

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

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

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: W. Sander moved to adopt the agenda, D. Whitcomb seconded, and the motion was passed.

2. *Consent Agenda Items*

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by D. Whitcomb. D. Osborn noted that under Request for Future Agenda Items, in the sentence “The board in general felt this was not an issue for LNSU and did not require discussion,” “LNSU” should be replaced with “LUSD.” The motion to approve the consent agenda with that change to the minutes was passed.

3. *Directors' Orders:*

8/21/09 \$92,476.71

8/21/09 \$14,247.70

8/21/09 \$25.83

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve directors' orders in the amounts presented, seconded by D. Whitcomb. S. Reber said \$42K of the biggest amount was for VYCC. Of the \$14,247, \$4K was to Black River Design and \$10K was to Thomas Engineering Associates for the Cricket Hill building foundation. B. Schaffer said this our 4th year having a collaborative agreement with VYCC. There was no cost to use for the first couple of years, but we had to pay last year, and this year it will cost us \$80K. We may not continue with the program next year, but it has a lot of value. It helps students on the margin. K. Roberts asked how many children are served. B. Schaffer said 20-30 total for the year. The \$25.83 was for Vocational Building Trades. **The motion was passed.**

4. *Administrative Action Items*

A. **High School**

B. Schaffer said Joyce Larro, school nurse, is resigning effective Sept. 25 to take a job with the state.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to accept the resignation of Joyce Larro, seconded by K. Roberts. W. Sander said he is upset that we are bound by contracts, but employees are not.

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to enter executive session for a personnel matter, with administration remaining, seconded by W. Sander, at 6:43, and the motion was passed. (S. Hamlyn-Prescott arrived and joined the board during executive session.) The board consented out of session at 6:47.

The motion to accept the resignation was passed, with S. Hamlyn-Prescott abstaining.

D. Baker said she had heard that the state was thinking about holding clinics for vaccination of school children against flu. D. Taylor said yes, she had heard from the Morrisville Public Health office that all schools will be invited to consider participating on a voluntary basis as centers for vaccination. She doesn't have the details yet. No decision has been made about whether any of our schools will serve. We haven't yet gotten the formal request. She doesn't know if it will require board action. The vaccine is not ready yet. B. Schaffer said flu guidelines from the Superintendents' Association are being mailed to homes.

B. Schaffer distributed copies of the teacher and student handbooks, and the athletic calendar.

B. Central Office

D. Taylor said there has been a change in state statute relating to homeless students. A student who has formerly been in attendance in Morrisville recently moved to Hyde Park due to homelessness. The change in statute requires that school boards now must make the determination as to which school homeless students should attend. Such decisions used to be made by administrators. D. Taylor has discussed this with B. Schaffer and S. Cano, and their recommendation is that the student continue to attend People's Academy while homeless.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to accept the recommendation of administration and make the determination that a homeless student residing in Hyde Park should attend People's Academy, seconded by P. Ingvoldstad.

W. Sander asked who pays for the student. D. Taylor said the student is included in Hyde Park's ADM, though the DOE or commissioner might request an adjustment be made later. There is no requirement that we pay tuition to People's Academy. D. Baker asked, is this student under 18? Is the whole family homeless? D. Taylor said the student is residing in Hyde Park with a parent. They are staying somewhere, but they are displaced from their home. S. Reber asked why the legislature made the change. D. Taylor said she doesn't know. D. Taylor said People's Academy is in agreement about the student's placement. D. Whitcomb asked, how can the student be homeless if they have a residence? D. Taylor said the student is homeless according to the definition in state statute. **The motion was passed.**

5. Committee Reports and Action Items

A. High School

W. Sander said the curriculum committee met with D. White this evening to hear about the LNSU-wide push for common curriculum, etc.

B. Policy Committee

D. Osborn said M. Frederick went on vacation, so she was unable to get a clean copy of the proposed new finance policies; that will have to wait until next time. The copies already mailed out, which show the changes made, are very readable. If anyone has any input after reading them, they should let her know.

D. Taylor would like to put a report on implementation of the LUSD background check policy for employees and volunteers on a future agenda.

6. Discussion of Board Agenda and Schedules

S. Reber asked if board members were happy with the organization of the agenda. K. Roberts noted that we don't have a "New Business" item that could serve as a warning to the public that we might be discussing a matter of import. She said we also might want to agenda reports to the board on various things so we don't lose track. S. Reber suggested having a standing general "Board Goals Monitoring" item on the agenda, which could be filled in with specific items. P. Ingvaldstad said he likes student/ teacher presentations. S. Reber said that could be a slot we always have on the agenda. D. Baker said we have a goal of getting the public more involved. Maybe we should have a discussion on how to get more public involvement. S. Reber came back to K. Roberts' point about new business. K. Roberts said maybe we could acknowledge that administrative action items are new business (or possibly business carried forward from a previous meeting.) S. Reber said we could change it to "Administrative Reports and Action Items." P. Ingvaldstad said the reason we stopped having an "Other" item at the end was to keep down speech making, and to keep things from coming up at the last second and getting a knee jerk reaction. K. Roberts said on general principles, we should wait until the next meeting to act on new items. But we should have the opportunity to bring up new business. P. Ingvaldstad said items could be added when people have the opportunity to make changes to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. D. Osborn noted that on the VSBA sample agenda, they quote the relevant law for executive session. Is that a suggested requirement? D. Taylor said the closer the motion to go into executive session aligns with legally allowed reasons, the better it will hold up to any future challenge. We don't use formal motions that align with statutes at any of our boards. The agenda doesn't need to be specific about the reason for executive session, just the minutes. D. Whitcomb said he thought it was wrong to say "Anticipated Executive Session" on the agenda, as in the VSBA sample, because executive sessions cannot be definitely planned ahead of time. The agenda can only show a possible executive session.

S. Reber noted that the list of items VSBA suggests may appear on a consent agenda is a bit different from the list of things we normally have on our consent agenda. D. Whitcomb said he doesn't want everything handed over to the superintendent's office.

W. Sander said there have been cases – he can think of 3 – where the board rejected administration's recommendation for hiring a teacher. He said he thought it would be all right to have extra-duty contracts on the consent agenda, but not new hires. He also thought hiring of staff other than licensed staff could be on the consent agenda.

P. Ingvaldstad asked, could resumes be mailed out, so the board could have information about those being hired? D. Taylor said we have to redact personal information. D. Whitcomb asked, is a resume a private document? D. Taylor said some say that personnel files are public documents, but that is once a person is hired. She would have to check about the status of documents prior to hiring. D. Osborn said she doesn't feel she needs to oversee details of hiring. If administration makes a bad choice, we have the wrong administration. K. Roberts said we could put resumes on a website in a password-protected area. S. Reber asked if there is consensus that we get enough time to view the information on potential hires the way we do it now. W. Sander would like more time. P. Ingvaldstad thinks it is a waste of time. There was consensus that the board should continue as now with hiring of licensed staff. It was agreed that purchases, fuel bids, etc. should not be on the consent

agenda. K. Roberts asked, is hiring of paras, etc. going to be in the consent agenda, or will there be a report at the meeting? B. Schaffer said including the information in the consent agenda would be the easiest. He said there needs to be a recommendation from the board for a specific individual to get a specific contract, so the consent agenda will include a list of contracts with names. D. Taylor recommended not putting a dollar amount, just a statement that the pay will be in accordance with the master contract, and that was agreed on. B. Schaffer will bring the contracts to the meeting for the board to sign. D. Baker asked, are teachers getting paid according to the old contract? D. Taylor said, as of the first pay period, yes. D. Whitcomb said the information from VSBA about the consent agenda says consent agenda items are accepted unless the board as a whole agrees to take them off the consent agenda, but he feels anyone should be able to ask for anything to be removed. S. Reber said our practice has been that questions are encouraged. The VSBA information is just a reference. W. Sander said we've been operating under Robert's Rules Revised. Now there is Robert's Rules Newly Revised, and he hopes we don't go with that.

S. Reber said that at the last LNSU executive committee meeting, M. Frederick suggested that it would be better for administrators if all board meetings were scheduled for the first and third full weeks of the month, so they would all be in the same week. He asked the board to think about whether that would cause problems. D. Baker said it would conflict sometimes with another meeting for her. D. Whitcomb said it would for him, too.

S. Reber said at the next LNSU board meeting, D. Taylor will present a proposed carousel meeting schedule. He distributed the proposed schedule. D. Taylor said the proposal was put together following discussion at the May LNSU board meeting on the pros and cons of a carousel schedule. It was recommended that administration come back with a pilot proposal. This proposal was presented at the executive committee meeting. It calls for 3 carousel meetings. On those dates, the LU board meeting would follow the LNSU meeting, rather than being held on the 3rd Tuesday as usual. Speakers would be brought in for informational purposes. The commissioner is confirmed as a speaker for the January meeting. We would try the idea out for this year, then evaluate. K. Roberts said she doesn't see goal updates mentioned on the proposed agendas. Also, she is on two boards and would have a hard time being in two rooms at once. She thinks it is a good idea to encourage people to come to LNSU board meetings, but it made for a very long night when there used to be carousel meetings. Her recollection is that elementary school boards felt they were not getting the work done that they needed. W. Sander said eventually we would hope to spread the carousel meetings around among the schools, but these have been scheduled to meet at GMTCC because a central location is good during the bad weather season. D. Baker said when we used to have carousel meetings, those were very long nights. Also, she doesn't come to LNSU meetings because she can't vote. D. Whitcomb said he thinks the LNSU board should bring speakers in for its meetings, but we should leave individual board meetings when they are now, so taxpayers can come to meetings in their home town. Also, there are three people who are on multiple boards. K. Roberts said the last time we talked about this it was in recognition of the number of nights central office staff are required to come out to meetings. The Hyde Park board has said in the past that they don't need a central office staff person unless they request one. D. Taylor said she has 144 meetings on her schedule in a year. Things sometimes come up unpredictably, so she feels as if she has to be present.

The number of meetings is not what drove this decision; it was more to make LNSU board meetings more meaningful.

S. Reber asked whether the curriculum and policy committees should continue to just alternate meetings, or whether people need to know that one will always be on the night of the first meeting of the month and the other on the night of the second. It was agreed to alternate meetings, and just note at the top of the agenda which committee will be meeting.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked when there will be a vote about carousel meetings. D. Taylor said at the Sept. 28 LNSU board meeting.

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

S. Reber noted that D. Taylor had already mentioned a report on background checks, and D. Baker had mentioned a discussion on getting the community involved. D. Baker said she had also mentioned flu vaccinations. K. Roberts said she'd like a few minutes on Sept. 15 to report out on resolutions for the VSBA annual meeting, which will be held Oct. 15-16, and get input from the board.

D. Taylor said the support staff contract was ratified, so support staff received the increases specified in that contract. We were close to concluding negotiations with teachers, then the teachers didn't meet over the summer, but before they left Suzanne Dirmaier suggested not moving people up a step until the new contract was ratified, so administration did not. They have received word from Suzanne that all schools will soon be ratifying the contract. The goal is to have it ratified by Labor Day. Discussion and possible ratification of the contract should be on a future agenda.

S. Reber asked if there was anyone who would prefer to get board communications only by email, and several people said they would.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:00, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 9/1/09:

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