

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LAMOILLE UNION LIBRARY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007

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

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

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

A. Call to Order

S. Hamlyn-Prescott called the meeting to order at 6:32.

B. Announcements

D. Osborn ran 47 miles in the race on Sunday. She thanked the people who sponsored her and raised money for VT Adaptive Ski and Sports.

C. Introductions

W. Sander introduced his son, David Sander, who works for Washington County Mental Health.

2. Report on Due Process Case

S. Cano reviewed the history of this case. In June 2005 we were notified by the VT Dept. of Ed. that a due process case was being brought against LUHS, LNSU, and a couple of state agencies. Much effort by the principal, staff, and S. Cano has gone into providing verbal information and paper documentation. The hearing officer signed a dismissal on Sept. 11, 2007. S. Cano distributed a report on the settlement agreement, listing what the school is required to do, and the costs to the system. T. Bailey, B. Schaffer, and S. Cano will meet with the student. (This meeting had been offered before the settlement, but was not accepted then.) As of 4/30/07, the different parties in the case moved into separate settlement mode – before that they were all joint parties. We are challenging some costs.

D. Whitcomb asked if the total shown for legal fees (\$20,134) included the \$19,717.73 the school will need to pay for 1/3 of the attorney fees up through 4/30/07 plus all our attorney fees from 5/1/07 to the agreement date. S. Cano said no. S. Reber asked, we would have been continuing with the truancy program anyway, correct? S. Cano said yes, that program is very beneficial for students. C. Hindes agreed. C. Mann asked is the \$50,000 for one year of services our portion or the total? S. Cano said our portion. Each party is responsible for 1 year of services. S. Reber asked, we would have been paying for services anyway, correct? S. Cano said yes. D. Whitcomb asked whether this student moved into the area on his own initiative, or was placed here. S. Cano said she couldn't answer that, but she could say that the student has attended our schools for many years. T. Bailey said S. Cano has put many hours of work into this; there has been a tremendous cost in taking her away from other duties. (*F. Kelly arrived 6:49.*)

3. ***Finance Committee Report and Discussion on the Sweeney House***

M. Frederick gave a presentation on options for the Sweeney House. According to the most recent appraisal, the market value is \$300,000. The current grand list value with the Town of Hyde Park is \$326,300. The town listing had taken off some value based on its condition, and so did the appraiser. The appraisal is just for the house and 4 acres. Subdivision requires a public meeting in Hyde Park with the local zoning committee. The chimneys need repair now; one is in very bad shape. But, according to the inspector, the roof doesn't immediately need replacing. Future repairs are estimated to cost \$40,000-\$64,000. Options include: sale of property, use as educational facility, demolish building and keep property, and variations of the above.

M. Frederick said that the part of the property that would be sold with the house is not suitable for athletic fields because it is mostly a gully. D. Baker asked, will that hurt our ability to sell? M. Frederick said she didn't think so, because there is enough level space for a yard. D. Whitcomb said it is very costly to take a building down and dispose of it. W. Sander said that at the annual meeting the board had said the question of whether to sell the house would be brought back to the voters. Others said no, that assurance was not given. K. Roberts said the "quiet enjoyment" issue has been her biggest concern. The trails are a very important part of the school. What kind of deeded assurance can be provided that the trails can remain? It needs to be clear to the buyer that kids will be skiing and biking on the trails. S. Reber agreed. D. Whitcomb asked whether the last 2 checks from the Sweeney House tenant who has given notice bounced. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said discussion on that should occur later, as it was not relevant to the current discussion. D. Whitcomb said the finance committee provided the information that those checks didn't clear. J. Eisenhardt said there won't be much noise on the trails, and any fields built will be far from the house. S. Reber said he thought K. Roberts was talking about the ability of skiers and hikers to enjoy the area. K. Roberts said yes, and also she thought that if grooming for a race was going on early in the morning, it might annoy the residents. D. Osborn asked, how suitable are other areas of the property for building? If we chose a combination option, is there any work that needs to be done with the septic system, etc. to accommodate future plans? M. Frederick said there are some areas that would make good building sites. The wastewater project is complete. If we built another building at a different site, we would need to do separate septic work. J. Eisenhardt said if we do other things with that property, the sewer system probably won't be big enough; we probably would have to at least double its capacity, so we would have to consider the cost for that. M. Frederick said the current system is sized on 6 bedrooms. S. Reber asked, if we vote to sell, we would not be voting on what the revenue would be used for, correct? M. Fred said that was correct. She said it is up to board, but she thought the board wanted to be decisive, and to indicate to the public what it planned to do.

W. Sander said his son works in a group home situation, so P. Ingvaldstad wanted him to come to speak to the board. D. Sander suggested the house could be used

to serve a population of students who need daily living skill instruction. A couple of other schools rent an apartment in Montpelier for this purpose, and have a rotation of students who live there. A house set up for this could be making a lot of money. There is a lot of money in DCF custody kids and in therapeutic foster care. The house could be renovated to include a 3-bedroom apartment and an alternative learning facility with 24-hour residents and day students. He would be surprised if we had to have the property rezoned for this use. He doesn't think any of the Washington County Mental Health facilities he knows about are in commercial areas; many are in residential areas. He thinks this looks like a beautiful opportunity to educate kids and bring in money. He suggested renovation and repairs could be done by GMTCC students.

C. Mann asked about the cost of having 24-hour supervision. D. Sander said in their programs, the facilities are staffed 1 on 1 during waking hours, with a single person supervising at night. They make money on it – they get \$200-300 per day for the patients they serve. He could put the board in touch with people who could run the numbers. S. Cano asked what percentage of the revenue in his program comes from Medicaid drawdown. He said most of it. He said there is an overwhelming need for a facility like this, and he is sure Morrisville DCF would be happy to look for funding to get it going. His program deals with severe emotional difficulties, but he imagines we would be dealing mostly with socioeconomic and learning deficits. S. Reber asked, why don't we sell the house to Washington County Mental Health? D. Sander said they would buy it. He also suggested we could own the facility, but not run it. We could have a net balance of zero or make a little money. J. Eisenhardt asked, can we own it? M. Frederick said as long as we are entertaining the option of future school use, we can. She also it said looked very clear that we would need to rezone. K. Roberts said it depends on how our zoning law is written. Probably we would actually get a permitted use waiver, rather than having the property rezoned. S. Cano said a life skills type curriculum is currently offered creatively on this campus through core classes and a life skills program. The board should analyze what is already offered. She would also advise the board to see what the new Jobs program (for youth with challenges and at risk of dropping out) will be like so there won't be duplication of services. She recommended caution about reliance on Medicaid revenues, because of proposed federal changes that will go into effect in Oct. 2008 and proposed changes to the state plan which, if they go forward, would eliminate our ability to draw down for habilitation (as opposed to rehabilitation - life skills is habilitation.) D. Sander said he thinks residential programs are going to be reasonably safe. S. Cano said there are many unknowns.

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to put a notice in the local papers informing the public of the agenda of the next meeting when the Sweeney House options will be addressed, seconded by K. Roberts. D. Whitcomb suggested doing it as a news story, because that would cost nothing. S. Reber said the board has to decide if they expect to act at the next meeting. If we invite people to give input,

it would be hard to act that night. T. Bailey said the board could advertise to have a public hearing at the start of the meeting. He would do it as a news article.

ACTION: J. Eisenhardt moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. The motion was passed with S. Reber opposed.

The motion to put a notice in the paper was passed, with 2 opposed (D. Whitcomb and S. Reber.)

J. Eisenhardt said everyone should go through the Sweeney House and see for themselves how much work is needed there. K. Roberts said she has no doubt renovating it for school use would be an enormous expense. Any model for any use would require extensive study. D. Whitcomb said people will want some money back in their taxes from the sale. D. Sander said the board should think long term – it could be a potential goldmine. S. Reber said if we're going to advertise the next meeting, we have to present something; people hate not knowing what's going on. K. Roberts said the law requires that if we want to hold money in a capital reserve, we have to designate it and the voters have to approve, so in February, we will have to designate an anticipated use. S. Cano said, regarding the money-making potential, she's concerned there isn't the right info available about federal funding streams in the time frame she thinks the board will want to make a decision. T. Bailey said he's going to try to get a news article in the paper to invite the public to hear discussion and give input. He will use the options laid out in M. Frederick's presentation as part of the article. He will check the annual meeting minutes to see what was said about bringing the sale of the house to the voters, and will email them to the board. He will contact legal to find out what we can put in the deed to protect use of the trails. He will not look at finances regarding uses of the house. D. Sander said the board shouldn't let the condition of the house scare them off. His agency has worked in other old buildings.

4. *Consent Agenda Items*

ACTION: D. Whitcomb moved to accept the consent agenda (containing approval of the Sept. 18 minutes and administrative reports), with the exclusion of Item IV in the high school report (board action: accept LUHS student representatives to the school board), seconded by W. Sander, and the motion was passed. S. Hamlyn-Prescott explained that B. Schaffer had requested the board action be removed because the student representative couldn't come. He will provide written information about the student to the board.

5. *Directors' Orders*

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders for District #18 in the amount of \$202,742.12, seconded by W. Sander. There were no notable expenditures. Everything was on time, and there was nothing unusual. **The motion was passed.** (F. Kelly left at 7:58.)

6. *Administrative Action Items*

A. **Central Office – Wood Chip Bid**

M. Frederick distributed a memo with the wood chip bid results. Only one company responded to the bid invitation with actual pricing. Manosh

Hardwoods bid \$45.00 per ton, for a projected total value of \$54,000 for 1200 tons of wood chips. The amount budgeted for wood chips was \$60,774.

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to award the wood chip bid to Manosh Hardwoods at \$45.00 per ton, seconded by D. Baker. D. Baker asked, what happens if we can't get anyone to bid next year? M. Frederick said we do have a backup oil system. D. Baker noted that oil is a lot more expensive. W. Sander said we will need some fuel oil still. **The motion was passed.**

B. Middle School

C. Hinderes would like to hire Megan Jolly as a long term sub for Sara Popowicz. She doesn't have a license in VT, but she is enrolling in a peer review process. She is highly qualified and highly recommended. Sara has had to take emergency medical leave.

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to hire Megan Jolly as a long term sub as described in the master agreement, seconded by W. Sander. C. Hinderes said she will be paid as a sub because she will not be licensed for the first 30 days, so we won't have to pay benefits. **The motion was passed.**

7. Facilities Use Policy Vote

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve the Facility Use Policy (Section 4.11) as recommend by the policy committee, seconded by W. Sander. S. Reber said M. Spaulding had come to the policy committee and said he wanted to start getting more rigorous about using the existing facility use policy. Then it was agreed to separate the fee structure from the policy. This revised policy is more explicit about the priorities we use in allocating facility use. M. Spaulding has shown the new policy and fee structure to many users and as of 2 weeks ago everyone seemed comfortable with it. **The motion was passed.**

8. Review of Full Board Annual Calendar

It was agreed to postpone calendar review until the next meeting.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn

A. Future Agenda Items:

D. Baker reported on the 40th birthday party. It went very well, with about 45 people in attendance. Dr. Mann and Clark Dodge spoke, and there was a beautiful cake. She and her committee only spent around \$25, but they would like to spend some additional money to make a plaque to put on the original shovel from the groundbreaking, then have the shovel displayed.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to authorize the 40th birthday committee to mount the groundbreaking shovel for display, spending no more than the original amount budgeted for the 40th birthday celebration, seconded by K. Roberts. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said 2 different committees are waiting to find out how much was spent on the 40th birthday celebration, so they can see if the board can afford to pay a minute taker for

committee meetings, or pay for a governance study. W. Sander said the 40th birthday committee want to have use of the entire \$1000 that was budgeted. S. Reber asked, is that all that's available to the board? S. Hamlyn-Prescott yes, at this time. W. Sander said there is always money available somewhere in the budget. K. Roberts said we could agenda looking at the budget for other areas anticipated to be underspent. D. Whitcomb said the committee may have an old yearbook reprinted, and may make a DVD, and B. Schaffer is going to write more history. This is an ongoing project for the rest of the year, and everyone knew that. **The motion was passed.**

ACTION: S. Reber moved to set aside the rest of the \$1000 budgeted for the 40th birthday celebration for use by the 40th birthday committee, and the motion was seconded and passed.

W. Sander said we would have had higher attendance at the party, but the game before it went into overtime, and the bullhorn broke down. K. Roberts asked to agenda a brief look at finances to see if there are any areas we anticipate being underspent to reallocate. J. Eisenhardt said there should be a backup battery for the bullhorn. T. Bailey said B. Schaffer will take that recommendation to the athletic director.

B. Adjourn:

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:17 and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 10/2/07:

3. *Finance Committee Report and Discussion on the Sweeney House*

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ACTION: J. Eisenhardt moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. The motion was passed with S. Reber opposed.

The motion to put a notice in the paper was passed, with 2 opposed (D. Whitcomb and S. Reber.)

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ACTION: K. Roberts moved to award the wood chip bid to Manosh Hardwoods at \$45.00 per ton, seconded by D. Baker. The motion was passed.

B. Middle School

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to hire Megan Jolly as a long term sub as described in the master agreement, seconded by W. Sander. The motion was passed.

7. *Facilities Use Policy Vote*

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve the Facility Use Policy (Section 4.11) as recommended by the policy committee, seconded by W. Sander. The motion was passed.

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