

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

Board members present: D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, B. Penberthy, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, T. O’Hear, D. Osborn, S. Reber, K. Roberts, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb (7:20). Absent: B. Bailey, P. Ingvaldstad. Others: D. Taylor, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden. C. Hindes, M. Frederick, M. Spaulding, D. White, G. Chicoine, Dennis Downer, Eric Weiss, Jean Sequeira, Lucy Burdick, Suzanne Dirmaier.

**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 – 6:32**

**B. Adopt the Agenda**

**MOTION: K. Roberts moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by W. Sander.**

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said an item needed to be added to Directors’ Orders:

\$53,408.44 for the building construction project, dated Dec. 15, 2009. **The motion to approve the agenda as amended was passed.**

**2. Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the December 1 Meeting, Acceptance of Administration Reports)**

**MOTION: K. Roberts moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.**

**3. Directors’ Orders:**

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>11/27/09</i>	<i>\$83,248.24</i>
	<i>12/04/09</i>	<i>\$154,852.66</i>
	<i>12/11/09</i>	<i>\$61,701.91</i>
<i>Vocational Building Trades</i>	<i>12/11/09</i>	<i>\$144.00</i>
<i>Equipment Grant</i>	<i>12/04/09</i>	<i>\$28,235.00</i>
<i>GMTCC Building Project</i>	<i>12/15/09</i>	<i>\$53,408.44</i>

**MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve directors’ orders as printed, with the addition of the December 15 orders added to the agenda, seconded by W. Sander.** S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the Dec. 4 orders included about \$136K for the LNSU quarterly assessment. The \$28,235.00 Equipment Grant was the GMTCC equipment grant for a 2009 Ford F-350. The December 15 amount is for the final bills from DEW. **The motion was passed.**

**4. Presentation on Solar Voltaic Renewable Energy**

J. Teegarden introduced Dennis Downer, the electrical technology instructor. J. Teegarden said he is hoping the board will put money in a future budget for more solar panels. He just applied for a grant that could give us money for more panels.

D. Downer described the array of panels that he and his students put up, and how they work. It is an Enphase Microinverter System. (*D. Osborn arrived at 6:39.*) Data from each panel is sent over the internet. They didn’t have to put a meter in because they can monitor it over the internet. J. Teegarden said part of the grant he wrote was to share the

data from the panels with other schools, so they can use it for science classes. D. Downer showed the demo on the Enphase website that describes the monitoring information available. A report will automatically be sent if a problem with the system is detected. Dave Palumbo came in and talked to the kids about employability skills, then helped with the installation. They are waiting for permission from the Public Service Board to turn the array on.

S. Reber asked how much each panel cost. D. Downer said the price is going down. They are now about \$700 each, and the inverter for each panel is about \$225. S. Reber asked, will we have to go back to the Public Service Board if we get more? D. Downer said yes, but it will be simpler now. M. Frederick said D. Downer had mentioned that some panels in Germany have been in use for 30 years. Is there any degradation from year to year? D. Downer said there is some small amount of degradation. We don't know how long these panels will last. He explained that when the panels are generating electricity, it spins the meter back, and we get a credit we can use later.

5. ***USD Budget Development Discussion***

M. Frederick distributed a GMTCC Calculator Summary, showing the figures used to arrive at FY11 per pupil tuition. J. Teegarden said the cost per student has gone up some because enrollment went down some. But the budget requires the same amount of dollars as this year's; it is a zero expense, zero revenue budget.

**MOTION: K. Roberts moved to approve a 2010-2011 GMTCC budget of \$3,354,369.00, seconded by J. Eisenhardt.**

K. Roberts said at the State Board meeting today, they were looking at reducing salary grants. Has the state confirmed the salary amount in this budget? J. Teegarden said the amount in the budget is just based on this year's amount. K. Roberts we can reduce the budgeted amount ourselves, or go with it knowing we will be in deficit if they lower it. J. Teegarden said the amount of money we got this year did not come to us until about 2 weeks ago. There was no way last year to predict what it would be. So he used the current year's amount, which is higher than last year's. K. Roberts asked, if we find out in May that we are going to get less, what would be J. Teegarden's approach to dealing with that? J. Teegarden said his approach would be to look at things to cut out of the budget.

W. Sander asked, do we have to set announced tuition strictly on the basis of calculated costs, or can we set it a little higher than we expect it will need to be? We can adjust it down later, but not up, right? M. Frederick said we can never charge more than what was announced, but we can announce higher and collect lower. Because GMTCC tuition is so much of a high school's budget, high schools really teeter on that number. We've always calculated it based on what we know. But we could announce it higher. We are currently projecting lower tuition than the current tuition. J. Teegarden said if we announce a little higher, we could charge the schools less when the second payment comes due. Since we don't have to announce tuition yet, he would like to come back in January with a recommendation to the board about how much tuition to announce.

D. Osborn asked, is the tuition amount shared with students, or should it be, to help them understand the value of their education? J. Teegarden said students don't know the tuition rate. He's never heard a student talk about it. D. Osborn said she thought students

might take their education more seriously if they knew their community had paid that amount to send them to the tech center.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said she would prefer voting on the budget tonight and holding off on the tuition announcement. M. Frederick said in her meetings, they have not indicated those numbers would go down. She suggests keeping them the same until we get more information. We have enough money budgeted for the high school to cover the tuition increase some have suggested. It was agreed not to vote on tuition tonight. J. Teegarden said the RAB meeting was cancelled due to weather, so he polled RAB members, and 9 out of 12 were in favor of the proposed budget. He couldn't get hold of 2 members, and didn't ask J. Eisenhardt. J. Eisenhardt said he is in favor of the budget.

**The motion was passed.**

M. Frederick distributed a sheet showing the impact of some things the commissioner has recommended. (*D. Whitcomb arrived at 7:20.*) Payment of a portion of the teacher retirement fund from the ed fund would have a big impact. W. Sander said he thinks there is a high probability that will occur.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked M. Frederick to let the board know about what type of fund balance we have. M. Frederick said the audited fund balance includes restricted funds. The unrestricted fund balance for the high school and middle school is \$232,719. In the past, we have recommended putting \$140K in capital reserve. But she thinks the board has to consider giving it all back to reduce the tax rate this year. We do have a decent amount of money still in capital reserve, because we haven't spent all \$140K each year. By the next meeting she should have fairly solid information on FTE's; then she can show the board tax rates.

M. Frederick distributed a sheet showing costs per pupil for various SU's and districts compared to LNSU's. LNSU has comparatively low per pupil costs for central office.

The next board meeting will be on January 5. A special meeting is scheduled for January 12. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month is January 19, but there is a carousel meeting scheduled for January 25. The board will decide at the January 5 meeting about what other meetings will be necessary in January.

**6. *Administrative Reports and Action Items***

**A. GMTCC**

J. Teegarden invited board members to check out the 18-foot holiday tree in the skylight area, provided by Mark Luneau.

**B. Middle School**

C. Hindes distributed an action plan status update.

**C. Central Office**

D. Taylor asked if there were any questions about the central office report. There were none.

7. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

**A. Curriculum Committee**

W. Sander said the committee heard a presentation this evening on updating graduation requirements to include some assessment of competency. The proposal will be refined somewhat further and brought to the full board at an upcoming meeting.

**B. Policy Committee**

D. Osborn said the policy committee doesn't need to meet on January 5. W. Sander will figure out whether the curriculum committee should meet that night.

**C. Cricket Hill Building Committee**

M. Spaulding said everything is on but the doors.

8. ***Break***

S. Reber suggested a break of about 10 minutes, until it was time for the executive sessions to begin. He said building administrators were welcome to leave. The meeting came back to order at 7:56

9. ***Executive Session for Personnel Issue***

Eric Weiss, Jean Sequeira, Lucy Burdick, and Suzanne Dirmaier were introduced, and board members introduced themselves.

**MOTION: K. Roberts moved to enter executive session regarding a personnel issue, asking D. Taylor and G. Chicoine to remain, as well as J. Sequeira and her representatives, Eric Weiss and Suzanne Dirmaier, seconded by W. Sander.** S. Reber asked the teachers and their representatives if they wanted their issues to be discussed in executive session. They said it didn't matter to them. **The motion was passed, and the board entered executive session at 7:59.** The board consented out of session at 8:56.

**MOTION: K. Roberts moved that the board uphold the administration's decision and authorize the board chair to confirm that decision in writing, including the reasons for the decision, by January 8, 2010. The motion was seconded and passed, with B. Penberthy abstaining because J. Sequeira is her daughter's teacher.**

10. ***Executive Session for Personnel Issue***

**MOTION: K. Roberts moved to enter executive session regarding a personnel issue, inviting G. Chicoine, D. Taylor, L. Burdick and her representatives to remain. The motion was seconded and passed, and the board entered executive session at 8:58.**

The board consented out of session at 9:57.

**MOTION: K. Roberts moved that the board uphold the administration's decision and authorize the board chair to confirm that decision in writing, including the reasons for the decision, by January 8, 2010, seconded by W. Sander, and the motion was passed.**

11. ***Adjourn***

**MOTION: W. Sander moved to adjourn, B. Penberthy seconded, the motion was passed, and the board adjourned at 9:58.**

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 12/15/09:

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*11. Adjourn*

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