

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, P. Ingvaldstad, T. O'Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, S. Reber, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: K. Roberts. Others: D. Taylor, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden, C. Hindes, S. Bernath, J. Prescott, Chris Whitlock, 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 – 6:34

B. Announcements

D. Whitcomb said he is selling buttons to raise money to bring Andrew Parker home from Boston.

C. Adopt the Agenda

MOTION: W. Sander moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by J. Eisen-

hardt. D. Osborn suggested leaving off the action items from the high school report. **The motion was passed.**

D. More Announcements

W. Sander can't come to the next meeting.

D. Osborn said the crew that did the one-act play for LUHS did an outstanding job and moved on to state competition, but did not go on the New England competition.

2. *Consent Agenda Items*

MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to approve the minutes of the March 17 meeting, seconded by W. Sander, and the motion was passed.

MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to accept the administration reports, seconded by B. Penberthy, and the motion was passed.

3. *Directors' Orders*

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve director's orders in the amount of \$169,694.98, seconded by W. Sander. The breakdown was as follows: LUSD #18 - \$154,386.03; Vocational Building Trades - \$6,095.38; GMTCC Construction Project - \$4,254.33; LUSD #18 - \$4,959.24. W. Sander asked about the power bill. It appeared no power bill was included in these orders. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said she had asked M. Frederick if she could make up forms for power and transportation costs, and hopefully she will have them for the next meeting. **The motion was passed.**

4. *Presentation by LUHS Science Department*

S. Reber said he had been invited to attend a meeting of department heads, and they were all enthusiastic about coming to address the board. B. Schaffer introduced C. Whitlock, the head of the science department.

C. Whitlock said the department has 3 new staff members, who are doing a very good job. There are 2 young women who have taught in New York City. Students enjoy working with them, and parents have made great comments. The new physics teacher is

a young man from Johnson State College who just finished his student teaching. He is energetic and is spending lots of hours after school. He meets with C. Whitlock frequently. He knows physics very well.

C. Whitlock said there has been lots of new talk about curriculum. Science teachers spent some in-service time talking about aligning curriculum to the NECAP, etc., looking at what we should be teaching and seeing if there are any gaps. NECAP science results were not great the first year. Two major areas the NECAP will cover are biology and earth science. We need to try to get students to take those classes. Earth science has not been a required class, but maybe we should look at that. AP biology and chemistry are usually offered every other year. In the last year, AP tests have gone through a new process where each school has to submit curriculum to show it meets the rigorous standards required at the national level. However, the curriculum approval is for the teacher, not the school. We went through the process last year for AP chemistry. It takes about 20-25 hours of time. And now that there is a new teacher, we have to redo it. One teacher will be taking a course at the AP Institute in St. Johnsbury this summer. One of the new teachers is giving an anatomy and physiology class and an advanced ecology class. More students are starting to take science in their last 2 years at LUHS.

W. Sander asked how many of the students in AP classes are taking the AP exams. C. Whitlock said all are required to. W. Sander asked, how are they doing? C. Whitlock said some good, some bad. Many get 3's or 4's. W. Sander asked, are students getting scared off by the requirement to take the AP exam? C. Whitlock probably a couple are. W. Sander said he would be interested in hearing feedback on getting more students to take AP classes.

P. Ingvaldstad asked if C. Whitlock works with the VYCC program. C. Whitlock said they're completely on their own, but we share resources and ideas. P. Ingvaldstad asked, if the objective is to do better on the NECAP, can we work towards that? B. Schaffer said students who participate in VYCC obtain credits, but not necessarily science credits. They attend regular classes part of the day, then do crew work after lunch. (*M. Frederick arrived at 7:04.*) D. Osborn said Mr. Baker had talked about the math department taking a new approach where the first 2 years of math were combined. Has the science department thought about a similar approach for science, where the first 2 years of science would cover all students need to know for NECAPs? C. Whitlock said the first 2 years of science are usually already going to be earth science and biology. S. Reber asked, what are the science requirements for students? C. Whitlock said 3 years of science are required, but there is no requirement for any specific class. S. Reber asked, is he leaning toward suggesting there should be specific requirements, such as earth science and biology? C. Whitlock said maybe the curriculum committee should consider that. His department is waiting to see whether the science NECAP stays around.

D. Taylor said elementary teachers have found that there is a heavy focus on hands-on inquiry. Students are likely to be successful if they know how to solve problems. Is the same true for the 11th grade test? C. Whitlock said an experiment is included in the elementary science test. The first 2 years the high school science NECAP was given, it included experiments, but the last 2 years the state didn't have money for that. Kids like that part.

In answer to W. Sander's question, C. Whitlock said colleges are not concerned with seeing earth science on a transcript. D. Osborn mentioned that C. Whitlock's great outdoor trips with kids are often the highlight of their science education. C. Whitlock said for the last 7 or 8 years, he has offered an earth science field trip to some area in the US. The trips are outside of the curriculum and not required. Destinations have included the Everglades, Death Valley, the Rio Grande area of Texas, Utah canyons, and the Okefenokee Swamp. He is unable to take a trip this year, but another teacher may do one after school is out. S. Reber asked, are there regional or state science fairs that LUHS participates in? C. Whitlock said yes, young staff members have embraced doing some things like that. One teacher is going to work in a program at UVM with 2-3 high school students. He has been trying to push students to apply to a national science camp that selects 2 students from every state, but no one from LUHS has gotten in yet. A couple of students have done summer programs, such as research in Texas or the Caribbean. Teachers find out about opportunities like these and tell students. We have had a lot of applications for the Governor's Institute. LUHS used to have a team for the Envirothon, and will hopefully have a team again next year.

5. *Administrative Action Items*

A. **Middle School**

C. Hines said Amy Whitlock is requesting 1 year's leave of absence without pay under the provisions of the master agreement. She has been with LUMS for 6 years. His recommendation is to approve the request.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve Amy Whitlock's request for a 1-year leave of absence without pay or benefits during the 2009-2010 school year under the provision of Article V, paragraph 2F of the current teacher master agreement, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.

C. Hines requested renewed approval for a job share that has existed for the last 2 years involving Lori Lisai and Nicole Burke. Outcomes have been superb.

MOTION: P. Ingvoldstad moved to approve the continued job share for the 2009-2010 school year between Lori Lisai and Nicole Burke as described in the presented side letter, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. S. Reber asked what a job share is.

C. Hines said each person teaches every other day. W. Sander said a side letter is necessary to cover something not directly covered in the contract.

The motion was passed.

C. Hines said Amie Desautels is taking family medical leave for the last 21 days of the school year, and he is requesting to pay her sub at a per-diem rate of \$186.57.

MOTION: P. Ingvoldstad moved to approve the request to pay the substitute for Amie Desautels at a per-diem rate of \$186.57 for a period not to exceed 21 days in support of a required Family Medical Leave, seconded by J. Eisenhardt.

C. Hines said under the negotiated agreement, subs working under 30 days are paid at \$65 per day. But in this situation we will have a full-time sub licensed in language arts and English who will follow A. Desautels' lesson plans. She will act as more than just a sub; she will be assuming a teaching position. W. Sander asked, does the side letter say this is not precedent setting? C. Hines said yes.

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to enter executive session to discuss a contract matter at 7:22, with D. Taylor and C. Hindes remaining, and the motion was seconded and passed. The board consented out of session at 7:33.

The motion to approve the requested per-diem rate was passed, with S. Hamlyn-Prescottlyn-Prescott abstaining.

B. High School

B. Schaffer said one of his requests was passed in the consent agenda, but needs a side letter of agreement. Eric Schoembs is requesting 25 days of paternity leave. He is a tech ed instructor, and power tools are used in his class. Hiring a regular sub would mean a lapse in instruction. B. Schaffer would like to hire Michael Brown, a sub on the roster who is certified in tech ed, as his replacement. This requires a side letter. D. Osborn said she meant for this action item to be removed from the consent agenda.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve hiring Michael Brown as a replacement for Eric Schoembs during his 25 days of paternity leave, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.

B. Schaffer asked for a motion to approve spring coaching extra duty contracts. In the future, he will include these in the consent report.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve the spring coaching extra duty contracts presented by B. Schaffer, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. B. Schaffer said middle school contracts are included. P. Ingvaldstad asked, shouldn't these have been approved before they started coaching? B. Schaffer said probably. **The motion was passed.**

C. Central Office

D. Taylor discussed the central office report. She said she appreciated those who supported LNSU goal setting. Three goals were adopted at the most recent LNSU board meeting. Central office will work on developing action steps and objectives related to those goals. D. Taylor recently attended a meeting of the Vermont Superintendent's Association. That group plans to become more active in giving feedback to legislators. She spoke at the Cambridge Rotary. There is a high school completion bill in the House with a focus on moving the dropout rate to 0 by 2020. It would require 6th grade evaluations, and putting interventions into place. There is a negotiations strategy meeting scheduled for April 14, and mediation sessions scheduled for April 27 and 28. All board members are strongly encouraged to attend the April 27 and 28 meetings.

6. Committee Reports and Action Items

A. LNSU Board Report

S. Reber said W. Sander was elected chair. P. Ingvaldstad said the most important thing at that meeting was the presentation on testing, which D. Taylor went over at the curriculum committee meeting. W. Sander said LNSU is heading toward coordinating PK-12 curriculum. He hopes eventually all sending districts will think that is a good idea and work on it. D. Taylor said Amy Cole had a positive meeting with teachers from the schools. They were excited about the opportunity to work together and hoping that will be a sustained focus.

D. Osborn said she is not comfortable with the caucusing approach to voting, and the board should pick someone else to replace her as a voting representative to the LNSU board if they want someone to caucus. D. Whitcomb asked why she is opposed to caucusing when there is a 12 member board but only 3 people voting. D. Osborn said it requires a split-second decision. Issues to be voted on should have been discussed by the full board previously. She would rather have time to come back here and ask the board how they want to act. D. Whitcomb said with elections, we never know ahead of time who will be nominated. He said caucusing is legal and necessary. D. Osborn said she will be happy to resign if the majority agree, but no one suggested she resign.

B. Finance Committee

M. Frederick distributed a memo with transportation bid results and a recommendation to accept the lowest apparent bidders. She said she had predicted we would be able to save money in SPED transport if we went with the lowest bidder, and that turned out to be true. Finance asked her to find out why there is such a difference between the current provider and the new bids; even the current provider bid lower than what we now pay. She contacted them but hasn't gotten an answer.

The memo addressed the question of whether Belvidere transportation must be provided through a service owned by Lamoille Union. No documents have been found to support this idea, and the article voted on at the time that Belvidere joined the Union did not state that as a requirement. D. Baker said the requirement does exist.

The memo also addressed a concern that had been brought up about M. Frederick's involvement in developing the bids submitted for Cambridge and Eden. She is business manager for Eden and Cambridge as well as Lamoille Union. She said she often represents two places, and that private companies that submitted bids were informed of her involvement prior to bid submittal and were not concerned. She said the individual boards involved also understood her involvement and had no objections. D. Whitcomb said he questioned M. Frederick's involvement at an Eden board meeting. He said W. Earle and P. Cray had both told him they didn't know anything about the bid process, that the bus bids were handled by the principal. D. Whitcomb said he has nothing against M. Frederick, but this bothers him, with the world situation today. It is like a state engineer sitting down with a contractor bidding on a state job. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said that is D. Whitcomb's perspective from the Eden side, but we're supposed to be talking about LUSD #18 issues. D. Whitcomb said he would have liked to see M. Frederick's memo before this meeting.

D. Baker said Belvidere joined this district under an understanding that transportation would be provided by a Lamoille Union owned bus. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said M. Frederick was supposed to go to Belvidere to discuss this. M. Frederick said the Belvidere board hasn't met since then. S. Reber asked for clarification about how the agreement D. Baker says exists would change anything about this decision. M. Frederick said the only legal opinion she's gotten is that it might make a difference if the stipulation about transportation was in the article Belvi-

dere voted on. There was some discussion about the Waterville and Belvidere bus routes and bid figures.

S. Reber asked how the finance committee wants to proceed. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the finance committee is recommending selling the LUSD bus, which would result in savings. The only question is where the board would like to go in terms of the Belvidere issue. Otherwise, the finance committee would like to move forward with a vote. P. Ingvaldstad said he had a bad memory of selling a bus, then buying one 2 years later. This needs to be thought through carefully. M. Spaulding said selling the bus is separate from deciding on the bids.

D. Osborn asked, if we accept the bids, are we requiring the elementary districts to ratify the decision, too? M. Frederick said bid acceptance is predicated on the elementary districts going along with it. S. Reber asked, have elementary boards had a chance to discuss this? M. Frederick said by the 3rd week of the month, all will have it on their agendas. S. Reber asked, is it irrelevant who votes first, the high school or the elementary schools? M. Frederick said she planned to bring it to the high school first because there are fewer options for the elementary schools. The choice is not a major deal for elementary boards for the most part. The biggest issue will be the Waterville-Belvidere run, because of the Belvidere issue. W. Sander said he hoped the board would go ahead and vote tonight. He said he disagrees about M. Frederick's involvement being a conflict of interest. He said contracting entities often provide help to bidders.

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to accept the transportation bids as recommended by the business manager, and the motion was seconded. D. Baker recommended not voting unless the vote is warned so Belvidere can have input.

MOTION: D. Baker moved to table the motion, seconded by D. Whitcomb.

D. Taylor asked, is this time sensitive? M. Frederick said both private companies said they would extend their timeline. **The motion to table failed 3-7.**

D. Baker said M. Frederick said she had a legal opinion that the board could make a change with 3 warned meetings. M. Frederick that is for transportation policies. M. Spaulding asked D. Baker, what is the advantage of using our own bus and employee rather than a contracted service? D. Baker said she doesn't know how the low bidder will be able to provide transportation to 2 towns for the bid amount. And the other bidder is about the same as we spend now. She said doesn't have a problem if we will save a significant amount of money, but is it worth it to anger a whole town for \$11,000?

MOTION: J. Eisenhardt moved to call the question, W. Sander seconded, and the motion was passed with D. Baker opposed.

The motion to accept the bids as presented by the business manager was passed with B. Bailey, D. Baker, and D. Whitcomb opposed.

D. Whitcomb said he voted nay because he can see consequences coming down the road, in today's world, with the business manager being that involved. B. Bai-

ley said she feels it is a mistake to change transportation providers at this time after all these warnings. D. Baker said especially since the vote was not even warned. W. Sander said if proof of the agreement D. Baker spoke of can be unearthed, that will supersede this vote. (*D. Baker left at 8:27.*)

C. Policy Committee

D. Osborn said the policy committee will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and will reschedule when it is not possible to meet then. They will address the drug and alcohol policy next.

D. Curriculum Committee

D. Taylor said today she shared with the committee the NECAP information distributed at the recent LNSU board meeting. The committee discussed some interventions in place or in development at LUMS and LUHS. They talked about the high school completion bill. W. Sander said the committee will be addressing the current class of seniors and how many are on track for graduation.

E. Cricket Hill Building Committee

M. Spaulding said he wrote a grant for a photovoltaic system through the Department of Environmental Conservation. There was a deadline of April 1, but the grant required authorization from the board, so M. Spaulding got authorization from P. Ingvaldstad, who polled board members last weekend.

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to affirm the authorization already given for the application for the Vermont Community Climate Change Grant for the Cricket Hill student-built storage building, and the motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to authorize M. Spaulding to pay up to \$10,000 for architectural stamp engineering and design for the Cricket Hill storage building, seconded by D. Whitcomb. M. Spaulding said the town building permit has been approved. He submitted a state permit application. The state is requiring us to have architecturally stamped drawings. He contacted Black River Design, and they estimated that would cost about \$8,000. There is no way around this requirement. W. Sander asked, can we try to find someone who will do for less? D. Osborn said, we need these plans to build the building anyway, right? Several people said we would not need this level of plans. M. Spaulding said the state can waive the obligation for this depending on the size of the project, but in this case they are requiring it. M. Frederick said they won't accept plans from an engineer. W. Sander asked, will this include a site plan, too? M. Spaulding said yes. W. Sander asked M. Spaulding to check around for a better price. M. Spaulding said he feels Black River will give us a bare bones design at a reasonable rate, but he will check around. **The motion was passed.**

7. Discuss Status of Goals Planning Process

S. Reber said we have had 3 or 4 sessions with Winton Goodrich, and have made progress. He's not sure more of those kinds of meetings are the best way to make rapid progress forward. He suggested we could have administrators look at what we've done and see how they see those goals. Or a subcommittee could meet with administrators to take the next step and create a more focused document that would allow us to move forward. D. Whitcomb said a subcommittee is a good idea. P. Ingvaldstad said he thought D. Taylor was going to have administrators come back with input. D. Whitcomb said he thinks W. Goodrich has done a good job, and now we should let him go somewhere else.

P. Ingvaldstad said he is fine with that, but we should revisit it after administrators come back with a plan. It was agreed to unreschedule the tentatively scheduled meeting with W. Goodrich. By the first meeting in June, administrators will have something on goals for the board.

8. ***Review of Full Board Annual Calendar, Request for Future Agenda Items, and Adjourn***

It was agreed to cancel the April 21 meeting, as it falls during vacation week.

It was agreed that department heads will come to the second meeting each month.

The policy committee will meet before the first May meeting, and the curriculum committee before the second meeting. It was agreed to keep to that schedule until there is some reason to change it.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:47, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 4/7/09:

1. *Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements, and Public Input*

C. *Adopt the Agenda*

MOTION: W. Sander moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by J. Eisen-

hardt. D. Osborn suggested leaving off the action items from the high school report. **The motion was passed.**

2. *Consent Agenda Items*

MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to approve the minutes of the March 17 meeting, seconded by W. Sander, and the motion was passed.

MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to accept the administration reports, seconded by

B. Penberthy, and the motion was passed.

3. *Directors' Orders*

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve director's orders in the amount of

\$169,694.98, seconded by W. Sander. The breakdown was as follows: LUSD #18 - \$154,386.03; Vocational Building Trades - \$6,095.38; GMTCC Construction Project - \$4,254.33; LUSD #18 - \$4,959.24. **The motion was passed.**

5. *Administrative Action Items*

A. *Middle School*

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve Amy Whitlock's request for a 1-year leave of absence without pay or benefits the during the 2009-2010 school year under the provision of Article V, paragraph 2F of the current teacher master agreement, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.

MOTION: P. Ingvoldstad moved to approve the continued job share for the 2009-2010 school year between Lori Lisai and Nicole Burke as described in the presented side letter, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. The motion was passed.

MOTION: P. Ingvoldstad moved to approve the request to pay the substitute for Amie Desautels at a per-diem rate of \$186.57 for a period not to exceed 21 days in support of a required Family Medical Leave, seconded by J. Eisenhardt.

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to enter executive session to discuss a contract matter at 7:22, with D. Taylor and C. Hindes remaining, and the motion was seconded and passed.

The motion to approve the requested per-diem rate was passed, with S. Hamlyn-Prescottlyn-Prescott abstaining.

B. *High School*

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve hiring Michael Brown as a replacement for Eric Schoembs during his 25 days of paternity leave, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve the spring coaching extra duty contracts presented by B. Schaffer, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. The motion was passed.

6. *Committee Reports and Action Items*

B. **Finance Committee**

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to accept the transportation bids as recommended by business manager, seconded.

MOTION: J. Eisenhardt moved to call the question, W. Sander seconded, and the motion was passed with D. Baker opposed.

The motion to accept the bids as presented by the business manager was passed with B. Bailey, D. Baker, and D. Whitcomb opposed.

E. **Cricket Hill Building Committee**

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to affirm the authorization already given for the application for the Vermont Community Climate Change Grant for the Cricket Hill student-built storage building, and the motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to authorize M. Spaulding to pay up to \$10,000 for architectural stamp engineering and design for the Cricket Hill storage building, seconded by D. Whitcomb. The motion was passed.

8. *Review of Full Board Annual Calendar, Request for Future Agenda Items, and Adjourn*

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:47, and the motion passed.