

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008

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

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 – 6:30

B. Announcements

Debra Taylor will be the new superintendent. S. Cano said she and G. Chicoine got a press release to the News & Citizen yesterday.

P. Ingvaldstad said there will be two meetings in Cambridge, on August 7 and 11, at 6 PM, about bringing sports equipment on the buses. Last spring, kids were bringing lacrosse sticks, but there has been policy or law that equipment is not allowed on the buses. W. Sander said he thinks it is a statute. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said she was under the impression this was an issue only on the Cambridge buses. P. Ingvaldstad said it is an issue with Eden and First Student, too. Parents have to drive students' equipment to school. D. Baker asked, is there a place to store the equipment here? B. Schaffer said he thinks it is a bus company issue. C. Hindes said there is a general statute about obstruction of aiseways; he thinks that is where the concern is. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said this is a contract issue that involves the board. She thinks the board has to actively participate. She said parents have concerns about leaving equipment here, because the areas where they can store it may not be secure enough. She would like M. Frederick and M. Spaulding to participate in the meetings. D. Osborn said this affects students from other towns who may ride a Cambridge or Eden bus. W. Sander said the Cambridge board is caught in the middle and is in a quandary. Both the bus companies and parents have valid concerns. P. Ingvaldstad said that when it was decided to have the high school in Hyde Park, promises were made or implied that it wouldn't be a hardship to Cambridge residents to send their children here. He suggested racks on the outside of the bus. D. Baker suggested a future agenda item should be the probable jump in bus contract cost. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said that will come from the finance committee. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked about participation in the Cambridge meetings. P. Ingvaldstad said he will be there. S. Cano said she will let M. Spaulding and M. Frederick know the board would like them to be involved, and suggest they talk to C. Hindes. P. Ingvaldstad said other board members can attend. He recommends that at least the members from Cambridge go.

2. ***Discussion of Core Beliefs / Mission***

P. Ingvoldstad asked how the board would like to move forward with this. K. Roberts said they are working on something similar at HPES. They started with a meeting that included just the board. The next meeting will be with administrators. They have been using a wiki to get input from everyone. She thinks this discussion would work better as a single event. P. Ingvoldstad thought administrators should be there. K. Roberts said the HPES board started without administrators because that let them speak without worrying about how other people might react to a statement. It was agreed that the board will meet Sept. 23 at 6:30 to discuss core beliefs/mission. P. Ingvoldstad will look into getting Winton Goodrich as a facilitator.

3. ***Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the July 15th Meeting)***

ACTION: W. Sander moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by B. Bailey.

W. Sander noted a typo near the bottom of the first page: “. . . they way time is balanced . . .” should be changed to “. . . the way time is balanced . . .” **The motion to accept the consent agenda as amended was passed.**

4. ***Directors' Orders***

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$406,795.11, seconded by W. Sander.

The entire amount was for District #18. Major expenditures: First Choice Communications (security cameras) \$17,705.44; Laramie Youth and Family Services \$198,987.66. D. Osborn said T. Bailey had told her that the \$2000 she thought was for central office electric was actually for the electric associated with the septic system. She had questioned whether LUSD should be paying the whole cost, but since it is for the septic system and not for central office, it is appropriate for LUSD to pay all of it. Bills from Fletcher Allen, LCMH, and Otter Creek Associates had student names on them. S. Cano said removal of student names needs to happen at the school level, before bills come to central office. She said bills can't go to the town clerk's office with student names on them. D. Osborn should give bills with names to the administrator present at the board meeting, or bring them to central office. D. Osborn doesn't need to black out names herself. C. Hinds wondered if a procedure could be developed at central office to immediately notify administrators at the individual schools if bills are received with student names. D. Osborn said she often catches bills that mistakenly include sales tax, too. Maybe that could also be mentioned to administrators. **The motion was passed.**

5. ***Administrative Action Items***

A. ***Middle School***

C. Hinds said he would like to make one change to the action plan. On p. 3 (Literacy Classes), under Action Steps, it should say, “The English Department will . . .” rather than “The English Department will begin to . . .”

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve the middle school action plan as amended, and the motion was seconded. She noted that what she didn't see in the plan is what assessment tools will be used to assure the steps are complete. C. Hinds gave an example about how students are selected for advanced classes. **The motion was passed.**

C. Hinds is still searching for a math teacher, and beginning to discuss arranging for extra duty contracts or additional prep time to have a high school or

tech center teacher come to the middle school to teach accelerated or remedial math classes, which students could take in addition to their regular math classes. D. Osborn said it is important to address the scheduling of students who take classes outside of their team's schedule so they are engaged 100% of the time. C. Hindes agreed, and said he is working on that.

B. High School

B. Schaffer said the new student information system, Powerschool, may take 2 or 3 years to fully get up and running. People will complain during the transition – be prepared. He is changing how often attendance is taken. It will no longer be just once a day, so the new attendance data won't look as good. D. Osborn asked about the Powerschool contract terms. She thought training was included, but she's seen bills for training. B. Schaffer said the initial included training was not enough. There will be an ongoing need for training for all faculty. D. Osborn asked, if we allocated a certain amount in the budget for this, where is the money for additional training coming from? B. Schaffer said the purchase was made from last year's budget, and we will be able to move money around to cover the cost of training. W. Sander asked, were we misled about how much training we would get or did we not understand what we were getting? B. Schaffer said no. K. Roberts asked, are we working towards developing in-house resource people? B. Schaffer said yes. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked if B. Schaffer could put together for the finance committee what is currently budgeted, a projection of how much beyond that will be spent, and thoughts about moving funds around. B. Schaffer said there is no problem covering training costs with what is budgeted for this year.

C. Central Office

S. Cano distributed a central office report, which is something new she implemented to keep boards informed about what is happening at central office. Two new policies are needed – one on student medication and one on dissection. VT DOE gave LNSU approval for a pilot program enabling SPED teachers to work in the regular education classroom with their students and other students. Research supports this approach, and informal pilots have produced positive results for students.

K. Roberts said background checks on independent contractors are currently supposed to be done by schools, but not all schools are aware they should do them. HPES is in favor of centralizing this function, but all schools would have to request it. They've asked the HPES principal to bring the suggestion to AdCo. S. Cano said central office is prepared to work with the SU boards on that, if it is the desire of all the schools.

6. Committee Reports and Action Items

A. Curriculum Committee

W. Sander said the committee has been discussing whether to weight grades for AP courses to recognize their increased rigor. B. Schaffer's final recommendation, after conversations with College Board staff, is not to do so, but to address the issue in other ways. The question hasn't really been resolved. He thinks most agree B. Schaffer's approach makes the most sense, but there is the

question of how to recognize the extra effort involved in AP courses. A student's GPA could be adversely affected by taking AP courses, and those students have to compete with kids not taking those courses. D. Baker said she doesn't like the term "less work" used to describe non-AP courses. A student taking general courses may work very hard to achieve his or her GPA.

B. Policy Committee

K. Roberts moved to adopt Policy 4.4 (Games of Chance) as warned on June 30, 2008, seconded by W. Sander. W. Sander asked, what to do about long standing situations that are in violation of the policy? B. Schaffer said this policy is more commensurate with practice. The way he reads it, the board is saying these activities are okay with administrative approval. Several wording changes for clarity and consistency were suggested, and then it was suggested that the policy ought to go back to the committee for revisions.

The board agreed by consensus to withdraw the motion and refer the policy back to the policy committee.

C. Cricket Hill Building Committee

M. Spaulding and Amy Schulz both came up with building plans, and M. Spaulding is doing pricing of those plans. D. Osborn commented that the building is to include central office storage, but she's not sure that should be included in this project, because it is so far from the original focus, which was storage of ski equipment. P. Ingvaldstad said central office is paying \$900/year for storage now, so it will take 10-15 years to get payback for switching to this new building. He asked, can someone in central office look into whether that makes sense? There was discussion about whether LUSD should pay for central office storage. It was pointed out that we are the landlord for central office. K. Roberts said the committee is planning to ask for a central office contribution toward the cost of the building. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, does the \$900 currently being spent come out of the LNSU budget? The answer was yes. D. Whitcomb said there might be a security problem with using a building in the woods for storage.

7. Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn

A. Future Agenda Items

B. Bailey said the board needs to get together and talk. There were issues with the board not being sufficiently involved in details of the superintendent search. Board members didn't know who was on the interview committees until they read it in the paper. D. Osborn mentioned a similar issue regarding a real estate transaction. P. Ingvaldstad will put a half hour for this discussion at the end of the next agenda.

B. Adjourn

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:47 and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 8/5/08:

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 - B. **Adjourn**
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