

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, P. Ingvaldstad, D. Osborn, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb, T. O’Hear (via speaker phone 6:42-6:45), S. Hamlyn-Prescott. Absent: S. Reber, J. Eisenhardt, B. Penberthy, K. Roberts. Others: D. Taylor, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden. C. Hindes, M. Frederick, M. Spaulding, G. Chicoine, J. Laithe

**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 – 6:42**
  - B. **Announcements**

There was discussion about possibly moving the date of the next meeting, but it was decided to keep it as scheduled.
  - C. **Adopt the Agenda**

**MOTION: D. Osborn moved to adopt the agenda, W. Sander seconded, and the motion was passed.**
2. **Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Acceptance of Administration Reports)**

**MOTION: D. Osborn moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by W. Sander.** B. Bailey noted that the minutes should be corrected to show she was absent. W. Sander noted a typo on the second page - “they” instead of “the.” (S. Hamlyn-Prescott arrived at 6:44.) **The motion to accept the consent agenda with minutes corrected as above was passed.**
3. **Directors’ Orders**

**MOTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors’ orders in the amount of \$242,716.90, and the motion was seconded.** The breakdown was as follows: Cricket Hill Bldg. Project \$17,741.01 (major expenditure \$16,277.83 – money owed building fund less \$20,000 annual debt service reduction); District #18 \$224,975.89 (major expenditures Augmentative Learning \$13,652.70; Cambridge Town School District \$13,016.62; Eden Town School District \$10,225.68; First Student \$20,308.22; Laramy Youth & Family Services \$35,982.87; Village of Hyde Park \$19,820.05.) **The motion was passed.**
4. **Administrative Action Items**
  - A. **GMTCC**

M. Frederick asked the board to move to renew the Grant Anticipation Note with TD Banknorth. We need to pay off our existing note, but have not received all the state aid due us. Paul Giuliani says we are eligible to borrow an amount up to our anticipated grant award. This will cost us interest. So far we have been able to recoup the interest and have a positive cash flow. The Dept. of Ed. has given two answers on how this affects education spending. There will be a meeting this week to discuss questions like this.

**MOTION: D. Osborn moved to renew the Grant Anticipation Note with TD Banknorth, and approve the resolution, non-arbitrage certificate and note in the amount of \$3,505,528 for a period not to exceed one year, seconded by W. Sander.** D. Baker asked, can we use the fund balance to lower this amount? M. Frederick said we don't want to mix funds at this point. At some point in time, we may want to, but the voters have to approve it. W. Sander asked, how much of the year can we get through before we need to spend this money? M. Frederick didn't know. She thinks we will close out the project completely in the next couple of months; there is not much more to spend.

J. Teegarden gave a presentation on academic credit attainment. GMTCC students graduate from their home high schools, and need to meet those schools' graduation requirements. Sometimes it is too far to go back to their home high school for academic classes. GMTCC offers some academic courses.

Ways tech center students get academic credits:

- End of day courses at sending school
- Program pullouts during day
- Pre-day English
- On-line courses
- Independent study
- CCV/JSC
- Correspondence courses
- Embedded credits

Students who come to GMTCC for only one year don't have much trouble getting enough academic credits for college. But 80% + go to GMTCC for 2 years, and it is hard for those students to fit in enough academic courses. J. Teegarden has been talking to the RAB and the principals about changing things – getting kids more motivated to get as many credits as possible in their first 2 years and to take summer classes when necessary, decreasing pullouts, etc. Perhaps when students come for 2 years, it should be assumed they are not preparing to go to a 4 year college. We can also consider embedding more academic material in tech courses. We need to think about what kids are actually learning, not just how they can get credits.

W. Sander said he hates to preclude kids from possible alternatives earlier than necessary. He is reluctant to say there is no way for a student who is at GMTCC for 2 years to go to a 4 year college. Is there any other way to keep the door open longer? J. Teegarden said there could be; people may bring other ideas forward. He doesn't believe this could happen next year anyway. D. Baker said the idea to use on-line courses is great. It would also allow kids to take more courses without pulling them out of tech classes. J. Teegarden said young kids tend to procrastinate and not budget time well, so they need some adult structure. C. Hindes asked, are other technical centers having the same

types of issues? J. Teegarden said they all have problems like this. Some programs, such as Burlington's, are half day programs. Burlington kids are mainly from Burlington, though. In our tech center we have found out that with an all-day program kids are more immersed, and the instructors like that. With a half day program, there is a busing concern, because we would need to bus kids back and forth twice a day. P. Ingvaldstad asked, how does the pre-tech program fit in? J. Teegarden said pre tech kids get 6 academic credits. But if a kid comes to pre-tech then continues at GMTCC, there is another problem. Those kids often come with no algebra, and may not take it during their 4 years, which limits their opportunities. Increasing requirements for the tech center may get more kids to take math before they come, and may improve NECAP scores at home high schools. P. Ingvaldstad asked for clarification about the academy model J. Teegarden was suggesting. J. Teegarden said kids would agree to do a 2-year sequence, and we would thread a lot of academics into the tech courses – important principles they will need in that field, bare necessities. We could create a system to better show the relevancy of those subjects to kids. D. Taylor said there are some good models out there to identify what we expect students to gain. P. Ingvaldstad asked, would a student who is not motivated in math class at the high school do better on testing if math material is embedded in a tech course? J. Teegarden said there is some anecdotal data from Polly Vance, who has been teaching math in different tech programs with the instructors in the room. P. Ingvaldstad said it will be a great experiment to see if scores start to improve if we start embedding the knowledge. J. Teegarden said tech center students take NECAPs when they have only been at the center 5 weeks. Tests they take after that, such as for getting into technical colleges, are more important for measuring how the tech center is doing. C. Hindes asked, are GLE's discussed when looking at embedded credits? J. Teegarden said they haven't been used.

**B. Central Office**

D. Taylor distributed the central office report. She said her meetings have been going very well, and thanked those who have interviewed with her. She encouraged board members to attend the LNSU policy committee meeting on Oct. 27. The committee will bring forward amended policies to the November LNSU meeting. Some LNSU teachers will receive UVM Outstanding Teacher awards on Oct. 22. D. Taylor, S. Cano, and M. Frederick will attend some sessions at the VSA/VSBA conference on Oct. 30. S. Cano is returning back to her student services role. Central office is taking action on moving forward with the best procedures to scrutinize the backgrounds of contracted services staff. J. Woodard has put in his resignation. He will be taking a position in a statewide diversity program. Central office will be continuing with the work he was facilitating.

M. Frederick gave a broadband connectivity update. VT Tel paid a company to do a search to see if they could get a line of sight for wireless internet access from the VT Tel facility in Stowe to LUHS, and they found a way to do it. They have a plan to provide a fiber link to Stowe Elementary, then put in a

technology bridge from Stowe Elementary to a Smuggler's Notch ski patrol hut, and another from Smuggler's Notch to our chimney. Installation could be done in 5 weeks after they get permission from everyone. D. Taylor will contact Stowe Elementary. M. Frederick asked the board to approve an agreement for placement of the necessary equipment on our chimney. She asked for the clerk's signature because the chair has a long-term relationship with Smuggler's Notch. J. Coppens feels this is a credible and reliable source of the connectivity we need. Electricity on top of the ski hut is needed, and could possibly come from wind or solar. D. Osborn asked, is any rent needed for using these sites? M. Frederick said there will be rent for the Smuggler's Notch site, but we don't pay it – VT Tel does. D. Osborn asked about the specificity of this wireless technology – what keeps other people from using our signal? B. Schaffer said transmissions will be secure.

**MOTION: D. Osborn moved to sign the Agreement Between Lamoille District 18 High School and Vermont Telephone Company, Inc. for the Placement of a Motorola PTP 58600, D. Whitcomb seconded, and the motion was passed.**

B. Bailey asked, will Stowe Elementary have access to this? M. Frederick said they won't need it – they will have a direct line to VT Tel. J. Laithe asked, have we looked at the college? M. Frederick said the college has a T1 line and also cable modem, and they are not interested in more bandwidth.

G. Chicoine asked the board for 2 actions needed to adopt the new 403(b) plan for support staff.

**MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the board to adopt the Supplemental Participation Agreement with LNSU, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed.**

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G. Chicoine said Act 82 included a provision requiring boards that are members of an SU to enter into a board negotiations council made up of reps from all member towns to negotiate contracts. No town or local board can negotiate a contract on its own. All teacher contracts except JES's expire this June. In about 3-4 weeks negotiation processes for teachers and support staff will begin. He asked the board for answers to the following questions: Should there be one council for both sets of negotiations? How many, and who, would this board like to serve as its representatives on the council? He said the board can appoint anyone to serve as its rep; reps do not necessarily need to be board members. All boards do not need to adopt the final contract. The law is unclear about what a board that does not adopt the final contract does from that point forward. The outcome of the council's efforts does not need to result in a contract that is identical in all provisions for each school. Schools could have different salary schedules, definitions of work day, etc.

P. Ingvaldstad asked, is it up to us to decide how many people we send? G. Chicoine said yes. W. Sander said 3 schools have already signed a joint contract. It would make sense for all sending schools to have a joint contract. He suggested staff and community relations committee members could serve on the negotiations council. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said she would like to serve on the teacher negotiation council, if she had to choose between councils, but she is willing to serve on both. B. Bailey said she thought J. Eisenhardt would want to be on the council. W. Sander would like to. B. Bailey would be willing to step down and not be involved this time. D. Baker said last time we had negotiations we ended up imposing the contract – do we still have that option? J. Teegarden said the process when we reach an impasse is the same.

D. Osborn asked, why did the legislators think this was a good move? G. Chicoine said the VT NEA lobbied for it heavily. He thinks they believe that as a result of a multi-year process most schools will gravitate to the higher end of salary schedules. D. Osborn asked, is it likely to be readdressed in the future? G. Chicoine said he doesn't know what feedback the legislature has received so far. This legislation seems to be little known so far. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said when we have done teacher negotiations in the past, we have looked at surrounding SU's. Mount Mansfield has used this approach. W. Sander said there is some enthusiasm but also some resistance from teachers. This could have the effect of lowering salaries. G. Chicoine said a series of meetings will start in mid to late November, probably with just the council at first.

5. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

**B. Finance Committee**

M. Frederick talked about the financials. There was a small variation in state aid reimbursement for SPED. State aid for transportation was also slightly lower. The transfer of the capital reserve fund was the biggest change. The audit was completed. We have a partial draft and expect a full draft by the end of the month. There were no big surprises; it was close to what was indicated before. Next month she will have projection reports.

The next finance committee meeting will be Oct. 28 at 3:15.

**C. Policy Committee**

Osborn said 2 policies will be brought forth to be warned at the next meeting, on animal dissection and hiring practices. The committee will be fine tuning the driver's ed policy at the next meeting.

**D. Curriculum Committee**

**MOTION: D. Baker moved to approve the two new courses described at the last meeting, which will have minimal cost and are recommended for approval by the curriculum committee, seconded by W. Sander.**

B. Schaffer said both are application classes. One is the Principal's Project, a community service/dissertation model where a school issue is identified, making principal's resources available. The other, Topics in Mathematics, has an emphasis on application and history. W. Sander asked, is there any question in the con-

tract about someone not on the teaching staff having responsibility for a course? B. Schaffer said the Principal's Project would be coming through LU Serves like other service opportunities. And he does have his teaching certification. **The motion was passed.**

**E. Cricket Hill Building Committee**

M. Spaulding said the committee hasn't met, but he's been talking to people about possibly doing some building that will be discussed at the next meeting.

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

**A. Future Agenda Items: HIPA vs. public info**

**B. Adjourn:**

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:12 and the motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 10/21/08:

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