

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

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, T. O’Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, S. Reber, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: P. Ingvaldstad, K. Roberts, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, J. Eisenhardt. Others: D. Taylor, B. Schaffer, M. Frederick.

**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 – 6:37**

**B. Adopt the Agenda**

**MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to adopt the agenda with one item added: approval of department chairs’ contracts. W. Sander seconded, and the motion was passed.**

**C. Announcements**

B. Schaffer said August 31 will be the first day for all high school students.

**2. Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the August 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Acceptance of Administration Reports)**

**MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by T. O’Hear, and the motion was passed.**

**3. Directors’ Orders:**

7/31/2009 \$178,704.39

8/7/2009 \$59,488.15

8/14/2009 \$17,754.27

**MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve directors’ orders in the amounts presented, and the motion was seconded.** S. Reber mentioned a couple of the larger amounts included in the orders. **The motion was passed.**

**4. Administrative Action Items**

**A. High School**

B. Schaffer asked the board to approve a member-to-member football agreement between LUHS and BFA/Fairfax, which will allow 2 LUHS students to participate in BFA’s football program.

**MOTION: B. Bailey moved to adopt the member-to-member sports agreement between LUHS and BFA/Fairfax, seconded by D. Whitcomb.**

B. Schaffer noted that there is no cost to us, and that we do this every year.

**The motion was passed.**

**MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve extra duty contracts for department chairs, seconded by T. O’Hear.** B. Schaffer read the names of the chairs. The Fine Arts chair will be a math teacher. W. Sander asked why there is a chair of the Library Department. B. Schaffer said department chairs have certain responsibilities, such as budget oversight and staff supervision (making observations that will be used for evaluation.) **The motion was passed.**

**B. Central Office**

M. Frederick said central office has been busy this summer. They have been applying for ARRA funds and working on reports that are due this time of year. D. Taylor and S. Cano have taken some courses this summer. Negotiations are coming up again. School is starting up soon. In-service begins next week.

M. Frederick went over financials. There is a fund balance from last year of \$488,000. We got more revenue than expected for state-placed students. Food service ran a small deficit, but there is some local funding that hasn't yet been applied to food service. That will more than make up for the deficit, so it will contribute to the fund balance. B. Schaffer said he has sent free and reduced lunch applications out to all families. W. Sander asked if he had given any thought to having central office process the applications, and publicizing that fact. That possibility had been discussed previously as a way to increase application rates, since some families might not want personnel at their local school to see their applications. B. Schaffer said he hadn't heard of that discussion. He will be working with principals at other schools this year, talking to the public about school improvement, and he will give information to the public on free and reduced lunch.

D. Whitcomb said he had heard about a volunteer driver who went to get fingerprinted as required by LNSU, and was asked to pay \$15.25. M. Frederick said that is the fee charged us by the VT Criminal Information Center. We take the checks, and they bill us. D. Whitcomb said the sheriff's office charges another \$15.00 for fingerprinting. S. Reber said he wondered whether we might want to consider subsidizing the cost for volunteers. M. Frederick said Johnson pays the cost, but none of the other LNSU schools do. Any district could choose to pay the fees. B. Schaffer said background checks are needed by many people – employees, student teachers, people doing a practicum, coaches, etc. D. Whitcomb said people who have gone through a background check in the past are having to do it again. M. Frederick said that's because the checks that were done in the past didn't cover everything that is required now. D. Whitcomb said he's concerned we won't have drivers for kids if they have to go through this. M. Frederick said that if LNSU pays for the cost of background checks when other SU's do not, people may come here for their check, but do all their driving in another district. D. Whitcomb said the cost of the checks is a minor issue. He said a number of drivers have said they won't go through with the process required. S. Reber said he thought it would be worth investigating whether there is any way to keep volunteers from being put off by the requirements. D. Osborn said maybe people could be reimbursed after they had volunteered for a certain amount of time. D. Whitcomb said he thought background check information couldn't be passed from one SU to another. M. Frederick said she will check on that, but she thinks if the person signs a release, the SU can do it. S. Reber said the board would be interested in more information on this issue.

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

D. Osborn said finance policies need to be updated to reflect use of procurement cards. M. Frederick has come up with proposed revisions to Policies 7.0, 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3, which were mailed out to board members. D. Osborn hasn't gotten any feedback on those. She will send out the revised versions in the next packet, so they can be warned at the next meeting.

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

A. **Future Agenda Items**

S. Reber said next time he would like to have a brief conversation about the agenda and how it is organized, the consent agenda, and how people feel about using only email for board mailings. The board agreed to put that on the agenda.

D. Osborn said she would like to have discussion about an issue that came to her attention at the LSSU meeting she went to – mandates put on teachers about activities outside of school, such as going into places that serve alcohol when students are present. She would like to clarify what our current situation is regarding such mandates. Several people said they felt what teachers do on their own time is their own business. The board in general felt this was not an issue for LNSU and did not require discussion.

D. Baker asked if there will be anything published to let Belvidere residents know about changed bus routes. M. Frederick said she will place a phone call tomorrow to find out what the routes are. The Belvidere board wants to review the routes before school opens.

B. Bailey asked, isn't there anything in the teacher handbook about professional behavior? B. Schaffer said yes, but it doesn't cover what happens when teachers are off duty. He doesn't feel that is his responsibility. He knows of administrations that have tried to regulate off-duty behavior, and it was fought. S. Reber asked if the board could get copies of the teacher handbook. B. Schaffer said he can have copies at the next meeting of the teacher handbook and the student handbook.

B. **Adjourn**

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:29, and the motion was passed.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 8/18/09:

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