

## 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; Community Members Ed O'Brien, Kevin Low, Cindy Burnell.

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

### PUBLIC INPUT

Kevin Low appeared before the Board to discuss the school's Internet program and how its deficiencies affect the students. Mr. Low is speaking as a Lafayette parent as well as a business owner. He referred to the testing programs conducted annually at the school advising that he often heard from his children that testing was cancelled as the internet was done. Mr. Low 's company provides internet service to his clients in a blended format, not just a single provider such as Time Warner does, to enable clients to always have a way to connect. Mr. Low utilizes signals from a tower on Cannon Mountain as a way to provide this to clients. Mt. Loew believes his company SNS (Secure Network Services) can provide a more dependable service at a lessor cost to the District and the SAU. He would like the opportunity to provide a quote, free of charge. Chairman Kinney advised Mr. Low that he can only speak for the Lafayette Board and the SAU Executive Board and feels that it would need to be discussed by both Boards. He suggested that Mr. Low make an appointment to meet with Superintendent Couture to provide more information on what can/could be provided to the SAU and member districts. The subject of E-Rate was also raised and Mr. Low advised that the wording on contracts and/or bills needs to match the E-Rate language for optimum results. Following a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Low and he left the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Cindy Burnell of the Lafayette Budget Committee appeared before the Board to express the Budget Committee's frustration at the recent events involving the SAU Business Office and how this will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Chairman Kinney advised that the Board and the SAU are working on a concise, accurate statement to present to the public addressing the need for a deficit appropriation. Ms. Burnell asked the Board if they could explain how the deficit jumped from the initial \$5,982.00 to the current deficit of \$65,982.00. Superintendent Couture advised Ms. Burnell that the Budget Committee's task is to develop the budget for the upcoming year to be presented to the public at the Budget Hearing in February and the Annual Meeting in March. As for the deficit appropriation, the SAU has been in contact with DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) pertaining to the wording of the deficit appropriation article. Following a brief discussion, Chairman Kinney thanked Ms. Burnell for her input and concern reiterating that this situation does not affect the development of the proposed budget. A brief discussion ensued.

### LPTO REPORT

Denys Draper advised the Board that the LPTO met on November 8, 2017 and distributed copies of the meeting minutes for Board information and review. Ms. Draper briefed the board on the contents fielding questions as necessary.

Ms. Draper advised the Board that the Cookie Dough sale is ongoing until Monday, November 13, 2017.

Ms. Draper advised that the Holiday Cooke sale will take place on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the concert. Cookie Boxes have been received. Last year we did not have as many participants which resulted in not as many cookies for sale as in the past. The LPTO is urging parents to participate in this worthwhile effort.

Ms. Draper advised the Board that the Breathe / Fun Pass fundraiser will be held again this year. For every booklet that is sold Lafayette will receive \$12.00 for up to 50 booklets; over 50 booklets will receive \$16.00 each. Cost of the booklets is \$35.00 each and the sale will run from November 17<sup>th</sup> through December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The proposed water fountain replacement project at a cost of \$1,000.00 was addressed. The School Nurse had requested that the LPTO consider funding the water fountain replacement. This type of water fountain will enable students to fill water bottles. It is the opinion of the Principal that this is not needed at this time and if and when it is needed, it will be a building expense and a donation will not be sought. A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Draper advised the Board that the annual Recycle Sale will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Draper reiterated that the Art Show will not be held as it has in the past. The LPTO is looking at other events to focus on the students' art.

Ms. Draper advised that the Amazon Smile project will not be happening as the District would need a 501 C3 status which is a costly undertaking.

Ms. Draper concluded her report by advising that preliminary plans for staff appreciation week in May are underway.

MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2017 MEETINGS AS WRITTEN. Chairman Kinney requested that under the Financial Report on Page 3, paragraph 2 be removed and the following inserted in its place:

Luther Kinney noted that Board signed the MS-25 on 8/31/17 at Tina's request. At the June meeting, according to the budget statement, YE would be positive approximately \$23,000.00 No one from the SAU office informed us that the MS-25 reflected a negative balance at the time of signature.

On 9/7/17 hours prior to the Board meeting, Tina submitted Budget statements for YE that indicated a loss of (\$5,052.65). She did not have the explanation at the meeting as to why the YE went negative.

Additionally Luther Kinney stated that he was very troubled that on 10/10 he received a letter from the state that the YE balance was (\$65,819.00) and no one from the SAU office notified the Board.

Further discussion of Budget statement ensued.

Luther Kinney added that Pierre has assured us that budget statements will go out a minimum two days prior to our meeting.

Christi questioned why the statements that were presented at the meeting were different then what was sent out before the meeting, namely the beginning balance went from (\$5,953) to (\$65,819). Tina replied that she was updating the budget. Luther stated that should not happen. Tina replied that she won't update the Statement then. Luther replied that the change in starting balance is a material discrepancy and that Statements that are submitted to the Board must be accurate.

Christi Gignac also requested the following correction:

Page 5, paragraph 5, line 1 should read . . . Superintendent Couture, Principal Johnk.

ALL IN FAVOR AS AMENDED, 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 Progress Reports were issued and Parent/Teacher Conference were completed.

Principal Johnk reiterated how successful the Fire Prevention program was. The Fire Departments take this very seriously and put on an excellent program for the students that is both entertaining and academic in nature. The students who participated in the Fire Prevention Policy Poster Contest enjoyed rides in a fire engine as their mode of transportation to school.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the annual Halloween Parade and celebration was a big hit as usual. The students in costume visited with the residents at the Genesis Center. This visit is always well received and so appreciated by the residents. They then proceeded to parade down Main Street. A good time was had by all.

The T.I.G.E.R. presentation by PSU students entitled "Being a Friend" was very successful and enjoyed by all the students. Following the presentation the participants spent a half hour in each classroom doing age appropriate activities.

Sarah Reader, a new parent this year at Lafayette, is facilitating the Math Olympiads group. This group of students meets weekly to explore math concepts and have lots of fun with math. Twelve students are participating at the local level and there is also the opportunity to participate at the regional level as well. Thanks to Mrs. Reader for making this program possible for our students.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the "Monster" Competition has been completed and this year's entry is on display in the library. As in the past, students from many states and countries participate in this project each designing a separate component.

Principal Johnk advised that the Budget Committee has been diligently working on developing the proposed Budget for the 2-18-2019 school year. He will have the preliminary budget for presentation to the Board at the December meeting. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk will be meeting with principal Jellison of the Profile School to discuss the current sharing of two Music Teachers for the upcoming year.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the recent SAU Budget Hearing held on November 7, 2017 went very well. The SAU has added additional money to the Business Manager's salary line; a family health insurance plan; and \$3,100.00 for software licenses for budgeting purposes. They removed the \$4,300.00 for software requested by the former Business Manager to store e-mails. There was also a reduction in the health insurance costs which were budgeted for a 10% increase and the GMRs (Guaranteed Maximum Rates) came in at a negative increase. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Business Manager search is moving forward. The committee will hold their first meeting on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss which applicants will be recommended for interviews.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the NCSAA (North Country School Administrators Association) finally held their meeting with the area legislators. The group stated their position on the cuts in Adequacy Aid, specifically the 4% annually in the stabilization grant portion. There was a difference of opinion among the legislators as to whether Districts should have ever received this funding. Rick Ladd, Chairman of the House Education Committee and Karen Umberger, Chairman of the House Finance Committee were in attendance. Also discussed was the pending Voucher Bill which both the Commissioner of Education and the Governor support. This would allow parents to take the Adequacy Aid of \$3,600.00 per student to use for private school tuition. This could also cause significant difficulties for Districts. For example if ten students withdrew and took their Adequacy Aid, that would total \$36,000.00 which the District would have to absorb. As these students

would not all be in the same grade or taking the same subjects, the District couldn't cut a staff member and thus would have to find the monies elsewhere. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that it is possible that the Federal Government will cut funding for Title I and Title IIA which will also adversely affect our Districts.

Superintendent Couture advised that the Full Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the AHEAD Conference Room. The SAU Budget and the calendar for the 2018-2019 school year will be voted on at that time. Caitlin Davis of the NH DOE Finance Department will be the featured speaker at this meeting.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Manifests were circulated for Board information and approval.

## BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Kinney advised that the Board reviewed the Budget prior to the Public Hearing.

## BUDGET

Principal Johnk stated that all had been covered earlier in the meeting.

## BUILDING & GROUNDS

Principal Johnk advised the Board that he has received a proposal from Carl Edin of Eversource for the proposed lighting project but that no labor costs are included. The cost of the proposed project is \$65,000.00 and it is anticipated that \$32,000.00 is reimbursable. Principal Johnk has also received a bid from Chris Miller of Rockingham Electric totaling \$42,000.00 of which \$30,000.00 is reimbursable. Principal Johnk will have more information at the December meeting.

## NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL – No Report

## POLICIES / PROCEDURES

Christi Gignac presented the following policies for first reading:

- 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 APPROVE THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICIES FOR FIRST READING AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Based on the recommendation of the NHSBA (New Hampshire School Board Association) Policy ILDA – Non-Educational questionnaires, Surveys and Research is on the agenda for repeal. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DEAPER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO REPEAL POLICY ILDA AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

- EBCA Emergency Plans
- EFAA School Lunch Program Meal Charges

IGE Parental Objections to Specific Course Material  
IHAM Health and Sex Education Exemptions from Instruction  
JLD School Guidance Counseling Program

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.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Currently the proposed budget shows a 2% increase for support staff and no decision has been made about changes in benefits other than the current staff would be grandfathered. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

The recent power outage was discussed. The Board requested that the SAU look into when and if Berry Transportation is notified of road closures, downed power lines, etc.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ADJOURN AT 7:35 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Brown  
Board Clerk