

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

DATE: DECEMBER 13 2017
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Luther Kinney; Board Members Christi Gignac, Denys Draper, Amy Mullins, Chris Thayer; Superintendent Pierre Couture; Principal Gordie Johnk; Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield; Staff Member Kathryn Anderson; Community Member/New Board Clerk Lynne Warren; Carl Edlin, Energy Management Consultants Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Kinney.

PUBLIC INPUT

Carl Edlin of Energy Management Consultants appeared before the Board to present a proposal to replace a portion of the lighting in the building (multipurpose room, computer lab and library, and exterior/parking lot). Mr. Edlin briefed the Board on the scope of the project and the savings involved in updating to LED lighting. Currently his company is one of four companies in the state offering this program. His company offers a program from Eversource called Smart Start Program which is financed through Eversource. Mr. Edlin advised the Board that EMC (Energy Management Consultants) oversees the entire project and sub contracts in this case to a local electrical contractor, Davis Electric of Whitefield. Mr. Edlin explained how the Smart Start Program works, the matching funds from Eversource and the other options proposed. The initial cost would be \$69,764 and the district would qualify for a 50% rebate from Eversource. If Lafayette chooses to go with the Smart Start Financing, there would be a down payment of 20% required and the monthly payments will be based on the option selected by the Board. Once the Board agrees to this plan and signs the contract they will "get in line" if you will for the available monies. It is possible that this could be completed in spring break or at the close of school in June 2018. The lighting itself would create a softer environment for the students. It was also noted that the Board policy of putting any projects over \$5,000 out to bid soliciting a minimum of three bids has in essence been adhered to as there are only four companies in the state who provide this service and none can provide a rebate as high as EMC can. The Board thanked Mr. Edlin for his presentation. They will discuss later in the meeting and Principal Johnk will let him know their decision.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 5:55 PM UNDER RSA 91A:3-I, II TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES TAKING SUPERINTENDENT COUTURE, PRINCIPAL JOHNK, STAFF MEMBER KATHRYN ANDERSON. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 6:20 PM. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

LPTO REPORT

Denys Draper advised the Board that the LPTO met on December 13, 2017 at 8:00 AM

The LPTO normally holds elections in December of each year with officers taking office in January. Unfortunately this was not discussed at the December meeting. There are four positions available which are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President position is open; the VP is up in the air as Denys is not sure of her plans; Amy Mullins will stay on as Secretary and Toni

Butterfield will remain as Treasurer. It was the consensus of the group that the President's position needs to be filled by someone who is familiar with the day to day activities. Elections will be held at the next meeting.

Cookie Dough orders will be in on Friday due to the storm.

Reminders have been send out about the Holiday Cookie Sale.

It was decided that a Pie Sale would not be a good idea at this time, possibly will do next Thanksgiving.

The Recycle Sale will set up after school on Friday. Students will shop on Monday.

The Breathe Fundraiser ends on Friday.

A Spring Fundraiser was discussed. It was felt that we really do not need one as we just raised \$4,000.00 by donation for the Artist in Residence Program. Also the Spellbind Bee is in the Spring, March 23rd to be exact. If the Art Teacher wishes to do an Art Show at school then perhaps the LPTO could do a benefit dinner similar to that of open house.

The LPTO decided against the American Smiles program due to the cost of the 501C3. It was felt that this would not be worth it.

A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDECHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2017 MEETING AS WRITTEN. The following correction was requested:

Page 1, paragraph 3, line 3 should read . . . as the internet was down.

ALL IN FAVOR WITH THE AFORMENTIONED CORRECTION, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Johnk called the Board's attention to his written report distributed earlier via e-mail. If there are any questions on this report, please let him know.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the new version of the Report Cards was sent home last week. This change is to competency based reporting. Principal Johnk anticipated many questions from parents on the new format and grading system and was pleasantly surprised that there were no questions and/or complaints.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the First Lego League sixth graders have had an eventful month. They placed high enough at their regional meets to qualify for the state meet. This was definitely an eye opening experience for them. They were up against teams with experience in all aspects of the competition and larger teams than theirs. The students conducted themselves appropriately, learned a lot and made Lafayette proud.

Principal Johnk thanked the Budget Committee for their diligence and dedication in developing the proposed budget for 2018-2019 which will be discussed later this evening

Principal Johnk commended Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield for her efforts to raise additional funds for the Artist in Residence program which this year is more expensive than anticipated. Ms. Butterfield started a donation campaign that raised the additional funds needed for this purpose.

Principal Johnk commented on statements made at last month's meeting pertaining to our Internet connections during state testing programs by Kevin Low. Mr. Low's company offers top of the line connections, etc. Lafayette participates in an SAU wide contract. The implication that our students were unable to get onto the internet to take state tests was not factual. The only time we were unable to connect was when the state system was down not due to our equipment and/or service. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that as requested last month, he has been involved in discussions with Principal Jellison of Profile School pertaining to the Band/Choral positions which we share with Profile. A brief discussion. It was noted that Profile is revamping their entire schedule for next year which will be helpful.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture recommended the acceptance of the resignation of Phyllis Pina from her position as part time custodian effective immediately. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PHYLLIS PINA FROM HER POSITION AS PART TIME CUSTODIAN AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Kathryn Anderson has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the completion of the school year. MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO ACCEPT, WITH REGRET, THE LETTER OF INTENT TO RETIRE FROM KATHRYN ANDERSON. ALL IN FAVOR, MTOION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that there was an error in the Lafayette Negotiated Agreement as submitted in the verbiage of the Tentative Agreement and included in the actual contract. The approved language included verbiage stating that teachers who chose not to join the union would be responsible for 100% of the individual membership cost of dues which is incorrect. Superintendent Couture distributed a Memorandum of Agreement to correct this foe Board information and appeal. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED AND AUTHROIZE CHAIRMAN KINNEY TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture presented Policy JICL – School District Internet Access for Students for review and update. This is required for our E-Rate provider to show that we are in compliance with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) and have this policy as well as are providing filtering and firewall protection for students to be unable to access inappropriate data. We also have an Acceptable Use Policy which is reviewed annually by all staff and students and signed off on. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF POLICY JICL AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that he has been in discussions with Berry Transportation for renewal of their five year transportation contract. The initial response entailed significant increases over a five year period with 2% in year one, 2.5% in year two, and 3% in years three through five. This is due to the clause in our contract which states that buses cannot be older than seven years.

This used to be a state requirement. Berry Transportation would like to change this to ten years which would then result in an annual increase of 2% each year across the Board.

Superintendent Couture distributed the December enrollment figures for Board information and review. Currently we are seeing a bit of increase in enrollment.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that it is time to set the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting dates. Superintendent Couture recommended the dates as follows: Budget Hearing will be on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM and the Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The monthly Board meetings will also be held on the same dates beginning at 5:00 PM. The Board was in agreement with these dates.

Superintendent Couture commended the Lafayette Board members for all attending the recent Full Board Meeting. The SAU budget for 2018-2019 was approved at this meeting as was the school calendar for 2018-2019.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Voucher Bill seems to be gaining strength in the legislature. A vote will be taken on January 4, 2018 and if it passes, the bill will then go to the House Finance Committee for funding discussions. The NHSAA (New Hampshire School Administrators Association) along with the NCSAA (North Country School Administrators Association) are still very much against this bill. In Lafayette's case as they do not receive adequacy aid, where would this money come from? A brief discussion ensued.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Manifests were circulated for Board information and approval.

Superintendent Couture distributed Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$150,086.09. There is a still significant unencumbered funds totaling \$106,479.00 which is anticipated to be spent. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the anticipated revenue from School Lunch was incorrectly estimated which resulted in the taxes raising more monies than needed in the amount of \$14,300.00. The SAU feels that the best and most transparent way to handle this is to return the monies to the towns. He plans on contacting the Select Board Chairs to advise them of this.

Superintendent Couture distributed School Lunch Reports for Board information and review.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Kinney advised the Board that the Full Board Meeting as addressed by the Superintendent was held in December.

BUDGET

Principal Johnk distributed the proposed budget for the 2018-2019 school year along with a summary of functions by code for Board review and information. Principal Johnk went through the summary by function advising the Board on any increases or decreases and what contributed to these changes. There have been a few changes since printing and he updated the Board on these as well.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

The Board revisited the proposed lighting upgrade addressed by Carl Edlin earlier this evening. It is estimated that the return on investment would be 3.5 years. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE EVERSOURCE SMART START PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR THE 43 MONTH OPTION AT A COST OF \$37,977.60 AS PRESENTED AND TO AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT KINNEY TO SIGN CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL – No Report

POLICIES / PROCEDURES

Christi Gignac presented the following policies for second reading and approval:

- GBCD Background Investigation and Criminal Records Check
- JLF Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect
- JICFA Hazing
- IHAK Character and Citizenship Education
- ILD Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICIES FOR SECOND READING AND APPROVAL AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ADJOURN AT 8:13 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk