

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010

Board members present: D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, P. Ingvoldstad, T. O’Hear, D. Osborn, S. Reber, W. Sander, S. Hamlyn-Prescott. Absent: B. Bailey, B. Penberthy, K. Roberts, D. Whitcomb. Others: D. Taylor, C. Hindes, 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 – 6:35

B. Adopt the Agenda

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by D. Baker. S. Reber noted that there might be a second executive session needed, in addition to the one listed. The motion was passed.

2. Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the December 15 Meeting, Acceptance of Administration Reports)

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to approve the consent agenda, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.

3. Directors’ Orders:

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>12/18/09</i>	<i>\$150,682.04</i>
	<i>12/24/09</i>	<i>\$138,689.59</i>
	<i>12/31/09</i>	<i>\$6,705.38</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>12/15/09</i>	<i>\$53,408.44</i>
	<i>12/24/09</i>	<i>\$1,527.22</i>

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve directors’ orders as printed, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed. (S. Hamlyn-Prescott arrived at 6:40.)

4. LUSD Budget: Discussion and Possible Approval

M. Frederick said the finance committee had met the day before, and recommended a change. A level budget had been proposed, but now it is proposed to go down, because of a decrease in the amount of tuition we have to pay to GMTCC, due to a drop in FTE’s. The finance committee thought it would be best to not ask for money to be put into capital reserve, but instead to apply all of the surplus to offsetting revenue to reduce the tax rate. The fund balance is \$232,719.

The tax rate for FY2011 will be 1.340. S. Reber asked, if someone asked him how much the tax rate in Johnson would go up due to the high school budget, what should he say?

M. Frederick said the answer would be 4.7 cents. D. Baker asked, if Common Level of Appraisal figures for the LNSU towns were all in the 90’s, would that affect the tax rate for the high school? M. Frederick said once it’s all blended, it would lower tax rates for the towns. S. Reber said it wouldn’t change the amount of revenue raised, however.

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved that the board approve an LUSD #18 FY2011 budget of \$14,803,400, seconded by P. Ingvoldstad. D. Baker applauded efforts to cut

the budget, but asked, are we sure we haven't cut it too much? S. Hamlyn-Prescott said administrators said there would be no change to their programs with this budget. **The motion was passed.**

M. Frederick said the finance committee recommends that announced tuition for LUHS stay the same as in the current year.

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve announced tuition for Lamoille Union Grades 7-12 of \$11,509 and announced tuition for GMTCC of \$7,163 plus the state pass-through amount of \$7,433, for a total of \$14,596, and the motion was seconded and passed.

M. Frederick said the finance committee had talked about the location of the annual meeting. They looked at the bylaws to see they require switching back and forth between Cambridge and Hyde Park, but couldn't find mention of that. But they felt the issue should not necessarily be put on the warning for action, just for discussion. M. Frederick distributed a draft warning.

P. Ingvaldstad asked, shouldn't we also discuss the date of the informational meeting? S. Reber asked, why do we need a vote at the annual meeting on where it takes place? M. Frederick said we don't. S. Reber said next year the board can just decide on the location based on input from the public. So it makes sense to discuss it at the annual meeting, but there is no need for action then.

W. Sander asked, do our bylaws specify a date for the annual meeting? M. Frederick said she couldn't remember. W. Sander asked, what is the requirement for the informational meeting? P. Ingvaldstad asked, does it change with the new law? W. Sander asked, could the annual meeting become the informational meeting? M. Frederick thought it could. W. Sander asked, why not set a date within 10 days of town meeting for the annual meeting, so a separate informational meeting would not be needed? S. Hamlyn-Prescott said discussion of location is a separate issue from moving the annual meeting to within 10 days of town meeting. She would like there to be a vote on moving the date. W. Sander said that when we moved to Australian ballot, we kept the traditional annual meeting date, but then had to add another meeting within 10 days of town meeting.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the finance committee had also had a discussion about whether all monetary voting (such as for putting money into capital reserve) should be done by Australian ballot. M. Frederick said when the vote about Australian ballot was held, it was warned only for the budget vote, not for all articles. There was a preference at that time for a town-meeting-style meeting. W. Sander asked, isn't capital reserve part of the budget? M. Frederick said no. We can't carry over any money not reserved without a vote on it. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said, based on the number of people who have been showing up at annual meetings, there isn't representation. S. Reber said the board should try to come up with some notion of what arguments for changes they want to use at the meeting. He said, with specialized issues, the purpose may not be apparent to someone in a voting booth who hasn't heard what the board thinks about it. It is not clear to him that we would want to go to Australian ballot for all monetary voting. D. Baker said if we say

we want all monetary votes to be by Australian ballot, that would include compensation of elected officers. We need to be careful about wording. M. Frederick said we need 5 percent of voters in each town to even get it on the warning, so that can't go on the warning this year. W. Sander asked, is getting 5 percent of voters the only way, or can it also be done at the impetus of the board? M. Frederick said her understanding is that it can't be done at the board's impetus.

S. Reber asked if there was consensus that there should be discussion of Australian ballot for all monetary votes at the annual meeting. He said someone on the board, or M. Frederick, needs to be prepared to give pros and cons and a recommendation. There was general support for discussing this at the annual meeting.

It was agreed that the wording of Article IX should be changed to read as follows:

To discuss:

- A) *the time and location of future annual meetings and budget informational meetings*
- B) *which financial matters should be voted on by Australian ballot.*

MOTION: P. Ingvoldstad moved that the board approve the warning for the annual meeting as presented, with the discussed amendments. The motion was seconded and passed.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the finance committee had discussed, as a way to decrease cost, the idea of having a simplified 2-page annual report that would be put in the Transcript and distributed to all households. They also discussed whether elementary schools would let us put something in their annual reports, but they didn't think those reports come out soon enough. S. Reber asked, what is the cost to mail the report? M. Frederick said \$3K. M. Frederick there is nothing in statute that says we have to mail it. D. Taylor said it could be available online at no cost. D. Baker said we should make sure it is in the Transcript and not the News & Citizen. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said it hadn't been decided what exactly would be in this report. W. Sander asked how much it would cost to do an insert in the Transcript. M. Frederick said she didn't know, but it would be a lot less. J. Eisenhardt said this idea was suggested by the administrators. We rely on them to set a budget, and it looks like micro managing when they suggest something to make a big savings and we question it. We should listen to them. D. Baker asked whose budget the saved money will be in. M. Frederick said the school board's budget. W. Sander suggested there be public service announcements so people will know to look for it in the Transcript. It was agreed that an ad hoc annual report committee consisting of S. Hamlyn-Prescott, S. Reber, J. Eisenhardt, and administrators would meet to decide what to include in the report.

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

D. Taylor distributed folders with background information useful for preparation for the Jan. 25 carousel meeting. Commissioner Vilaseca will be at that meeting. She asked board members to think about what questions and concerns they have for the Commissioner, and whether there are certain initiatives they would like to see him promote. She thought the latter part of the meeting could focus on a facilitated discussion about what was learned and what it means to the boards. It wouldn't have to be as long as a regular

meeting. She asked people to email or call her with ideas about things to address with the Commissioner. W. Sander suggested inviting legislators.

D. Taylor said a legislative breakfast is being organized, as well as a presentation from Richard Westman.

W. Sander said he hadn't realized we were replacing G. Chicoine's position right away. D. Taylor said we are talking about replacing the half-time position he was in when he left, not a full-time position. W. Sander asked, is there now an assistant curriculum director? D. Taylor said no, only support staff.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to enter executive session for a contract issue, with administrators welcome to remain, seconded by D. Baker, at 7:57, and the motion was passed. (*M. Spaulding left at 7:57.*) The board consented out of session at 8:48.

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to enter executive session for a personnel matter with M. Frederick and D. Taylor remaining, seconded by D. Baker, and the motion was passed. (*C. Hindes and J. Teegarden left.*) The board consented out of session at 9:11.

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

The next meeting will be the carousel meeting on Jan. 25 (after the LNSU meeting.)

The annual report committee will meet before the negotiations committee meeting at 3:00 PM on Jan. 11.

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to adjourn, W. Sander seconded, the motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:14.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 1/5/10:

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

B. *Adopt the Agenda*

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