

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD
LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SCHOOL
MAIN STREET
FRANCONIA, NH 03580

DATE: AUGUST 9, 2012
TIME: 5:30PM

APPROVED MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Tina Peabody, Board Members Thomas Eyman, Linda Gaitskill, Mary Jo Greene, Luther Kinney; Superintendent Paul MacMillan; Business Manager Sandra Stone; Principal Gordie Johnk.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peabody at 5:35 PM.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

LPTO

Principal Johnk advised that Cindy Burnell is the new Chairperson of the LPTO.

There has not been a meeting of the LPTO since the prior Board meeting.

MOTION BY THOMAS EYMAN, SECONDED BY MARY JO GREENE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2012 MEETING AS WRITTEN. The following corrections were requested:

Page 2, paragraph 3, line 9 should read . . . SON IN THE KINDERGARTEN . . .
Page 2, paragraph 3, line 10 should read . . . THREE YES, ONE ABSTENTION . . .
Page 3, paragraph 3, line 3 should read . . . change-over date to Time Warner . . .

ALL IN FAVOR WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED CORRECTIONS, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Johnk distributed copies of his Principal's Report for Board information and review briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the majority of the summer focused on the asbestos abatement and carpet replacement projects. The projects were completed successfully and on schedule. Principal Johnk commended the staff members with a special emphasis on the custodial staff who did an exemplary job in assisting where needed throughout the projects while still doing their own summer tasks to ready the school for opening day. Asbestos removal is at about 90% complete with only the boiler room ceiling still containing asbestos. Removal of these areas will be another major project and will be looked at in future planning.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that there is approximately \$3,540.00 left in the project of the \$100,000 appropriated for this purpose. He would like to spend this money to purchase walk off and grate mats to assist in the preservation of the carpets. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY LUTHER KINNEY, SECONDED BY MARY JO GREENE TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$3,600.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF WALKOFF AND GRATE MATS AS REQUESTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that Lafayette's summer staff development activities were held at Profile School due to our construction projects. There was a consultant/current reading specialist on hand to review some best practices in reading and offer her thoughts as to how to manage the reading/learning spectrum. The five components of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension) and how to incorporate them into the classroom on a daily basis were discussed. The staff is focused on reviewing instructional practices on a systemic basis in an attempt to make the transition from one grade to the next seamless. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board of building usage throughout the summer noting that for the most part all programs were able to be handled despite the construction zone. The one program that they were not able to fully accommodate was Amy Kelley's Reading Club. Principal Johnk further advised the Board that he has met the new Franconia Police Chief and looks forward to a continued strong relationship with area Emergency Services groups.

Principal Johnk requested that the Board consider a commendation letter and a gift for Head Custodian Stan Sawicki and his custodial crew (Phyllis Pina, Burt Guilbault) who performed above and beyond during the asbestos abatement and carpet projects. The Board felt that a cash gift was in order. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY MARY JO GREENE, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$200.00 FOR THIS PURPOSE AS DISCUSSED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that there are twenty-one applicants for the vacant Para position of which fifteen are completed packets. Interviews will be held next week. A brief discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent MacMillan distributed the 2012-2013 Board Meeting Calendar for Board information and review noting that meetings remain on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of the recently completed SAU 35 Community Link for Board information and review. Superintendent MacMillan hopes to update this quarterly. This will be placed on all the SAU web site as well as the various districts' web sites. A brief discussion ensued

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that the annual Administrative Retreat will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at the AMC Highland Center in Bretton Woods from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This year's retreat is entitled "Juggling to Evolve so we do not Evaporate" and will address Teacher Evaluations, Smarter Balance, Principal Evaluations and Common Core.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that the proposed Core Curriculum Workshop tentatively scheduled for August 9, 2012 has been cancelled. A similar program is being offered by NCEC which our districts will be taking advantage of. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that one of the major focuses this year will be on Principal/Teacher Evaluations. Superintendent MacMillan distributed the following handouts for Board information and review briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary:

Principal Evaluation Task Force Report, April 2012
A Flow Chart on the Definition of Principal Effectiveness for the purpose of evaluations
NH Evaluation Frameworks

Superintendent MacMillan further advised the Board that Professional Development will also be on the agenda for the Administrative Retreat. He will be looking to change the direction/focus of evaluations to address improving growth in the classroom. This is in the development process at the moment and he plans to have his plan available for the Board in the near future. Under this plan staff members will not be accumulating hours randomly by taking courses, attending workshops, etc. pertaining to their area of expertise but will instead earn twenty-five hours annually upon completion of successful programs to assist students and achieve student growth. They will be presenting to their peers on an annual basis outlining the successes within their classrooms and plans for future student growth. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent MacMillan updated the Board on the Race to the Top Grant opportunity being facilitated by Wayne Gerson, Education Consultant at NCEC. There is \$15,000,000.00 available in funds and there has been a tri-state collaborative formed to apply for these funds which is the only one in the Northeast. The grant would cover many facets of collaboration, staffing, staff development and evaluations which would be of major benefit to the participating districts. Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that the first cut is due in September and he will keep them apprised of the collaborative's progress.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that Commissioner Barry continues to actively pursue a waiver pertaining to NCLB at the federal level. Copies of the Commissioner's white paper entitled NH's State Model Teacher Evaluation System were distributed for Board information and review.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of his Opening of School letter to staff for Board information and review advising that the full SAU wide opening day program will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 at Profile School.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of two articles pertaining to tuitioning of staff member's children in two districts in VT which recently appeared in the Caledonian Record for Board information and review.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that Executive Board meetings will be held on Tuesday's for the 2012-2013 school year at 5:30 PM at the SAU Office. Superintendent MacMillan further advised the Board that Lisbon Board Chairman Steve Morrison has agreed to serve on the SAU Finance Committee.

FINANCIAL

Manifests were circulated for Board information and approval.

Business Manager Sandra Stone presented the Lafayette School District End of Year Financial Reports to be submitted to the DOE and DRA for Board signature.

Business Manager Sandra Stone presented the final School Lunch Report for the 2011-2012 school year noting that end of the year balance was (\$7,864.75). This is \$3,303.26 less than the amount set aside in the budget to cover this deficit.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed the final Financial Report for the 2011-2012 school year noting that the end of the year balance is \$56,229.34 which will be returned to offset the tax rate. The Board asked for clarification on the changes since the prior reporting period and how this balance was arrived at. Ms. Stone will provide this information to them via e-mail. A brief discussion ensued.

Linda Gaitskill advised that in approving the manifests she noticed that listed among the services provided by the NHSBA (New Hampshire School Board Association) is negotiations services. Ms. Gaitskill wondered if this may be something that we could utilize rather than our current legal counsel. Chairman Peabody advised that she will look into this.

BOARD REPORTS

Principal Johnk presented a letter from Benedict Woo requesting that his daughter attend Lafayette School as a Grade Three student under the terms and conditions of the Lafayette Negotiated Agreement. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY MARY JO GREENE TO APPROVE BENEDICT WOO'S REQUEST AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Report was covered under the Superintendent's report.

BUDGET – No Report

BUILDING & GROUNDS – No Report

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL

Chairman Peabody advised that the first session for the purpose of laying ground rules will be held on Monday, August 13, 2012. This year Board and Union Representatives will be handling negotiations themselves. Legal Counsel will be brought in on an as needed basis. A brief discussion ensued.

POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Linda Gaitskill presented the following policies for Second Reading and Approval citing the changes made during the first reading:

BEA	BOARD MEETINGS
JLCK	SPECIAL PHYSICAL HEALTH NEEDS OF STUDENTS

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY LUTHER KINNEY, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICIES FOR SECOND READING AND APPROVAL AS AMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Linda Gaitskill requested that the Board return to the discussion at last month's meeting pertaining to the admittance of non-contracted employee's children as students in Lafayette Regional School. Ms. Gaitskill was speaking about the new Technology Integration Specialist's request for her son to attend Kindergarten at Lafayette Regional School and her agreeing to pay full tuition for this privilege. Ms. Gaitskill feels that all full time personnel should be able to have their child(ren) attend Lafayette Regional School and that the decision could possibly be made on a case by case basis. She would also like to see the tuition costs eliminated or at the very least a reduced rate be charged. Chairman Peabody expressed concern with regards to setting a precedent. Ms. Gaitskill noted that the professional staff has the following as part of their negotiated agreement:

"Subject to Board approval and provided the district would incur no additional cost, full time teachers who do not live in the Lafayette Regional School District may have their children attend Lafayette Regional School tuition free. Board approval would be necessary yearly."

There was concerns raised pertaining to special education costs which up to now would have been “additional costs” and thus born by the parent. Superintendent MacMillan advised that a recent court decision involving Oyster River HS ruled in favor of the student indicating that all needs must be met by the school district regardless of the cost factor. Following a brief discussion the Board requested Superintendent MacMillan to seek a legal opinion from Attorney Boynton on this matter and report back to the Board at the September meeting.

Linda Gaitskill distributed a copy of the current Lafayette School Board Policy JFAB – Admission of Non-Resident Students for Board review and information.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY MARY JO GREENE, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO ADJOURN AT 7:26 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted;

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk