

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LAMOILLE UNION LIBRARY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Board members present: B. Bailey, J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, C. Mann, P. Ingvaldstad, D. Osborn, T. O'Hear, K. Roberts, W. Sander, S. Reber, D. Whitcomb. Absent: D. Baker. Others: T. Bailey, C. Hindes, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden, Grant Harper, Alexandra Raymond.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

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

A. Call to Order – 6:37

B. Announcements

K. Roberts talked about the annual VSBA conference held the previous Thursday and Friday in conjunction with the VT Superintendents Association. The keynote speaker the first day was Alan November, who talked about using technology in schools. The second day Jeffrey Johnson spoke about statistics related to consolidation of schools or districts. They voted to support a resolution asking for repeal of Act 82, and also will be working on ways to improve it, since it is not likely to be repealed. School calendar legislation and other legislation was discussed, and there were workshops. P. Ingvaldstad, B. Marshall, and T. Bailey also attended. P. Ingvaldstad said Jerry Johnson talked about outcomes for children in poverty. His data shows that, the smaller the school, the better the outcome. K. Roberts noted that smaller schools in smaller districts have the best outcomes. But district consolidation is always followed by school consolidation. T. Bailey said that NovemberLearning.com, Alan November's site, is worth looking at.

C. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves to Alexandra Raymond, the new student representative to the board.

2. *Student Representative to the Board*

B. Schaffer introduced A. Raymond. She thanked the board and said she was excited about getting involved.

3. *High School Web Site Update with Grant Harper*

G. Harper showed the board some of the features of the updated website. There used to be three separate sites with school information, but they have all been combined, and the domain name will soon be changed to something shorter. The middle school will have its own site. P. Ingvaldstad asked which site would come up on a Google search for "Lamoille." G. Harper said it depends partly on keywords that he will put into the HTML for the page. The old domain name will be directed to the new site.

Morning announcements are emailed to G. Harper each day, and will be on the home page. There is a login teachers can use to get to their own web spaces

where they can put homework assignments, etc. Teachers are slowly getting on board with that. The web site includes staff meeting dates, awards info, and board minutes. Some teachers have wiki spaces they can use as communication links with students. They can post assignments and when they are due, and students can email their work. For group assignments, students can see and comment on other students' work. G. Harper is asking some other people to be responsible for updating parts of the site and submitting page changes to him.

T. Bailey asked, is it efficient for teachers to upload things – are upload speeds sufficient? G. Harper said they will be using software called Contribute, which will let teachers upload pages. They will use their own computers, then the updates will go to him. He is still working on getting that set up. P. Ingvaldstad asked if there is enough speed to deal with everything going in and coming out. G. Harper said there is always a need for more bandwidth. If all the schools combined together in a joint purchase, we might be able to get more bandwidth than we need now for the same cost as if each school paid separately for a T1 line. That may be what we need to do. P. Ingvaldstad asked, can we combine several school districts for a purchase? G. Harper said he wouldn't go further than our own elementary schools. LU is already connected in some ways to HPES. S. Reber asked, are we convinced every student has internet access at home? G. Harper said it's increasing. Households seem to be making the transition when their kids get to high school. C. Hindes said the administrators are involved with a technology committee which is working towards improving and then maintaining the level of service on campus.

S. Reber said the website looks great, and he can see people getting a lot of use out of it. He asked how it is going to be updated - is G. Harper handling all of it? G. Harper said he wants to delegate the updates to other people, and he'll just coordinate and put the updates up on the server. S. Reber asked B. Schaffer how people will find out about the new site. B. Schaffer said it will be announced in his monthly newsletter to parents. C. Hindes said the middle school will also have an updated site, which will probably be announced shortly after Thanksgiving. K. Roberts suggested a news release to the News & Citizen. She also pointed out that people might expect the Staff Email button to bring up a staff directory. She thought it would be good to include a directory or search feature. G. Harper said they have to be careful about putting email addresses on a page, because they can be found by scammers. They need to address the best way to provide them. K. Roberts said even a PDF would be useful. B. Schaffer said comments and questions from board members about the site would be helpful.

4. ***Consent Agenda Items***

(Approval of Minutes of the October 16th Meeting, Acceptance of Administrative Reports)

ACTION: W. Sander moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by D. Whitcomb. W. Sander noted that on p. 3 of the minutes, after the amendment to the motion, he thought he had actually said he thought we *did* need voter approv-

al, not that he thought we didn't. **The motion to approve the consent agenda with that correction was passed.**

5. ***Directors' Orders***

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve director's orders for District #18 in the amount of \$424,939.32, seconded by W. Sander. D. Osborn noted that she had signed the grant anticipation note that was approved at the last meeting. Major expenditures were as follows: Laraway Youth and Family Services \$157,192.88; The Bank of New York Trust Co. \$49,290.00; Mickenberg, Cunn, Kochman \$21,563.84; Rural Community Transport \$7,153.65. There were no expenditures for the GMTCC building project. One whole binder of bills was for Rural Community Transport. D. Osborn wondered if there is some way those could be consolidated. **The motion was passed.**

6. ***Administrative Action Items***

GMTCC

J. Teegarden asked the board to approve a change order for \$19,054.00, for extra kitchen renovation costs. (*A. Raymond left at 7:33.*) He distributed an updated project estimate summary and a letter from DEW itemizing the extra costs.

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve the \$19,054.00 change order for extra kitchen renovation costs, seconded by D. Whitcomb. J. Teegarden said the extra costs are due to changes that will make the kitchen better. **The motion was passed.**

7. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

A. **Policy Committee**

S. Reber said the legal review on the proposed changes to the weapons policy has changed the policy in a significant way, so the committee recommends taking the policy back for more review, rather than warning it. Federal law requires that any time a firearm is brought to school, the board must hold an expulsion hearing, so the exception we wanted to put in cannot be included. The lawyer also pointed out some other minor confusions. The committee may try to come up with compromise wording, or just decide to leave the policy as is. K. Roberts said VSBA has just released a new set of recommended policies. They recommend having a policy that covers only firearms, and leaving it up to administration to decide how to deal with all other weapons. There are some mandatory policies we don't have, and some we thought were mandatory that aren't. W. Sander asked, the federal government doesn't have a mandate on knives? Others said no. S. Reber said there are state weapon rules as well as federal ones.

B. **Curriculum Committee**

W. Sander said the curriculum committee met today and examined some proposed new course offerings, but deferred recommendations until its December meeting. He said we our finding our decision to up graduation requirements working. Some courses are fully subscribed, so there may be a recommendation to add a half time faculty member to meet demands.

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

At the next meeting, there will be executive sessions with Marble Realty and Hirschak, about half an hour each. There will also be a session on the budget lasting at least half an hour. Fran Weinbaum will be put off until a future meeting.

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

A. **Future Agenda Items**

At D. Osborn's suggestion, P. Ingvaldstad will agenda a brief presentation by J. Teegarden about how the tech center is funded and where its kids come from. K. Roberts mentioned that there will be legislative hearings on tech center funding this year.

W. Sander said he had emailed everyone the proposed revisions to the superintendent evaluation instrument and asked that boards discuss it, but got only one response, a fairly negative one from Eden. The evaluation committee is inclined to just go ahead with their proposed revisions. D. Osborn said she thought this board should set aside time after LNSU board meetings to talk about the things discussed at the LNSU meetings. The LU board has never had a chance to discuss the superintendent evaluation. P. Ingvaldstad suggested the board discuss it now. S. Reber said the committee's recommendations seem appropriate. D. Osborn said she has no strong feelings about it; she is just concerned with process. K. Roberts said the negative response suggested removing more questions. But the advantage to keeping the instrument about the same as last year is that we can see a two-year trend. The eventual goal is to clearly align the evaluation instrument with LNSU standards.

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to endorse use of the superintendent evaluation instrument submitted by W. Sander, and the motion was seconded and passed.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the board should keep December 4th, 11th and 18th available, because we may need meetings on all those dates.

B. **Adjourn**

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:53 and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 11/6/07:

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