

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LAMOILLE UNION LIBRARY
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, P. Ingvaldstad, C. Mann, D. Osborn, S. Reber, K. Roberts, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: C. Hickory. Others: T. Bailey, J. Teegarden, M. Spaulding, M. Frederick, Robin Gouin (6:50).

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

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

A. Call to Order – 6:30

B. Announcements

P. Ingvaldstad sent around a sheet for everyone who had had confidentiality training to put their names on. He said that T. Bailey could provide the training after the meeting for anyone who had not had it.

2. *Directors' Orders and Minutes of the Meeting*

A. Minutes of the June 5th Meeting

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve the minutes of June 5, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed.

B. Directors' Orders

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$4,185,258.51, seconded by K. Roberts. The breakdown was as follows: VOC Bldg. Trades \$11,167.70; GMTCC Building Project \$846,615.36; District #18 \$3,327,475.45. Notable expenditures included: \$839,134.98 DEW Construction; U. of VT \$9,310.00; LUHS Internal Account \$10,996.97; Village of Hyde Park \$15,239.96; BankNorth Wealth Mgmt. \$3,218,848.23. M. Frederick explained that the last amount was for repayment of the tax anticipation note taken out last year, on which we made a net gain of about \$55K. **The motion was passed.**

3. *Administrative Reports / Action Items*

A. GMTCC – J. Teegarden

The Hardwick site is nearing completion. Construction at the Hyde Park site is proceeding. Graduation was June 11 at the Dibden Center. On Friday the RAB will have its annual retreat. Over 35 people are expected, including principals from the sending high schools, superintendents, and guidance counselors. They will discuss how the 5 sending schools can collaborate to educate students. Currently if students come unprepared in reading, writing, or math, they often leave that way. They need to be encouraged to develop skills in those areas.

The pre-tech banquet went well. It is like a commencement for pre-tech students. Kids give presentations, and parents can speak. J. Eisenhardt said he was impressed by the parents' comments showing how pleased they were. P. Ingvaldstad said there was a nice letter in the News & Citi-

zen, too. T. Bailey said the students do a fantastic job, even though they are presenting in front of strangers. J. Teegarden said pre-tech is part of the problem he mentioned earlier. A student could come to pre-tech, then continue at the tech center, without ever having had algebra. There is no requirement for them to have it. W. Sander asked, does this happen with any LU kids, or only those from other schools? J. Teegarden said it would be possible for it to happen with LU kids, but he's not sure it ever does.

B. Central Office

Monthly Financial Report

M. Frederick said the fund balance is close to what was projected in May. There were no major surprises. Next year, the SPED audit will result in a six-figure hit, but we don't have final figures from the state yet. D. Osborn asked, is there any way we can tell the state it's too late, we won't pay in in 2008 for things that happened in 2004? M. Frederick said no. She said Sue Cano and others have done a great job of reducing the original amount found in the audit. S. Reber asked, this audit was just for 2004? Yes, said M. Frederick. K. Roberts asked, given the new way of demonstrating costs and tax rates next year, how are we going to handle the breakout of SPED by town, etc.? She thinks we should devote a meeting to that. T. Bailey said he wanted to emphasize the fact that initially the audit was a lot worse, but M. Frederick, S. Cano, and W. Uzzle spent a lot of time working to reduce it.

VSBIT Multi-line Intermunicipal School Program Renewal Pool Member Cost FY08

M. Frederick distributed a memo showing a comparison of last year's rates for our self-insured multi-line program with the proposed rates for FY08. (*R. Gouin arrived at 6:50.*) Overall, costs SU-wide have gone down 3.3%. Our coverage has increased to include Catastrophic Student Accident Insurance. That doesn't cover pre-K, but may be expanded to do so.

Tech Plan Discussion

In order to get E-Rate funds, a school must be included in a tech plan. M. Frederick distributed the tech plan. R. Gouin was available to answer questions about it. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked about staff development. R. Gouin said we have made a lot of headway. People who didn't want to use technology are now on board and learning, and we continue to have in-service tech workshops. She also encourages all teachers to go to outside tech workshops. Professional development is still key. T. Bailey said the SU in-service this year is going to be on technology. D. Whitcomb asked, is Bill Gates still giving away computers? R. Gouin said he gives them to libraries and 3rd world countries. We do have some Microsoft settlement money available. With that, we have purchased a 2nd lab for the middle level – a wireless cart with 25 laptops. We got \$30K for the middle level, and more for the high school that hasn't been spent yet. It will be spent on a lab. S. Reber asked if the 5 year cycle of replacement is

working out. R. Gouin said yes. He asked, how does she see the number of computers changing over time? R. Gouin said adding more computers is not a good idea now because of our bandwidth problem. We have plenty of equipment, but not enough bandwidth.

D. Osborn said she was surprised to read about eGrades; she wasn't aware of that. She asked if there are other needs not described in this document. R. Gouin said no. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said eGrades is internal – parents don't have access to it. She asked, do we foresee parents being able to have access to grades, assignments, etc. online? R. Gouin said she thinks we'll see more of that this year. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said there had been discussion about that several years ago. R. Gouin said there would be some security risk. K. Roberts asked, what would be the goal in having parents access that info regularly? S. Hamlyn-Prescott said if a child doesn't do well on a test or assignment and does not share that with a parent, the parent has to wait until getting a progress report to find out. K. Roberts said online access also allows for a possible negative impact – parents looking over kids' shoulders and micromanaging their school experience.

M. Frederick said all the LNSU schools have applied for E-Rate funds. There are two different tiers of funds, and we're still in the running for Tier 2 funds, which almost no one gets. We may get another \$50K to create a WAN throughout Lamoille. Regarding bandwidth, for a campus this size, instead of thinking T1, there is good potential to get a 10 meg pipe into here with E-Rate money. M. Spaulding asked, should the POS software for food service be included in the tech plan? M. Frederick said yes.

ACTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve the LUSD #18 Technology Plan for 2007-2009, seconded by W. Sander, and the motion was passed.

(R. Gouin left at 7:16.)

Tax Anticipation Note Borrowing for FY08

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve borrowing \$2,616,630.00 from TD Banknorth with interest at the rate of 3.60% per annum, seconded by W. Sander. S. Reber and C. Mann asked M. Frederick about the rules regarding how much we can have in our line of credit, and she explained the rules. D. Osborn asked how this is affected by the \$3 million in directors' orders. M. Frederick said that was to pay back last year's tax anticipation note. **The motion was passed.**

Transportation Contracts

ACTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to go into executive session regarding transportation contracts, with administration remaining, at

7:23, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed. (*J. Teegarden left at 7:23.*) The board consented out of session.

ACTION: K Roberts moved that the board allow M. Spaulding release time during the day to perform an outside contract with the understanding that all his other duties will be completed as well, seconded by W. Sander.

D. Whitcomb said he doesn't favor this. We shouldn't be in the business of farming out LU people; we hire our people to work for LU. W. Sander reluctantly supports this. He is willing to entertain it primarily because of M. Spaulding's qualities. B. Bailey is opposed. She said it would be a conflict, and it is wrong to interfere with Eden. D. Osborn said M. Frederick and T. Bailey had both said it was hard for them to work for two entities. When you're an administrator it has to be clear who you're administering. It would be a conflict. **The motion failed, with 4 in favor and 6 opposed.**

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said originally when we hired M. Spaulding, being overseer of bus contracts was going to be added to his duties. She thinks this is a good time for that to be realized. K. Roberts asked, is oversight of that contract a central office or LU duty? Maybe administrators should decide who it gets delegated to. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, can we know by July 1 who will do oversight of contracts? T. Bailey said there wouldn't be time to do it by then. It was agreed he would have that by the first August meeting.

M. Frederick distributed transportation bid results. Bidders were required as much as possible to provide a common radio or phone contact, and were required to have cameras on the buses. She recommends going with the low bidders, and making it clear that the contract has to be fully executed or it can be broken. W. Sander asked, were they solicited as 2 year contracts, not 3? M. Frederick said yes, so that all contracts will end at the same date. D. Baker asked who presently does the Waterville/Belvidere late run. M. Frederick said Lamoille Valley Transportation. K. Roberts said cameras are one concern that came up with First Student. In many ways they're more trouble than they're worth. First Student couldn't keep them running. The video is poor quality, too, so it may not be reliable for discipline.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to accept the low bid from Cambridge for the Cambridge late run, seconded by D. Baker. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, is the stated price for both years? M. Frederick said no, just for the first year. The law provides for an increase in the second year, with a cap. S. Reber asked, are surcharges for gas increases included? M. Frederick said both have the same surcharge. If gas goes over \$3.00, there is a 15 cent surcharge, which is not included in the numbers here. Field trips are

also not included. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, is this approximately what was projected in next year's budget? M. Frederick said there was a little more in the budget for Eden and a little less for Cambridge. **The motion was passed.**

ACTION: W. Sander moved to accept the low bid from Eden for the Eden late run, seconded by B. Bailey. The motion was passed, with D. Baker opposed and D. Whitcomb abstaining.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to approve the bid from Lamoille Valley Transportation for the Waterville/Belvidere late run, seconded by C. Mann, and the motion was passed.

C. **High School**

T. Bailey said the new principal is in town, and last Thursday he was on the interview panel for the new SPED coordinator. The panel interviewed 3 candidates, and they are now negotiating with one, who is currently under contract at another district. They are also working with a strong second candidate in case that doesn't work out. Brian Schaeffer met with W. Uzzle at least twice, and he has met with S. Cano. He has bought a house in Morrisville and is settling in. T. Bailey will meet with him tomorrow, and he will be at the retreat next Tuesday.

There was great attendance at the high school graduation. DVD's can be purchased, and it will be on cable TV.

D. **Middle School**

C. Hinds was in Florida on a field trip, so T. Bailey gave the board the recommendation to hire Thomas Streeter as a long term science substitute, at the 90 day rate (pro-rated Bachelor's Step 1 salary.)

ACTION: K Roberts moved to hire Thomas Streeter as a long term science substitute, at a pro-rated Bachelor's Step 1 salary, seconded by S. Hamlyn-Prescott, and the motion was passed.

4. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

D. Baker said the personnel committee met yesterday with G. Chicoine and C. Hinds. No action was taken. G. Chicoine recommended that C. Hinds bring the issue to the board at the next meeting.

5. ***Policy Warnings***

There were no policy warnings. S. Reber said the policy committee, along with M. Spaulding, is going to be presenting a facility use policy, probably in August.

6. ***Review of Full Board Annual Calendar***

It was agreed that there would be no meeting on the first Tuesday in July. There was discussion about who to invite to the meeting where MySpace, etc. will be discussed – Chris Jones, the state's attorney, someone from the sheriff's dept., the head of the Morrisville police.

K. Roberts said on a future agenda we might want M. Frederick to talk about changes in high school tax reporting.

D. Baker asked for a quick report from M. Spaulding on the building. M. Spaulding talked about the problem of the beacon tripping a breaker, and who he had talked to to try to get the problem fixed.

7. ***Review of LNSU Work Schedule***

P. Ingvoldstad said he would work with W. Sander and T .Bailey on the LNSU work schedule.

8. ***Executive Session for Student Matter***

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to go into executive session for a student matter, with the superintendent remaining, at 8:55, and the motion was seconded and passed. The board consented out of executive session at 9:02.

ACTION: W. Sander moved that in regard to a student matter, the board shall accept the recommendation of the principal and superintendent to reinstate a student who had been on long term expulsion, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed.

9. ***Executive Session for Personnel Matter***

ACTION: W. Sander moved to enter executive session, with the superintendent remaining, to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by S. Reber, and the motion was passed. The board consented out of executive session at 9:09.

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to accept the superintendent's recommendation to allow additional credits for a math teacher to complete the three year Math Institute leadership program per the terms of a side letter to the master agreement, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed.

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

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:10 and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 6-19-07:

2. *Directors' Orders and Minutes of the Meeting*

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