 at 6 PM, and appealed to as many as possible to attend so we can have a quorum. There will be two important resolutions to vote on. One is to adopt the side letter of agreement with union groups to terminate the 401(a) plan for central office staff. The other is to adopt AIG Retirement as the primary, but not sole, vendor. This is the recommendation of the retirement planning subcommittee. There is a possibility that some teachers may be here to express their opinions. G. Chicoine will also ask for board approval to require support staff to attend a 2 hour (paid time) retirement plan info session during the in-service week.

There was a personnel committee meeting tonight on a single issue. T. O'Hear explained the issue. Joyce Cleveland has been with us for 20 years and has a lot of sick time accumulated. She is nearing retirement, but there is no provision in her contract for a sick leave buyout.

ACTION: T. O'Hear moved to approve a sick leave buyout for Joyce Cleveland in the amount of \$25 per day for up to 100 days, with a maximum of \$2,500, to be paid out in thirds upon her retirement, and the motion was seconded. W. Sander asked, what precedent does this set? G. Chicoine said J. Cleveland is one of only 3 people who don't have some kind of sick leave buyout now, so precedent setting is not an issue. **The motion was passed.**

M. Frederick discussed financials. End of the year reminders have been sent out to administrators. The purchase order deadline is May 15. There has been a lot more scrutiny from the state and the auditors. The auditors will scrutinize any expenditures from June, July, or August, maybe even from September. They may question whether some purchases really belong to next year's budget. Reports on open purchase orders have been run and sent to administrators to see if they are still needed. We need to get vendor invoices and time cards by June 30.

T. Bailey reminded everyone again about the May 29 LNSU meeting. He urged everyone to look over the packet, which will include LNSU policies. He hopes we can warn them at the next meeting.

T. Bailey said it has come to our attention recently that some drivers who may be contracted to transport students, for instance with private taxi companies, may not have had criminal background checks. In the future our contracts will have provisions requiring that. Central office will help administrators make sure that's being done with all subcontractors.

D. High School

B. Schaffer showed the board a presentation that he had given to the junior and sophomore classes on NECAP results. After the presentation, he asked the students to pair up – one sophomore and one junior – and discuss three questions: whether the NECAP results are an accurate representation the abilities of LUHS students, what were some differences between previous assessments and the new NECAPs, and what is one good strategy for preparing for standardized assessments? Students felt NECAP results did not accurately represent LUHS students' abilities. Some differences from previous assessments they noted were: NECAPs have extended writing prompts in all content areas, you must show all work, human scoring means subjectivity, and NECAPs are untimed. B. Schaffer gave the students information about practice tests and resources.

LUHS did not meet AYP for reading or math. B. Schaffer described how LUHS is responding through its action plan. The plan is currently in draft form. There will be a parent meeting on the action plan next Wednesday.

B. Schaffer said he thinks student attitudes toward the NECAP are changing. K. Roberts asked, have we seen Morrisville's and Stowe's action plans? B. Schaffer said no, but he can find out about them. W. Sander asked, how different are our demographics from People's? B. Schaffer said we may have more students eligible for free and reduced lunch, but he doesn't think we are very different. T. Bailey said we have a higher poverty level and more free and reduced lunch. The percentage of our students who apply is 28%, but 37-38% are eligible. B. Schaffer said when the state decides on consequences for schools that don't meet AYP, there are two different ways to proceed. For schools who receive Title I funds, there is a specific course of action they will need to take, which is not required for those not receiving Title I funds. Some schools reject receiving those funds.

D. Osborn thanked B. Schaffer for presenting NECAP information to students, and addressing the root problem that our students *are* being left behind. She finds it frustrating to hear why the results shouldn't matter. P. Ingvoldstad applauded B. Schaffer's strategy. He has wondered about using a strategy like the NY Regents exam, where it affects graduation. D. Baker said so much effort has been put into top students or SPED students that average students haven't been getting the help they need. C. Hinder read an email from a LUMS language arts teacher, who said she felt the action plan was a huge step forward for LUMS. She said for the first time, she feels real direction and guidance about what she should be teaching and covering. D. Osborn suggested encouraging students to know their NECAP score, and also encouraging parents, and ideally teachers, to know students' scores. B. Schaffer said students and the school received reports on their results. But with the advent of PowerSchool information like that will be more available. W. Sander asked if we can break down results to areas of weakness. B. Schaffer said yes. On the recent pro-

professional development day staff used the information they got back from the state to do that. Results are broken down by individual student, and we can take students' responses – individual and aggregate – and determine whether we are missing something. This is useful with department level instructors. W. Sander said the NECAP makes a great diagnostic tool for individual instruction. K. Roberts said this information was available from the NSRE's. This data has always been available.

B. Schaffer said a lot of energy is going into preparing for the graduation ceremony, which will be June 14 at 11 AM. P. Ingvaldstad asked, who is the speaker? B. Schaffer said S. Fortune. T. Bailey will also give a presentation. J. Eisenhardt said the location for GMTCC graduation has changed. W. Sander asked for B. Schaffer's best guess at the number of graduating students. He estimated about 145 – above 90%.

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

E. Policy Committee

Three policies have been under revision. Revised versions will be in the packet sent out before the next meeting.

F. Staff and Community Relations Committee

The teacher recognition luncheon will be on June 19. P. Ingvaldstad told B. Schaffer he would need to plan for awards, and B. Schaffer said he has been planning for them.

G. Cricket Hill Building Committee

K. Roberts said the committee met today. They discussed what each group was looking for, and some designs M. Spaulding had put together, and will meet again in two weeks. The ski program occupies one bay of the garage that was moved. It was decided not to insulate the building, but the ski program feels the building needs to be heatable, and they requested that the board be asked to return the insulation. J. Eisenhardt said the insulation created a mold problem. If the ski team needs heat, they could get a small salamander. They don't need insulation. W. Sander said he wouldn't recommend a salamander. He suggested they should just use a heater and not leave windows and doors open, and they won't notice the lack of insulation. J. Eisenhardt said insulation will absorb moisture. P. Ingvaldstad said rigid insulation won't. J. Eisenhardt said that's not what Mike from DEW said. D. Osborn asked, does the ski program want to be able to use both the old building and the new building? K. Roberts said the new building can't meet all their needs because all starts will occur here, so they still need one bay. The new building will house a maintenance bay, the bike program, grooming equipment, and perhaps central office storage. M. Spaulding said an extra bay was added to the garage because the ski program lost the other building they used to use. The ski program felt strongly that the space should have the ability to stay heated at all times. The Cricket Hill building committee passed a motion to ask the board to ask DEW to return the building to the condition it was in before the water issue.

ACTION: K. Roberts moved that the board act on the recommendation of the Cricket Hill building committee and consider asking DEW to insulate

the yellow building again as before the water incident. The motion was not seconded.

7. ***Legislative Update***

K. Roberts listed some bills that were recently passed. There was one on teen parent education funding. A larger amount of money follows kids on a prorated basis, which could have an impact here. There was one on school breakfasts. Funds have been added to make sure eligible kids eat breakfast. There was a bill that permits students to carry some medication with a doctor request. There was one requiring that a private space other than a bathroom must be provided for nursing mothers to express breast-milk, and they must be allowed time off to do so. The moratorium on capital construction continues. There is money for energy audits. K. Roberts suggested we explore an energy audit. M. Spaulding said we have had them. All adults on campus are now mandatory reporters for child abuse. Some education and training on that will be needed for paras and others. There is a new animal dissection bill which requires procedure and policy allowing students to opt out, and a plan to notify students about dissection activities in advance and create alternate coursework and assessments. School districts that do not operate a school will not be subject to the excess spending penalty. A bill provides a way to begin the process of dissolving supervisory unions without voter approval. VSBA has been having a monthly phone conference with staffers from federal legislators. A Medicaid bill could affect our DOE. In the next stimulus package, there will be some money for green school initiatives. M. Frederick said state-level legislation addressing the new 403(b) regs was passed.

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

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:24, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 5/20/08:

1. ***Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Input***
 - B. ***Adopt the Agenda***
ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed agenda, and the motion was passed.
3. ***Consent Agenda Items***
ACTION: D. Baker moved to accept the consent agenda, and the motion was seconded. J. Eisenhardt said that the dissenting vote on the motion to pay Black River Design \$6,420 was made by D. Whitcomb, not himself. It was also noted that the name of the Belvidere chair who resigned is Kathy Hobart, not Kathy Holbrook. **The motion to accept the consent agenda with minutes amended as noted was passed.**
4. ***Directors' Orders***
ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$526,602.21, and the motion was seconded. The breakdown was as follows: GMTCC Building Project \$281,472.62 (major expenditure - \$259,102.05 DEW Construction); VOC Bldg. Trades \$5,050.19; District #18 \$240,079.40 (major expenditures - \$12,491.93 Cambridge Town School Dist.; \$42,501.27 First Student; \$14,414.00 Hewlett Packard Express Service; \$21,340.66 Laraway Youth \$ Family Services; \$20,961.65 Village of Hyde Park.) **The motion was passed.**
5. ***Administrative Action Items***
 - A. ***GMTCC***
ACTION: D. Whitcomb moved to hire D. Downer as electrical technology instructor, and the motion was seconded. The motion was passed.
 - C. ***Central Office***
ACTION: T. O'Hear moved to approve a sick leave buyout for Joyce Cleveland in the amount of \$25 per day for up to 100 days, with a maximum of \$2,500, to be paid out in thirds upon her retirement, and the motion was seconded. The motion was passed.
6. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***
 - C. ***Cricket Hill Building Committee***
ACTION: K. Roberts moved that the board act on the recommendation of the Cricket Hill building committee and consider asking DEW to insulate the yellow building again as before the water incident. The motion was not seconded.
8. ***Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn***
ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:24, and the motion passed.