

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2009

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

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Input*
Call to Order – 6:33

2. *Consent Agenda Items*

MOTION: S. Reber moved to approve the consent agenda, and the motion was seconded and passed.

3. *Directors' Orders*

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$271,813.11, and the motion was seconded. Because of the new accounting system, there wasn't time for her to get a detailed breakdown. The amount for District #18 was \$267,164.67, and the amount for the GMTCC Construction Project was \$4,648.44. **The motion was passed.**

4. *Administrative Action Items*

A. **High School**

B. Schaffer introduced Ken Brighton, chair of the Education Department at Johnson State College. K. Brighton explained that the JSC education program training secondary teachers needs more coursework on teaching methodology and more field experience before student teaching. He and B. Schaffer would like to establish a collaborative relationship between JSC and LU to provide more field experience for students. LU and JSC would form a professional development school site here, there would be an official liaison between LU and JSC (Doug Boardman has been performing this role), and secondary faculty would be asked to open their classrooms for students to observe and teach mini lessons. Teachers would give some critique and feedback to students, and as compensation K. Brighton is working with the state to see if the state would award the teachers re-certification credits they need for their licenses. B. Schaffer said we currently host 2-3 student teachers per semester, as well as interns in counseling, etc. This proposed program would help us. It would give teachers another way to get re-certification credits, there would be no cost to us, and it would have a positive impact on instructional practices. W. Sander asked K. Brighton if he is working with Lamoille South or other SU's. K. Brighton said he foresees that as a distinct possibility in the future. S. Reber asked how many JSC students would participate. D. Boardman said about a dozen per semester. D. Osborn said when she was a student teacher, she found it valuable to go to a school very different from the one she had attended. If many of the JSC students are from this area, it might be good for them to teach

at a different school. P. Ingvoldstad asked if D. Boardman would continue to be the liaison with JSC. He will.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve LUHS as a secondary professional development site for Johnson State College, under B. Schaffer's guidance, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. S. Reber said this will be great for our students. D. Taylor said it will be rejuvenating for teachers. **The motion was passed.** (*K. Brighton and D. Boardman left at 6:51.*)

B. Schaffer said over break a committee held interviews for a new physics teacher. He recommended hiring Jeremy Rector, and handed out his application materials. D. Taylor said she endorsed the recommendation. S. Reber asked how soon J. Rector could start. B. Schaffer said he would recommend that his contract begin Jan. 8 and run through the end of the school year.

MOTION: J. Eisenhardt moved to accept B. Schaffer's recommendation to hire Jeremy Rector as a physics teacher, effective Jan. 8 through the end of the school year, S. Reber seconded, and the motion was passed.

B. Schaffer said Noah Noyes came for a day to help out, and will be able to work with the sub and J. Rector. (*J. Rector left at 6:58.*)

B. Middle School

C. Hinds recommended hiring Jeffrey Place for the open special ed position at the middle school.

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to accept C. Hinds' recommendation to offer the special ed position to Jeffrey Place, and the motion was seconded.

D. Taylor agreed with C. Hinds that we are very fortunate to have someone of his caliber. **The motion was passed.**

C. Central Office

D. Taylor distributed a School and Supervisory Union Profile with information for board members to review before the goal setting work session at the next LNSU board meeting. It includes information on student achievement in VT, articles on data based decision making, demographics, NECAP comparisons statewide and within the SU, AYP status info, and information on setting smart goals. She asked board to review the Profile before the LUSD board meeting on Jan. 20 and the LNSU board meeting on Jan. 26. LNSU goal setting will not replace goal setting at schools. K. Roberts said there are discrepancies in the data between the number of kids tested and the number included in AYP calculations. D. Taylor will look into it. She suggested bringing the Profile binders to the Jan. 20 and Jan. 26 meetings.

5. Committee Reports and Action Items

A. Board Planning

P. Ingvoldstad said the Jan. 20 board meeting will include a session with Winton Goodrich. There will be no committee meetings, and the meeting will start at 5:30.

B. Finance Committee

M. Frederick handed out budget information. The proposed budget does not invoke 2 votes, and it reduces the secondary tax rate by over 5 cents. The in-

crease over the previous year's budget is 2.37%. The budget returns \$115,000 from the sale of the Sweeney House. It uses money from the surplus, which is put into revenues. M. Frederick suggested refunding to the capital reserve the amount put on schedule to be spent this year - \$140,000. She distributed a sheet showing how the budget affects the towns' tax rates.

One of the major changes since the last budget presentation is that none of the network technicians are now being increased to 260 days; instead 2 are being increased to 240 days. The other major change is that costs for the audio visual theater person are being reduced to what M. Spaulding had originally intended. This budget doesn't reflect that VSBIT today announced a 0% increase in health insurance. The budget calls for a 2% increase. K. Roberts asked, is this budget the recommendation of the finance committee? And does it meet the principals' needs? B. Schaffer and C. Hindes said it meets their needs. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the finance committee hasn't discussed this budget, but it addresses the committee's only 2 outstanding issues, so she would say they will recommend it.

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to adopt the FY09 budget of \$3,354,369 as presented, and the motion was seconded. S. Reber said he likes the way M. Frederick worked out the distribution of the surplus. He thanked M. Frederick for her effort on that, and on the entire budget. **The motion was passed.**

A draft of the warning for the annual meeting was distributed for the meeting to be held at Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 7:00 PM. The board discussed where the meeting should.

MOTION: S. Reber moved to adopt the warning for the annual meeting as presented, with the change that the GMTCC Community Education Center should be used for the meeting, and the motion was seconded. Some other changes were agreed on. **The motion to adopt the warning as modified was passed.**

S. Hamlyn-Prescott suggested that P. Ingvaldstad's letter to the voters include information about how the board is giving money back, and how the LU budget has helped everyone's tax rate. She and M. Frederick will work on wording for the letter. D. Taylor can contribute something about education. The board discussed a news release for the News & Citizen. The budget informational meeting will be on February 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Cambridge Elementary School.

C. Curriculum Committee

W. Sander said the meeting today addressed the idea of coordinating curriculum among the elementary schools and between the MS and HS. It looks like we are on the verge of being able to do something significant.

D. Cricket Hill Building Committee

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 4:15.

6. ***Review of Full Board Annual Calendar, Request for Future Agenda Items, Other Business, and Adjourn***

B. Bailey asked if drivers from companies we contract with have gotten a letter telling them they must be fingerprinted. D. Taylor said she will check.

W. Sander said there is an ongoing problem with part of the building project – relocation of the storage sheds. Unsatisfactory work has been done and there is a problem with standing water. He would like authorization from the board to work with M. Frederick on a letter to DEW. P. Ingvoldstad asked if there were any objections to that. There were none. The letter will be from M. Frederick.

K. Roberts said VSBA will be going to Washington after the next meeting, so if there is anything the board wants them to carry to legislative reps, it should be put on the next agenda. The legislative breakfast is Jan. 13.

B. Bailey said she would like Laraway School to be invited back. She has questions to ask them. The board wasn't prepared last time.

W. Sander asked if B. Schaffer could give the board more information on the situation with the physics teacher who resigned.

MOTION: B. Penberthy moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter, inviting B. Schaffer to remain, at 8:18, and the motion was seconded and passed. The board consented out of executive session. No action was required; the session involved a report only.

MOTION: S. Reber moved to adjourn, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, the motion passed, and the board adjourned at 8:39.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 1/6/09:

3. *Directors' Orders*

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B. **Middle School**

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to accept C. Hindes' recommendation to offer the special ed position to Jeffrey Place, and the motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

5. *Committee Reports and Action Items*

B. **Finance Committee**

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to adopt the FY09 budget of \$3,354,369 as presented, and the motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

MOTION: S. Reber moved to adopt the warning for the annual meeting as presented, with the change that the GMTCC Community Education Center should be used for the meeting, and the motion was seconded.

Some other changes were agreed on. **The motion to adopt the warning as modified was passed.**

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