



Meeting Minutes

Lafayette School Board
Lafayette Regional School
April 13, 2023
5:30 PM

Attendees

- Board
 - Amy Mullins, Chair-elect
 - Megan Detamore, Vice Chair-elect
 - Gail Clark
 - Nicole MacKay
 - Joseph Garrison
- LAF
 - Gordie Johnk, Principal
- SAU
 - Kate Segal, Superintendent
 - Toni Butterfield, Business Manager
- Clerk
 - Heather Golding
- Other
 - Amy Kopp, LAF Principal hired for 2023-2024 School Year

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Superintendent Kate Segal at 5:30pm.

II. Election of School Board Officers & Committee Membership

- A. Superintendent Segal called upon the Board to nominate and elect a new Chair and Vice Chair, with Christi Gignac's departure and newly elected membership
 1. **Motion by Megan Detamore to nominate Amy Mullins as Chair of the LAF School Board; seconded by Joe Garrison. All in favor; Motion passes.**
 2. **Motion by Nicole MacKay to nominate Megan Detamore as Vice Chair of the LAF School Board; seconded by Joe Garrison. All in favor; Motion passes.**
- B. Reorganization of School Board Committee Membership
 - There was a discussion about reorganization of committee membership given the new Board membership.

- The Board agreed that committee membership would consist of the following effective immediately:
 - Building & Grounds Committee: Gail Clark and Nicole MacKay
 - Policies Committee: Megan Detamore and Nicole MacKay
 - Budget Committee: Gail Clark and Joe Garrison
 - Negotiations Committee: Megan Detamore and Joe Garrison
 - Executive Board Representative: Amy Mullins

III. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Nicole MacKay to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2023 School Board Meeting; seconded by Amy Mullins. All in favor; Motion passes.

IV. Public Input

Any citizen wishing to speak before the Board must sign in with the administrative assistant prior to the opening of the meeting. The visitor will identify themselves with their name and address and speak for no longer than five (5) minutes. See Board Policy BEDH.

- Chris Dube of the Franconia Energy Commission, who attended the January 2023 School Board meeting, returned to request that the Board identify 1 or 2 members to exchange ideas with and collect comments from in order to solicit an unofficial RFQ (Request for Quote) to obtain a general idea of the scope of the work entailed. He explained that this was the process the Commission used before going to the Town of Franconia to obtain approval to send out RFPs (Request for Proposals) for that project. He said the Commission is considering whether a ground vs. roof mount would be possible, and that in either case they would be targeting a Summer 2024 installation of the array.
- In terms of funding, Chris said he is exploring two potential avenues for funding: (1) IRA (IRS opened up to municipalities until 2033); (2) Block Grants for Energy Efficiency (these come up occasionally). To be eligible for grant monies this year, a Position paper is due June 5 and the full proposal by early August.
- The Board raised a number of questions regarding how the project would be financed, whether a Warrant Article might be required, who would own the system and be responsible for maintenance and liability, among others. They also highlighted that there is a plan to replace portions the school building roof this summer, and a roof array could raise warranty issues. Further, the Board highlighted that with new Board leadership, Committee memberships, and a newly-hired principal it would be challenging to meet the tight deadlines proposed.
- The Board thanked Chris for his presentation and hard work, and agreed to take his recommendation for this project under advisement and to reach back out to him with more information on the best timing for this project. Chris noted that the grant monies would be available for a few years.

V. New Business

A. NH School Funding Fairness Project (Kate Segal)

- Kate provided an overview of the NH School Funding Fairness Project, a group that represents some NH towns to revise the way NH pays for education. There will be a meeting held by this group on May 11th at 6pm in Lisbon.

VI. Continuing Business (Kate Segal)

- A. Review of ESSER Grants Funds
 - 1. See the Principal's report below.
- B. Review of Federal Grants Funds
 - 1. No new business to discuss

VII. Standing Reports

- A. Principal (Gordie Johnk)
 - 1. Annual Meeting
 - Gordie thanked everyone for their work in preparation for the Annual Meeting and in the long budget process, which he noted started in September 2022.
 - He acknowledged Christi Gignac for her 10 years' service.
 - 2. Dance Residency
 - The Dance Residency was excellent and the kids really enjoyed it. The facilitators from NH Dance Institute were amazing. He noted this is the farthest north they have traveled for a school program. The administration would like to continue to give kids exposure to these different types of experiences.
 - 3. Winter Program
 - This year, 6 winter program dates were completed, which is more than most past years on account of the weather. Even without instructors on some days, the kids did really well. Gordie thanked the teachers and staff who stepped up when there were no Cannon instructors.
 - 4. Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - Report cards went out and parent-teacher conferences took place in March. There was a high percentage of family participation.
 - 5. Beauty and the Beast musical
 - 41 kids participated and countless staff. There were 4 shows, culminating months of preparation.
 - 6. Peace Groups
 - This is a social/emotional program about self-regulation, identifying feelings, and what to do when those feelings occur. Gordie has observed it to be very effective so far.
 - 7. Science of Reading
 - 4 teachers have signed up for a LETRS course to learn more about the Science of Reading. Teachers span from early education to older grades. Amy Kopp, the new principal, is signing up for an Administrators course.
 - There also is a Learning Into Literacy Resource Grant for 2023-24 to help get additional resources to implement Science of Reading.
 - 8. Multipurpose Room
 - The flooring project is complete. The 27 year old rug was removed and replaced with a rubberized floor surface.
 - Bleachers are scheduled to arrive on May 19th.
 - This project was made possible by the Federal ESSER II and III grants.
- B. Superintendent (Kate Segal)
 - 1. NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education local education agency determination letter

- The letter, dated April 4, 2023, states the school meets all requirements of IDEA.
- Kate congratulated the District on receiving the letter.

2. SMART Goals

- Kate put her goals in SMART Goals format. She submitted 4 goals and described them all to the Board.
- She will submit a final report in June.
- The full School Board will meet on Tuesday, June 6th at Profile at 5:30pm.

3. District Climate Survey Result

- Kate put together a District Climate survey that was administered to staff in the SAU with survey questions regarding safety, teaching & learning, interpersonal relationships, and environment.
- She passed out the results of the LAF School's survey at today's meeting, which the Board reviewed and briefly discussed.
- Megan Detamore requested that the Board revisit the survey at a future meeting once members have had more time to review and digest the results. The Board agreed to do so.
- After discussing the survey results, Superintendent Segal read to the Board the entirety of an evaluation of Principal Gordie Johnk by former Superintendent Pierre L. Couture dated June 12, 2019 which began with: "Mr. Johnk is an outstanding Principal who takes his work very seriously and cares deeply about the children and staff at his school." Superintendent Segal stated that she is very thankful to Gordie for his hard work and for the opportunity to work with him.

C. Business Manager (Toni Butterfield)

- Surplus/Deficit Report
 - There is an estimated ending balance of \$129,808 which is a good amount.
 - Trust funds grew this year. Going forward, Toni noted she will be using market value for reporting, which is more accurate.
 - Laftercare and the Weekend Backpack Program are doing great. Both are low expense and high caliber programs.
 - Food service will be a loss by year's end, but Toni is not sure by how much because the month to month meal numbers vary.
 - Toni informed the Board that there is a bill pending that would increase the free lunch amount to 300% of federal poverty level and no get rid of reduced lunch.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Board (Amy Mullins)

- Superintendent Segal discussed her SMART Goals.
- The NH School Funding Fairness Project was discussed.

B. Building & Grounds Committee (Gordie Johnk)

1. The multipurpose room floor project is complete.
2. The project to replace the school's roof has been approved. Rod Roofing will replace the roof during this summer. It will cost approximately \$170,000.

Approximately \$119,000 will be covered by a grant, which will leave the B&G Trust fund in good shape. Gordie recommended the parking lot be considered as the next project. He thanked Toni and others for writing the grant that is covering the roof project.

C. Budget Committee (Gordie Johnk)

- Gordie recommended the Board start thinking about who will be on the Budget Committee for next year because the budget process starts in September. By October/September, the Budget Committee will need to be in place. Toni volunteered to support in the process.

IX. Policy Handbook

- o Nothing

X. School Staffing Notifications & Approvals

- o The Board discussed the Support Staff Nominations for 2023-24.

Motion by Megan Detamore to approve the Support Staff Nominations for 2023-24; seconded by Joe Garrison. All in favor; Motion passes.

XI. Non Public Session as per RSA 91A:3, I, II

- o The Board went into Non-Public Session at 7:26pm by roll call vote.
- o A staffing matter and parents' request were discussed.
- o The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 7:43 pm by roll call vote.

Motion by Megan Detamore to approve parents' request that their student be permitted to remain in school for remainder of the school year; Seconded by Nicole MacKay. All in favor; motion passes.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Joe Garrison to adjourn; seconded by Megan Detamore. All in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

Next Meeting: May 4, 2023