

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, P. Ingvoldstad, T. O'Hear, D. Osborn, S. Reber, K. Roberts, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: B. Penberthy. Others: B. Schaffer, C. Hindes, G. Chicoine, M. Frederick, S. Bernath, Amy Rex, Tamara Higgins, Noah Noyes.

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 – 6:33

B. Adopt the Agenda

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

C. Announcements

B. Schaffer said this is the last meeting for S. Bernath and J. Prescott. He is glad the board gave him the opportunity to bring student representatives forward. He said S. Bernath has been a wonderful student rep, and thanked her for her service. J. Eisenhardt and W. Sander said this year's student reps were the best ever.

2. *Consent Agenda Items*

MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve the minutes of May 19, seconded by D. Whitcomb.

D. Osborn said she thought the idea of the consent agenda was to approve the whole thing at once, and S. Reber noted that for the future. B. Bailey noted that the minutes should be corrected to show that she was not present. **The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was passed, with B. Bailey abstaining.**

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to accept the administration reports, and the motion was passed.

3. *Presentation by LUMS Alpha Team on Place-Based Education*

Amy Rex, Tamara Higgins, and Noah Noyes of the LUMS Alpha Team gave a presentation on the place-based education initiative they started this year. They described what place-based education is. They started by getting professional development, then they developed their program, which had 3 components: community quests, service learning projects, and a 6-week interdisciplinary study.

Community quests were designed to help students explore where they live, what the treasures of their community are, and how to protect those treasures. Teachers created two quests, then students worked in small groups to develop quests for each town in the SU. The entire team did the quests. Treasures were identified in each town, and students had to find and record facts at each quest location. Successful outcomes were that students became familiar with different towns, students identified treasures and began to think of the towns as unique and valuable, and team building was developed.

Service learning projects allowed students to apply academic skills and knowledge to address real life needs in their own communities. Brief descriptions of the different projects were given. Successful outcomes for students were in the areas of personal, intellectual, and social

growth and development. Successful outcomes for schools and for communities were also described.

For the interdisciplinary study unit, each Alpha teacher led a component group that studied a specific topic relevant to their subject matter. Kids got to pick which group they wanted to be in. Each group produced a hard copy product and also performed a live presentation at open house night.

There were also team-wide projects: a group song performance at open house, and 12 murals that were created. Student feedback surveys indicate that students really enjoyed this project.

P. Ingvoldstad asked, did the teachers see students who might have been on the edge and not accomplishing a lot who did accomplish well in this case? T. Higgins said yes, and the others agreed. P. Ingvoldstad asked, are there positive results to NCLB testing from this kind of learning? A. Rex said yes, she thinks kids are willing to put more into the tests because of the support they have received. The others agreed, and elaborated. C. Hinder said this project exemplifies what studies show about how rigor follows from building relationships with students and getting them engaged. S. Reber asked whether community members participated in setting up the quests. The teachers said they did participate a little, but that could be improved on in the future. D. Osborn asked about making this available for all students. A. Rex said she would advocate for a whole-school IDU, though it would take a lot of work. T. Higgins said there has been one mini whole-school IDU. It started with 2 teams, then expanded. Future whole-school projects might have to start that way. N. Noyes said one other team is already starting to develop their own quests. S. Reber asked, will the team do this again next year? They said they will not do it next year, but will focus on global studies. They will do it again in the future, though. W. Sander recommended interacting more with community resources. The teachers gave examples of community members they brought in, and said next time they would like to involve community more.

4. ***Directors' Orders***

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve directors' orders in the amounts of \$3,195.00; \$12,097.02; \$1,516.76; and \$133,256.23, seconded by W. Sander. The \$1,516.76 was for Vocational Building Trades. The \$12,097.02 was to First Choice Communication System. The \$3,195 was for adult ed. The largest amount included general fund and food service. **The motion was passed.**

5. ***Administrative Action Items***

A. **Central Office – Contract Negotiations**

MOTION: W. Sander moved to enter executive session regarding contract negotiations, with G. Chicoine, M. Frederick, and all board members except the student representative, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, at 7:25. The board consented out of session at 7:44.

B. **Middle School**

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the one year hiring of Rebekah Stuwe as a middle school science teacher (to replace Amy Whitlock, who is on a 1 year leave of absence) at the indicated rate of the current/recognized Negotiated Agreement, and the motion was passed.

C. **High School**

B. Schaffer said he had been approached by the principal of BFA Union High School in St. Albans about a school choice agreement between LUHS and BFAUHS. He asked

the board to approve a public school choice agreement that is in the same format as that for the Winooski School Choice Collaborative. He said the superintendent endorses the agreement.

MOTION: W. Sander moved to accept the public school choice agreement between BFA Union High School, located in St. Albans, and Lamoille Union High School for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, seconded by J. Eisenhardt.

W. Sander asked, is there anyone lined up for this yet? B. Schaffer said we lost a couple of students this year from the St. Albans area who wanted to attend here, but there was no agreement in place. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, is this a one for one exchange? B. Schaffer said it is one for one, with a cap of 4. D. Osborn asked, does this mean we have to have a student who's interested in going there for one of theirs to come here? B. Schaffer said the agreement is not clear about that. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said she would prefer that a trade not be required. She asked how the money follows students who move from one school to another under the agreement. M. Frederick said money doesn't follow students anymore. She said we would charge tuition to the 5th person who came here from BFA, but not to the first 4. All we get is additions to ADM for students who come here. S. Reber said he agrees with S. Hamlyn-Prescott; he would prefer we not insist on a one to one trade. M. Frederick said the sending school counts the student on their census, and then we say we have them. We don't get extra money for students who come here under a school choice agreement. B. Schaffer read a section from the agreement that referred to "transfer of funds." M. Frederick said there is no transfer of funds. K. Roberts said we need to know if a BFA student who comes here counts for our ADM. S. Reber said someone should check and come back to the board. B. Schaffer said the principal of BFA had requested that we put this on our agenda tonight. But he and M. Frederick can do research on the agreement. P. Ingvaldstad asked, will we incur any expense from doing this? B. Schaffer said it won't impact class sizes or number of teachers. Given that, S. Reber suggested the board could vote without knowing the answers to the questions that had been raised. K. Roberts said she thinks we should have complete information. **The motion was passed, with 3 opposed.** B. Schaffer and M. Frederick will do research to answer the board's questions.

D. Central Office

M. Frederick said the governor's veto was overturned. But there are still a couple of bills out there that might affect the tax rate for the year after next.

6. Committee Reports and Action Items

A. Staff & Community Relations Committee

T. O'Hear said the teacher/staff lunch will be on June 16th at noon. It was agreed to hold it in the cafeteria, not in the GMTCC Community Education Center. Linda St. Cyr has already ordered pins. C. Hindes and B. Schaffer will double check if there are any retirees.

B. Finance Committee

M. Frederick distributed a memo giving a 7-year history of Belvidere transportation costs. She could not get 10 years of data because older records were not readily available. She said it is clear that the cost to run the Belvidere route through LU is higher than the \$11,000 bid received from Lamoille Valley Transit to run it in conjunction with the elementary routes.

D. Baker said currently Belvidere kids ride the Eden late bus. M. Frederick said LVT groups Waterville and Belvidere together for all runs, but Eden will do the Belvidere late run. Now Cambridge does the Waterville late bus run, but LVT can take the Waterville late bus and free up the Cambridge bus. M. Frederick said the \$11,000 bid is for both Belvidere and Waterville. That bid amount was predicated on LVT getting the Waterville/Belvidere elementary runs.

D. Baker said 7 years of data is enough. She said the board was told the average cost for the last 3 years was around \$37K. M. Frederick said that 3-year average included next year's budgeted amount. D. Baker said she averaged costs for 2008, 2007, and 2006, and only came out with \$33K. This year to date we have only spent \$16K, because the bus is paid for. It only has 70K miles. We spent \$27K this year for Waterville and Belvidere. She finds it hard to believe LVT can do both for \$11K. M. Frederick said her \$43K figure included replacing a bus and making repairs to the other bus. D. Baker asked, why get a new bus? The current bus is 3 years old and has 70K miles. M. Frederick said we would have to replace the other bus; it wouldn't pass inspection. And M. Spaulding has to keep going on the lease to keep it in cycle. D. Baker said it would be nice to get accurate numbers. People in Belvidere are very unhappy. They believe this is a legal issue. They don't believe the contractor can do it cheaper.

P. Ingvaldstad asked, are we keeping the two buses we have now for at least a year? M. Frederick said one won't pass inspection. M. Spaulding has to maintain 2 buses for this one run. P. Ingvaldstad suggested not selling them before a year has gone by because of past experience. In the past when we sold a bus, the savings did not come through that were supposed to happen, and we had to buy a new bus. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said we are not going to be able to maintain the older bus. It is beyond the safety requirement for all our other transportation contracts, which require buses to be 7 years old or younger. She said the finance committee will talk to M. Spaulding about the buses and report back.

C. Policy Committee

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to adopt Policy 6.24, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. D. Osborn said that at today's meeting, the committee discussed whether they needed to make any changes, but decided they are comfortable with it the way it is. **The motion was passed.**

D. Osborn said the committee couldn't decide between reviewing policies one at a time or overhauling them all, so they plan to do both at the same time.

7. Review of Full Board Annual Calendar, Request for Future Agenda Items, Adjourn

The next meeting will have a goals planning session. There was uncertainty about whether that meeting would start at 6:30 or 7:00, but S. Reber will find out and the start time will be on the agenda. Everyone is encouraged to come to the LNSU meeting immediately preceding the LUSD #18 meeting.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:22, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 6-2-09:

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