

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

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2018
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Board Chairman, Luther Kinney
Board members Denys Draper, Christi Gignac, Amy Mullins, Chris Thayer
Superintendent Pierre Couture
Principal Gordie Johnk
Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield
Business Manager Kristin Franklin

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

A card of appreciation from Marge Brown was circulated for review.

MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14 MEETING.

The following corrections and amendments were requested.

Header

Date of meeting Corrected from December 13 2017 to read December 14, 2017

Page 1: Paragraph 1: Public Input

Mullins had a question regarding whether the minutes should be amended to specify that the cost of the lighting upgrade project would be paid for by the energy savings since that was part of the presentation and a key factor in the decision regarding the project. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that this point had been covered in the budget section, but would be added to the Public Input section of the minutes as well.

Add to the Public Input section that the bid process was not required because it had effectively been done by Eversource as part of the program.

Page 1, paragraph 3, line 2

CARRIUED correct to read CARRIED.

Page 1, paragraph 4, line 1

Correct date of LPTO meeting from December 13, 2017 to December 14, 2017

Page 2, paragraph 3, line 1

Correction to read: Reminders have been *sent* out...

Page 2, paragraph 9, line 1

Correction to read: Motion by Amy Mullins, *seconded by* Christi Gignac...

Page 3, paragraph 5, last sentence

Correction to read: All in favor, *motion* carried.

Page 3, paragraph 6, line 5

Correction to read: ...Agreement to correct this *for* Board information and appeal.

Page 4, paragraph 1, line 1

Correction to read: ...would like to change this to *ten* years...

Page 4, paragraph 8, line 3

Correction to read: ...in the amount of *\$14,300.00*.

Page 5, paragraph 1, line 5

Correction to read: ...to authorize Chairman Kinney to sign contract...

ALL IN FAVOR AS AMENDED, MOTION CARRIED.

No LPTO report for this month.

Principal's Report

Principal Johnk presented and reviewed highlights of his written report that had been distributed earlier by e-mail. He emphasized the success of the gift night for parents. Also mentioned the success of the mentoring program with 6th graders. Johnk pointed out weather related issues so far with the winter program that have caused it to be canceled last week and this week.

Board member Mullins had questions about music program. Principal Johnk said he'd met with Profile principal Ben Jellison to discuss. He felt that because of the timing of leave for one of the teachers, it was unfair to try to evaluate the instrumental portion of the program at this point. Johnk mentioned that he'd received positive feedback on the program. Board member Draper cited feedback she has received has not been positive, especially for the choral portion of the program.

Chris Thayer expressed that he felt Mrs. Bushway has a 'high hurdle' to get over and that some of the push-back related to the music program is due to the fact that she is doing thing differently than the previous teacher. Thayer said it is never easy for someone brand new to honor tradition but also create something new, and that it takes time.

Johnk said he and Principal Jellison discussed schedule changes for next year for the teachers in the program to make it work more smoothly. He stated that next year will be the 'make or break' year to evaluate the program to determine whether it should continue.

Additional discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk said he welcomed all feedback, and asked board members to encourage parents and others concerned to reach out to him with their comments.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Couture reviewed highlights from the Superintendent's Report.

Couture presented the official Letter of Resignation from Katherine Anderson, effective at the end of the school year, to the board for acceptance.

MOTION TO ACCEPT ANDERSON'S LETTER BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER. MOTION CARRIED.

Couture suggested raising the pay for substitute school nurses to \$100 per hour, citing that the nurses are all RNs and the current pay rate of \$75 per day is lower than the average range for this area. He also mentioned that the impact would most likely be insignificant since the nurses are rarely absent.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO RAISE THE SUBSTITUTE NURSE PAY TO \$100 PER DAY. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE NO VOTE.

Board elections are coming up soon. The period to file if interested in a position on the board is Jan 17 – 22. Elections are held during the annual School Board meeting in March. Couture mentioned that the only position that will be open for the next term is the Sugar Hill position.

Superintendent Couture reminded the Board that Warrant Articles for deficit appropriation and other funding requests must be prepared prior to the February Board meeting. This includes Articles for any funds to be added to special accounts.

Couture reiterated that the upcoming February 8 and March 8 meetings will begin at 5:00 pm since they will be longer duration than normal.

The Superintendent reminded the Board that the Adequacy Aid issue is going through the channels in Concord, and that developments were being monitored. A brief discussion ensued.

There is a public hearing next Tuesday, Jan 16 at 1:30 and the Superintendent hopes to attend. Further discussion ensued.

Couture concluded his report, stating that there was one additional item to be addressed in Non-public session.

Financial Statements

Statements were presented and discussed by Kristin Franklin.

Revenues in the statements have been updated through Dec, expenses are current as of the current date (January 11, 2018). Buildings and Grounds line item is over by \$23,679 which is covered by the \$23,679 showing under funds available.

Franklin mentioned that the over-budget amount reflected in the statements is a combination of actual expenses and encumbrances. What's been spent so far is not actually over budget - outstanding POs account for the overage.

The School Lunch Report shows an additional 1,255 lunches this year over last year.

Principal Johnk presented a proposal to rescind a prior vote to move funds from the Building & Grounds Expendable Trust to pay for the new phone system. The funds in question, amounting to \$20,500 have not yet

been transferred. As a result of lower health insurance costs, the phone system could potentially be paid for through the general budget. Chairman Kinney inquired whether the decision could be delayed until May.

Kristin Franklin suggested delaying the decision to rescind for now, citing the decision can be made as late as May. She suggested a Warrant Article in spring requesting “up to” the total amount potentially needed.

The board decided to hold the funds where they are for now, and explore the issue further. It needs to be determined whether a public hearing must be held to rescind the vote.

MOTION BY AMY MULLINS AND SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO HOLD OFF ON THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS.
MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Kinney invited any further questions on the Financial Statements. There were none.

Committee reports:

E-board did not meet - no report

Budget:

Kristin Franklin presented the budget summary report. Budget projections as reported are anticipated to include a \$60,000 surplus this year, with a balance of \$40,000 carried into next year. A Warrant Article will be needed for any deficit appropriation.

Superintendent Couture reminded the board that the budget vote must be made on the gross budget amount: 2,745,632 million.

Chairman Kinney asked if anyone had any questions or revisions suggested before next months' budget meeting.

Denys Draper asked for clarification on Acct # 01 1100 390: Shared music teachers. She feels the amount is high for .6 FTE. She expressed concerns that the idea of sharing teachers was to save money, but the cost is no less than before.

There was discussion regarding the allocation for repairs to school-owned instruments. The amount was increased this year because previously the Whitney's were able to do a lot of repairs themselves. However, Draper felt unsure whether the \$200 currently allocated is enough, which could easily be wiped out by one fairly expensive repair. Draper did not suggest a specific amount - but felt \$200 may not be enough.

Toni Butterfield mentioned that line item 1100 739 is for replacement of musical instrument parts, so that allocation increases the total amount by \$100 to a total of \$300.

Draper also had questions regarding the accounts related to digital music supplies, books, and sheet music. Butterfield explained that all 3 types of materials are used for the music program, so the expenses are split across three different accounts as required by the software used for developing the budget.

Board member Draper felt it was difficult to discern the total cost of the program with the costs split across multiple accounts. Franklin and Butterfield confirmed that a report could be run to depict the costs / allocations for the music program as a whole.

Superintendent Couture suggested a vote be taken on the budget in this current meeting so there is time to prepare for any required Warrant Articles.

MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE \$2,745,632 BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

Chairman Kinney asked if anyone wanted to request a Warrant Article to raise other funds.

Kinney suggested that \$10,000 be requested through a Warrant Article to add to the Building Expendable Trust fund. The current fund balance is \$65,000 which is low compared to historical levels - and may not be adequate if there is a significant unexpected repair or expenditure required.

MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO REQUEST \$10,000 VIA WARRANT ARTICLE. MOTION CARRIED.

Buildings and Grounds:

Principal Johnk discussed recent weather issues and related maintenance and safety concerns. He mentioned actions taken in this regard, including removal of snow from the roof ahead of the impending warm-up and rain.

Some pipes had frozen last week, however they were able to be thawed without bursting. Precautions are being taken to heat the area where the pipes froze to prevent similar issues going forward.

Due to the extreme cold recently, pellet delivery for the heating system was delayed and the existing supply was depleted. The propane backup kicked in and was adequate, although not ideal with some classrooms and areas being colder than others. As more is learned about how the pellet deliveries work, plans can be made to better manage the situation. Concerns still exist regarding the current pellet supply at the school. Only 7.5 tons were delivered, more is needed.

Regarding the lighting project presented and approved at the last meeting, all documents have been signed. Principal Johnk is awaiting a status update from Carl Edlin of Energy Management Consultants.

Policy & procedures:

Board member Gignac presented two policies for first reading:

Public Use of School Records

JICD Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process.

There were no questions or discussion on either.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT POLICIES AS READ BY DENYS DRAPER AND SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECOND BY DENYS DRAPER. MOTION CARRIED

After returning to public session, with no additional business to come before the board, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Warren, Board Clerk