

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009

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

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements and Public Input

A. Call to Order – 6:36

B. Introductions

B. Schaffer welcomed Susan Bernath as one of the 2 student reps for second semester. The other will be Jen Prescott. Everyone applauded.

2. Consent Agenda Items

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

3. Directors' Orders

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$422,491.00, seconded by W. Sander, and the motion was passed.

The breakdown was as follows: Voc. Bldg. Trades \$1,538.05; District #18 \$420,580.33 (major expenditures – Augmentative Learning & Movement Center \$17,834.77; First Student \$34,470.31; Laraway Youth & Family Services \$237,911.17); GMTCC Constr. Project (garage addition) \$372.62. B. Penberthy said the \$18K check mentioned last time, that was supposed to go to the sheriff's office but was made out to court diversion by mistake, was sent to court diversion, but she caught it and sent it back. The check was printed 3 days after the board meeting. M. Frederick said she thought it had already gone to the treasurer by the time the error was discovered.

4. Administrative Action Items

A. Facilities

M. Spaulding summarized the information he had included in the packet. The State of VT is working on a project for NY State to learn more about emissions from wood-fired boilers and oil boilers. They want to find a facility in VT where they can conduct emissions testing, which the state would pay for. It is part of our permit requirement that we do some testing. If we participate in the program, it will satisfy that requirement, and be paid for by the state. In addition, the fuel for the testing would be provided by the project team. M. Spaulding thinks our participation is a good idea, as there would be no expense, and some savings.

B. Middle School

C. Hindes handed out NECAP results and discussed them. Grade 8 students are being tested on 7th grade knowledge, and Grade 7 students are being tested on 6th grade knowledge. Scores increased compared to last

year, but are still less than the state average in some areas. He hasn't been told yet if we met AYP. There were increases in all the areas for 8th graders. We met the state average in writing. P. Ingvoldstad asked, how big is the range from top to bottom scores statewide? C. Hinder didn't know. W. Sander asked how much variation there is among our students. C. Hinder said 60% were proficient in reading. W. Sander asked about the correlation between how students do in different areas. C. Hinder said he is looking at that. It is too early to tell, but he thinks it is relatively even. W. Sander asked, is there enough data on individual students to tell where their areas of deficiency are? C. Hinder said faculty can see which questions they got right and wrong. P. Ingvoldstad asked, can individual education plans come out of this? C. Hinder said he wouldn't use this data alone. D. Taylor said it has a different purpose than providing individual feedback. W. Sander said a weakness of the NECAP is that it can't be used diagnostically. It would be good to have access to more of the questions. C. Hinder and B. Schaffer said some other states release all questions. D. Taylor said it is the cost of developing new questions that prevents all of them from being released. She said there is discussion at the state level about other options or adjustments to the system.

C. High School

B. Schaffer said LUHS demonstrated growth in NECAP reading, writing and math scores, but the job is far from done. He said there are some discrepancies between the reports from the data warehouse and the state. Students get individual breakdowns of their scores. S. Reber asked, is there any point in the board getting SAT10 or other test results as well as NECAP results? B. Schaffer said he thinks the SAT10 is more useful at the individual level. S. Reber said the only way to gauge how a group of students is doing is to track them through their career, but we don't have a way to do that. He said he doesn't know how much the 11th grade NECAP tells us. W. Sander asked what percentage of kids take the SAT and PSAT. B. Schaffer said he didn't know, but he thought it was probably pretty high. S. Bernath said she thought it was probably 80%. C. Hinder said he and his staff have developed a language arts local assessment to give another data point, based on VT GE's. D. Taylor said we made some gains across the board when looking at all schools in the SU. At the MS and HS level, students eligible for free and reduced lunch start to have a higher percentage proficient compared to the elementary level, and the same is true for disabled students.

D. Central Office

D. Taylor presented certificates from VSBA to W. Sander in recognition of 12 years of service and to S. Hamlyn-Prescott for 9 years of service. Applause followed. D. Taylor told them how much she appreciated their many hours of service.

D. Taylor distributed the central office report. The LNSU board worked on goal setting at the Jan. 26 meeting, and a committee will further refine

the information gathered at a meeting on Feb. 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The legislative breakfast was Feb. 2. A committee has been formed to give Susan Bartlett input about how our budgets would be affected by the governor's proposals. Anyone who is interested in being on that committee should let D. Taylor know. The average budget increase across the LNSU was about 1%. AdCo's Assessment Committee met all day on Jan. 28. Principals presented their schools' results for the survey on instructional practices, assessments, instructional time in each content area, and materials used. Liquidation of the 401(a) plan continues. Faculty and support staff negotiations continue.

D. Taylor distributed the Education Legislative Report. It talked about the governor's reiteration of his proposals. D. Taylor said people seem to think his requests will not get much attention in the short term, but in the long term there could be reductions.

S. Reber said he and W. Sander volunteered to serve on the LNSU goal setting committee, but it is open to anyone else who is interested. D. Taylor said the committee will draft goals to be brought to the next LNSU meeting.

S. Cano distributed information on data we collect and report to the state each year on Dec. 1 about students with disabilities. At the middle school, 16% of students have IEP's. The state percentage was 16% last year but it may increase this year. At LUMS, numbers by grade have been stable for the last 3 years. There has been a slight decrease in students with specific learning disabilities, and an increase in students with autism. There are 3 times as many boys as girls with disabilities, and the same is true throughout the SU. There are far more boys in the developmental delay category, which only includes children aged 3-8. In the upper grades there also tend to be more boys than girls with disabilities. The middle school needs to be complimented on the high numbers of students who spend at least 80% of their day in a regular ed program. LUMS has 10 504-eligible children and 31 on EST plans.

S. Cano discussed NECAP results for LUMS students on IEP's. The NECAP assesses programs, and cannot be heavily relied on for diagnostic purposes. Last year she talked to staff at LNSU schools about using NECAP data, and they agreed it would be good to look at whether SPED students improved their scores by 100 points or more from one year to the next, which equates to one year of progress. In 7th grade, 45% increased their reading or math scores or both by 100 points or more from 6th grade. In 8th grade, about 40% did. That is a good indication of progress. Some MS programs are having a positive effect.

W. Sander asked about the gender differential. Are males acting out more, while some girls are not being served who need it? S. Cano said her sense is that there are not many girls not being served who ought to be. She was concerned about the high numbers of boys with developmental delays and inquired into it with the schools. Staff told her that norms on many diagnostic tests have recently been revised and they are now capturing more boys. Also, LNSU elementary schools are being proactive in trying to find students with language difficulties because early language challenges lead to struggles with learning to read, complex math, and writing skills. In the upper grades, there have always been more boys in VT qualified for SPED services, because of emotional disturbances, attention deficit, and the fact that more boys than girls have specific learning disabilities after 4th grade. S. Cano said we need to pay attention to how boys learn at all grade levels and make sure to provide a variety of avenues for students to access information and demonstrate what they can do. S. Reber asked, is our gender differential matched in other states? S. Cano didn't know. D. Taylor said there are more boys than girls who are not proficient on the NECAP in LNSU schools.

S. Cano discussed LUHS figures. The percentage of students on IEP's is 17%, which is up a bit. It is similar to the statewide figure. There has been an increase in the number of students with specific learning disabilities, and the number with autism. The number with emotional disturbance is creeping up. The "other health impairment" category has been relatively stable. Looking at numbers by grade shows more students with disabilities in 12th grade this year. Those students are all on track to graduate. Last year the number in grade 11 increased because we started holding students in grade 11 until the year they are expected to graduate, to avoid negatively affecting the graduation rate. B. Schaffer mentioned a discrepancy about graduation rates which involved some students on IEP's. S. Cano will discuss it with him. The ratio of males to females is about 2 to 1. Students can stay in school until age 21 if they are on an IEP, but here students graduate mostly at 18-19. S. Cano showed the number of students who have out of school placements, and where they are placed.

On the NECAP, 58% of LUHS IEP students were partially proficient in reading. The state figure was 45%. Our literacy programs are making a difference. In math and writing, LUHS IEP students also did better than the state average.

W. Sander asked about how it works when a student is sent to Woodside Prep. S. Cano said students are usually just there for a short time. There is an educational program there, but we collaborate and send resources and lesson plans sometimes. We provide as much as we can and is needed.

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

A. Policy Committee

S. Reber said C. McFarlane has updated the policy manual. Anyone who wants a paper copy should let him know. People can also get the manual on CD, or download the PDF from the website. The committee will be bringing an updated drivers's ed policy to the board for warning. They are beginning review of the substance abuse policy.

D. Taylor said the updated policy on background checks calls for administration to develop related procedures, but there is imminent legislation which is likely to provide specific guidelines, so she recommends postponing development of procedures until that legislation has been passed. D. Whitcomb asked, what happens if we postpone implementation of the policy after we've already adopted it, and then something happens? D. Taylor said the policy doesn't have a specific timeframe for development of the procedures. D. Whitcomb said the policy requires fingerprinting of anyone who transports students. What if something happens and our policy says the transporter must be fingerprinted, but they haven't been? D. Taylor said maybe we should rescind the policy temporarily. S. Reber said he will follow up on that with D. Taylor.

B. Finance Committee

M. Frederick distributed copies of the annual report that will be mailed out, and asked people to review it for mistakes before noon the next day. The order of presentation at the annual meeting was discussed. D. Whitcomb brought up the fact that legislative changes now allow Australian ballot voting and discussion of the articles to be voted on to take place in the same room. M. Frederick will send information on that to the board. S. Reber said Dave Williams will not be available to serve as moderator. P. Ingvoldstad will ask Carl Powden.

C. Cricket Hill Building Committee

M. Spaulding handed out copies of the preliminary design for the new Cricket Hill structure. The intention is to provide space for the groomer and snowmobiles and the bikes for the Sprockets club. We have been paying for storage for records, and it seemed like a good idea to eliminate that expense by including records storage space in the new building. There will also be additional storage for other equipment like the brush hog. The committee decided the best placement is on the property on the right as you go uphill, mostly because it was hard to know how to locate the shed in the left-hand area without knowing how that area may be used in the future. The committee talked with Greg Stokes, who indicated he could build the structure based on the preliminary design. They got some ballpark quotes, and think it's possible we can put the building up within the budgeted amount of \$100K. S. Reber asked when it can be built. M. Spaulding said next we have to go through the permitting process, put some things out to bid, and contact Hyde Park Electric for power. He would guess that would take 2 months. We can't break ground until the

date in spring when heavy equipment is allowed on back roads. Greg Stokes probably couldn't do it until the start of next school year. W. Sander suggested a different roof design might be better. B. Bailey said she thought it was decided that this might not be a suitable place to keep records, because there is less security. Did that change? P. Ingvoldstad said that's one reason they liked the new location, across from the house. S. Hamlyn-Prescott suggested adding a slide with information about this project for the annual meeting. M. Frederick will do that. M. Spaulding can talk about it at the annual meeting.

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

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:23, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 2-3-09:

2. *Consent Agenda Items*

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3. *Directors' Orders*

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