

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Board members present: B. Bailey, J. Eisenhardt, P. Ingvoldstad, T. O’Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy (via speakerphone), S. Reber, K. Roberts (via speakerphone), W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: D. Baker, S. Hamlyn-Prescott. Others: D. Taylor, M. Frederick, Marty Derda.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

An informational meeting on the budget was scheduled for 7:00, but no members of the public showed up for that meeting, so the board proceeded with the special meeting scheduled to begin after the informational meeting.

**1. Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements and Public Input
Call to Order – 7:19**

2. Review Copier Bid

M. Frederick distributed information about the copier bids. She reviewed the Oce dealer’s comments regarding the opinion statements LNSU office staff from the schools had made about the copiers, and her responses. One of the Oce dealer’s comments was that M. Frederick’s spreadsheet listed the IM7230, when the model actually demonstrated and bid was the VL7522. M. Frederick responded that her summary sheet reflected the model on the sheet from the vendor, which was the model we already have, not their proposed replacement. B. Bailey asked, did the office staff demo the 7230? M. Frederick said no, they viewed the 7522. The 7230 is a current model in the schools and staff is very familiar with them so there was no mistake in what model was being viewed. M. Frederick provided a comparison sheet showing the difference in cost between the Oce machine and those from the other bidders. She said there are 4 copiers at the high school and one at the middle school, so the total cost is for 5 machines. M. Frederick said she likes Marty Derda. The recommendation the group came up with not personal. M. Derda said it has been a pleasure working with M. Frederick and with this school system. Based on the initial information he received, he felt his company hadn’t been represented the way it should have been. Hearing M. Frederick’s comments and seeing them in writing, he now feels his company has been represented accurately, which is what he wanted to ensure.

D. Whitcomb asked, how much is the actual difference in cost over 3 years between Oce’s bid and the one chosen? He said the board was not given that figure on the night they voted. M. Frederick said the difference is \$9,026.48 for the five machines each year for a three year total of \$27,079.44. D. Whitcomb said that’s a lot. He can’t believe there can be that much difference between copiers. From now on out, he thinks a school board member should go to bid openings. M. Frederick said anyone can come to a public bid opening. S. Reber said he disagrees with D. Whitcomb. He doesn’t think it makes sense for board members to be in-

involved with administrative issues. He doesn't see that having a board member involved would have changed the outcome. D. Whitcomb said the board didn't get all the bid information. He wants to know the information the board gets is accurate. B. Bailey said she decided how to vote based on M. Frederick's recommendation, but she wonders about that now that the board is getting more information, and hearing about the wrong numbers being put in. M. Frederick said they didn't put the wrong number in. When they submitted their bids, the other companies put in the model numbers of the machines they were bidding, but Oce kept the number of the Oce machine we currently have. M. Derda said it was his mistake that he didn't put in the number of the machine he was actually bidding. In the future he will be more attentive to such details. But the cost numbers haven't changed. W. Sander said he thinks these are areas that are properly left to administration to advise and give a recommendation. The board ought to go along with the recommendation unless there is a good reason not to. He doesn't know that any member of the board is particularly expert on copiers. It would be more fitting for the people who will use them to evaluate them than for board members to do it. He would feel out of place imposing a judgment. He said M. Frederick was very clear that the recommended bid was not the low bid, but that office staff were more comfortable with the other machine. There have been other cases when we didn't take the low bid if circumstances justified it. B. Bailey said it sounds like we're buying a Rolex when a Timex would have done. She said we're using Oces now. W. Sander said yes, so office staff are familiar with them – and they want something different. He said we shouldn't be micromanaging. We shouldn't override an administrative decision unless we have a compelling reason. B. Bailey said we have to explain our decisions to taxpayers. We could have used that extra money on education. She thinks this is somewhat frivolous. M. Frederick said the group who viewed the copiers was talking quite a bit about educational uses of these machines.

D. Osborn said she has never before received a personal communication about a bid, so it must have been a serious concern. She just wants to make sure M. Derda is satisfied. M. Derda said yes, he is. He just wanted to make sure the information about his company's product was correctly represented. He feels he has serviced us well. He feels fine about where we stand now.

D. Whitcomb took exception to the statement about micromanaging. He said he didn't know that the difference in cost was \$27K. He said the board did not have enough information to make that decision. He called up the person from Oce after he received his email. There were objections to his doing that, but he feels it was justified. W. Sander said he distinctly remembered M. Frederick saying the recommendation was not the low bid. He is not surprised by these figures. He thinks he heard a figure of around \$9K for one year. He said M. Frederick invited questions at that time. If the business manager thinks the price difference is not so huge that she wouldn't recommend it, that's fine with him. M. Frederick probably presented us with more information than most school boards get on these

things. D. Whitcomb said that after that meeting, he didn't know what he had done. He thinks it was poorly presented to the board. (*M. Derda left at 7:51.*)

3. ***Central Office Report***

D. Taylor said that, after hearing about people who had not received the annual report, central office did some follow-up. On Feb. 5, they delivered copies of the report to the Hyde Park Post Office, where they were then bundled by the News & Citizen, and some were kept out to use at town meetings, etc. They paid at that time, with a check that was later cashed. The Post Office bulk mailing plant in Essex reported that the reports were shipped there on Feb. 5. They have no further information after that – no record of distribution. The bulk mailing center is searching for documents and they have contacted another bulk mailing plant to see if the reports ended up there. Central office had a radio ad telling people where they can pick up annual reports. The report is also available on the LNSU website. The reports may still arrive or be located. It is very unusual for this to happen. M. Frederick said she checked with Paul Giuliani, and he said we've done everything we had to do, and don't need to do anything else.

J. Eisenhardt said he had learned that a soccer program using the gym is charging for participation and not paying rent. D. Taylor said she will follow up on that. J. Eisenhardt said a basketball program is also not paying rent but charging participants, which is against our policy.

A couple of board members said they had received the annual report in the mail.

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

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to adjourn at 7:57, seconded by B. Penberthy, and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by D. Griffiths and edited by M. Frederick