

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, P. Ingvoldstad, T. O’Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, S. Reber, K. Roberts, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott. Others: S. Cano, C. Hinds, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden, M. Frederick, 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 – 6:33

B. Adopt the Agenda

A change to the agenda was suggested.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as modified, and the motion was passed.

2. *Report on the LNSU Executive Committee meeting*

B. Bailey distributed a letter to all board members discussing some comments that had been made at the recent LNSU Executive Committee meeting.

S. Reber described the discussion at the meeting. He said the idea seemed to be to see if it was possible to use experiences from the recently-completed superintendent search to come up with suggested guidelines for the next search. T. Sullivan will summarize on paper the suggestions that were developed. D. Osborn asked how comments or suggestions can be sent back to the LNSU board. P. Ingvoldstad said it was discussed at the meeting that there should be a two week period within the search process so there can be one meeting of each board. Then board members can report to their boards, boards can discuss the information, and comments can be brought back to the LNSU board. D. Osborn asked if this board could have a discussion now to give the LNSU board feedback. P. Ingvoldstad suggested holding that discussion after T. Sullivan comes up with a proposal for the future. D. Osborn said this board has been feeling like there has not been a chance to give input to the LNSU board before decisions are made. S. Reber said he was not sure how to go about discussing what was said at the Executive Committee meeting. D. Osborn said she is a voting representative to the LNSU board, but doesn’t have a sense of how this board would want her to vote. P. Ingvoldstad said there is nothing to vote on yet. S. Reber said even when T. Sullivan is done writing up the suggestions, the board won’t vote. They will just create a memo for future reference.

W. Sander commented that the LNSU board has started to hold meetings on dates other than the previously-agreed-upon last Monday of the month. P. Ingvoldstad said special meetings can be called, and can be held at any time. K. Roberts said she asked about the schedule changes at an HPES board meeting, and was told that special meetings were called based on the necessity of a compressed schedule, and the October 8 meeting date was to accommodate the new superintendent. P. Ingvoldstad will propose a discussion of the meeting schedule for the October 8 LNSU board agenda.

3. ***Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the August 19th Meeting and Acceptance of Administration Reports)***

MOTION: S. Reber moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by B. Penberthy.

D. Whitcomb asked the principals to talk about the first day of school. B. Schaffer said the first day went well. The state says a majority of students have to be present for a day to count as a day of attendance, so they have made some changes. This year there were opening assemblies for each class. B. Schaffer has sent an opening of school survey out to staff for feedback. They have been spending a lot of time going through the handbook and policies with students. C. Hinds said the middle school had a great start. Only seventh graders came on the first day. Parents arrived that afternoon and went to their child's team, and there was an ice cream social after that. The following day both 8th and 7th graders were there. J. Teegarden said the tech center year started on Tuesday, so kids could go to orientation the first day at their own schools. There was a barbecue. They did not have a whole school assembly. The opening was very smooth. **The motion was passed.**

4. ***Directors' Orders***

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of

\$297,679.91, seconded by W. Sander. The entire amount was for District #18. Major expenditures were: \$30,722.00 Control Technologies; \$20,528.00 Kittredge Equipment; \$62,654.00 LNSU (Property & Liability Coverage FY09). **The motion was passed.**

5. ***Administrative Action Items – Central Office***

S. Cano said she was very impressed by her visits to all the schools, seeing how students were engaged immediately. D. Taylor came on the in-service day, and people were very appreciative of that.

There was a professional development day for all of Chittenden County, and through LAPDA S. Cano was able to attend via teleconference. It featured Daniel Pink and Alan November. LNSU will be purchasing an associated DVD.

S. Cano attended the recent LNSU Executive Committee meeting. She thought the conversation was difficult, but respectful. She would encourage everyone to read the minutes. Everyone at the meeting agreed that if communication had been better people would have felt more informed and included.

The LNSU Grades 5/6 Spelling Bee is October 9 at 6 PM at the middle school.

LNSU has received the first request from a child care provider in a neighboring town to enter into a collaboration to offer preschool services. (A new statute allows this.) LNSU has no intention of expanding preschool services at this time. We would have to do a needs assessment in the community first.

Wolcott Elementary is considered the best place in VT to observe Response to Intervention (RTI). The Eden 4th grade will be implementing RTI this year. S. Cano and D. Tingle will schedule a date to visit Wolcott Elementary.

Participation in the 403(b) program has greatly increased.

G. Chicoine is collecting desired master agreement changes from the principals.

A technology report summarizing the status of school upgrades was attached to the central office report.

P. Ingvaldstad asked what VMI is. S. Cano said it is the Vermont Math Institute. The VMI training is going extremely well. M. Spaulding requested that G. Chicoine ask him and the head of SPED about master agreement changes they would like to see.

6. Committee Reports and Action Items

A. Finance Committee

M. Frederick talked about the snowplowing bid results. Three bidders responded: Tatro Brothers, Draper's, and Josh Blake. The finance committee recommended giving the contract for plowing to Draper's, and taking on salting ourselves, after finding out about salt storage requirements. All the bids came in over what was budgeted, so it was suggested that we have Draper's do only the plowing, and we could purchase a salt truck – a used 1-ton pickup truck with a dump body and a plow and spreader. Buyback would be in about 3.5 years. We don't have the manpower or equipment to do plowing. We would take out a 3 year note to purchase the truck. M. Spaulding said we would use the same amount per year that has been budgeted for the tractor.

B. Bailey asked if we have a salt shed. M. Spaulding said we just have to keep the salt covered. There are no requirements for how to do that; we can just use a tarp. Hyde Park is interested in talking about us getting salt from them. With the board's okay, he will go to their next select board meeting on Sept. 11 to discuss that.

D. Baker said she has concerns. Salting or sanding needs to be done behind the snow plow, not an hour or two later, for the safety of the kids. M. Spaulding said it is not done that way anyway. The plowing contractor does all the plowing first before salting. And they are only required to come when the snow is over 3 inches. D. Baker asked, if we take the cost of salting off the contract and add the bond, won't it come out about the same? M. Frederick said no. We will pay about \$14K per year for salting and \$25K to contract for just plowing. After the truck is paid off, the per-year cost for salting will be about \$7K. The timeliness of salting is another issue besides cost. It would be more efficient to do it ourselves. M. Spaulding said this plan would also give us the ability to plow on our own, which we can't do now.

W. Sander said he applauded the idea, but why not go further and have a part-time person come in and do both plowing and salting, and save even more money? M. Spaulding said with existing manpower if maintenance staff did plowing, they wouldn't be able to do anything else. In the future, once we have our own plow truck, doing the plowing ourselves would be a possibility. M. Frederick said only one person would be needed to do salting, but more than one person would be needed to do plowing along with relocation. M. Spaulding said the contractors we hire sometimes have 3-4 trucks here at once.

S. Reber asked, the cost for the truck would be \$7K per year? M. Frederick said that was an example only. We don't have the truck yet, and are not sure of the exact purchase price. The cost for salt was estimated at about \$6750 per year. M. Spaulding said if we merge with Hyde Park to get salt it will be cheaper. M. Frederick said for the first 3 years, doing salting ourselves would be about a wash. S. Reber asked, are we not satisfied with the job that has been done? M. Spaulding said we are not. He noted that if we purchase a truck, we won't pay on it until next fiscal year, so it won't hurt this year's budget. W. Sander said this is a good time to buy trucks.

K. Roberts asked about the value of the manpower needed. M. Frederick said we are already buying that. K. Roberts said if manpower is used for salting, we will need manpower for what that guy would have been doing otherwise. M. Frederick said salting doesn't take much labor. M. Spaulding said, realistically, he'll gain some labor by having the truck on site. It will make clearing doorways faster. K. Roberts said she thought a value should be put on labor before the board votes. D. Baker said she agrees that we need to see exactly what it will cost. She is also concerned that the estimate is based on 30 days of salting, which she thinks is a little low. P. Ingvolstad said this is micromanagement. If administration thinks this plan is better, that's all we need to know.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to award the contract for snow plowing and relocation to Draper's, and authorize purchase of a truck for \$25,000.

W. Sander suggested an amendment authorizing more than that to make it possible to buy a new truck. M. Spaulding said fitting the truck up with a plow and sander is the main cost. P. Ingvolstad suggested M. Spaulding investigate prices and come back to the board if he finds a deal on a new truck. W. Sander agreed. S. Reber said he hears the arguments for this plan, but he is against our taking on responsibilities when there are local people to hire the work out to. T. O'Hear asked, are we taking into account how busy the building is at night? M. Spaulding said he already has someone coming in nights and weekends who can do salting while he's here. B. Penberthy said she thought it would be safer if we could salt ourselves. The parking lot is often slippery now at night. K. Roberts said she is in favor of the plan in principle, but she is concerned about some of the assumptions that have created the numbers. If the board approves this, we are stuck for 3 years while paying off the truck. How would the board want to decide after the fact how successful this was? M. Frederick and M. Spaulding said they would want to collect information to let us know if it was a good idea. D. Whitcomb asked if M. Spaulding had looked into purchasing a truck through the state purchase contract. M. Spaulding said yes. S. Cano asked, the board would like an update on cost savings in the spring? The board agreed they would. **The motion was passed, with D. Baker and S. Reber opposed.**

MOTION: W. Sander moved to authorize M. Spaulding to go to the Hyde Park select board meeting on September 11 to discuss getting salt from Hyde Park, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed.

M. Frederick said she will bring a summary sheet on the unaudited fund balance to the next meeting.

B. Curriculum Committee

W. Sander said the committee has been examining at great length the issue of credit for AP courses. The argument is that the extra work involved in these courses sometimes puts kids who have taken them at a disadvantage with regard to class rankings and scholarships. The committee doesn't have a recommendation for the full board yet. B. Schaffer's idea of providing a letter of recommendation to students who take AP courses can help students with college admissions, but may not help them get scholarships. The committee will be examining the issue further and may eventually bring a recommendation to the board. P. Ingvaldstad said there was discussion about 2 or 3 things we might survey teachers and students about. W. Sander said there is no consistency about what other schools are doing.

C. Cricket Hill Building Committee

M. Spaulding said they have come up with a design that is close to being within budget. He is making minor budget cuts to accommodate it, and should have a plan by the next committee meeting.

7. Review of Full Board Annual Calendar, Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn

A. Review of Full Board Annual Calendar

P. Ingvaldstad asked if the board should be addressing renovation of the superintendent's office. M. Frederick said she thought T. Bailey had probably wanted that on the agenda. S. Cano said central office working conditions are not optimal. There are issues with cold, mildew, dampness, bugs, heat, etc. But she thinks we should wait for D. Taylor to come and become familiar with the work and staffing before taking any action. She thought it could be taken off the annual calendar for now. B. Penberthy said there seem to be possible health issues. Has the air quality been tested? S. Cano said they have done everything they can do to address what they are aware of. M. Frederick said air testing wouldn't show anything different from outside air. They have corrected problems they've found. Her personal belief is that there is no health issue. M. Spaulding said there are too many people working there, but no air quality or mold issues he's aware of causing health problems. S. Reber asked, is this a high school board issue? P. Ingvaldstad said we are the landlords. S. Reber said he thinks the board should ask for a report on the situation. It is unfortunate that people who work at central office have to come to us and complain. K. Roberts said LNSU rents from us, and they could decide to move and we would have little say. The question is, what do they need to serve us? Are we the best landlord, or should they be looking at somewhere else? There may be a better solution than renovations to that building. S. Reber said the LNSU board will have to decide what to do as far as which building to use. He recommended this be brought up to the LNSU board. P. Ingvaldstad will do that.

B. Request for Future Agenda Items

P. Ingvaldstad asked for a summer school report. It was agreed to have that at the first October meeting.

D. Osborn requested a discussion about fundraising. She also requested discussion about grading and assessment. B. Schaffer suggested that might be a good discus-

sion to have when department heads visit the board. S. Cano asked, can we find out what the board's questions are, and then the administrators can decide the best way to approach them? P. Ingvoldstad will put that on the next agenda and people can bring questions.

C. Adjourn

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:48 and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 9/2/08:

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

B. Adopt the Agenda

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as modified, and the motion was passed.

3. Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the August 19th Meeting and Acceptance of Administration Reports)

MOTION: S. Reber moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by B. Penberthy. The motion was passed.

4. Directors' Orders

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$297,679.91, seconded by W. Sander. The entire amount was for District #18. Major expenditures were: \$30,722.00 Control Technologies; \$20,528.00 Kittredge Equipment; \$62,654.00 LNSU (Property & Liability Coverage FY09). **The motion was passed.**

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7. Review of Full Board Annual Calendar, Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn

C. Adjourn

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:48 and the motion passed.