

LAFAYETTE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SCHOOL
FRANCONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Date: January 10, 2019
Time: 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Attendees:

Gordie Johnk, Principal

Pierre Couture, Superintendent

Board Members: Christi Gignac, Amy Mullins, Chris Thayer, Denys Draper

Luther Kinney, Board Chairman

Kristin Franklin, Business Manager

Toni Butterfield

Lynne Warren

Members of the public:

Robert Peraino

Ed O'Brien

Meeting called to order by Chairman Kinney at 5:28 PM

No Public Input

LPTO REPORT None (didn't meet)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2018 MEETING

MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 13 MEETING, WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

- Page 2, paragraph 7: first sentence. Reword to improve clarity and add information regarding follow-up meeting to discuss.
- Page 3, paragraph 8, 2nd sentence: Reword sentence to remove duplicate information / wording regarding the tank fee request.
- Page 3, paragraph 9, first sentence. Add Chris Thayer's first name.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Principal Johnk

Johnk summarized the report which had been distributed by email prior to the meeting. He reiterated that December and the holiday season were very busy with lots of activity and excitement.

The Winter Program is underway, however tomorrow's program has been cancelled due to the predicted weather.

NWEA Testing is currently taking place. Intermediate grades this week, primary next week. Results will be in next month.

The Professional Development collaboration taking place among teachers has proven successful and he considers it to be greatly beneficial.

Johnk requested that Superintendent Couture and Chairman Kinney sign the Memorandum of Understanding related to the Safe School Zones policy. The memorandum has already been signed by police chiefs from Sugar Hill and Franconia.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, TO AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT COUTURE AND CHAIRMAN KINNEY TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Superintendent Couture

In preparation for the annual meeting, there was discussion regarding proposed Warrant Articles. Couture proposed that a Warrant Article be written to add \$25,000 to Capital Reserves to cover environmental testing for the property where the abutting landowner has recently cleared debris, but said ultimately the board would need to decide whether to do so. It was addressed further during the budget discussion later in this meeting. A claim was filed with Primex, the insurer for the school, but denied.

Couture reminded the board that next month’s board meeting would be held at 5 pm, followed by the budget hearing at 7 pm.

Board member Denys Draper will be attending the Delegate Assembly where several Resolutions from various school boards will be voted upon. Each proposed resolution was briefly discussed for the Lafayette board to determine their position. This will allow Draper to represent the board’s vote / position on each resolution. The resolutions are as follows:

1. Restriction of firearms on school property (Oyster River Coop School Board)
 - a. The board unanimously voted to support this resolution. (No formal motion was made)
2. Eliminate / remove two existing NHSBA Resolutions relative to the New Hampshire Retirement System (Manchester Board of School Committee)
 - a. **MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**
3. Opposing the use of public funds to fund private education (Merrimack Valley School Board)
 - a. The NHSBA Board of Directors recommends not supporting the resolution because it is duplicative of NHSBA Resolution I:A and I:B
 - B. **MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, TO OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**
4. Public education funds be used solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards. (Mascenic Regional School Board)
 - a. NHSBA Board of Directors feels no action is needed as this is covered under NHSBA Resolution I:A
 - B. **MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION THAT NO ACTION IS NEEDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**
5. Opposing the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that are targeted to offset the tuition or expenses for non-public schools. This is similar to resolutions 3 & 4 in its intent to keep public funds from being diverted to private education. (Mascenic Regional School Board)
 - a. NHSBA Board of Directors feels no action is needed as this is duplicative of Resolution I:B.
 - B. **MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION THAT NO ACTION IS NEEDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

6. No parental approval for alternative activities when a parent chooses to exempt their student from a statewide assessment. (Raymond School Board)
 - a. NHSBA Board of Directors opposes resolution. The board feels we should be encouraging better collaboration between school and parents.
 - B. MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO ABSTAIN ON THIS RESOLUTION SINCE THIS ISSUE IS NOT RELEVANT FOR OUR DISTRICT AT THIS TIME. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.
7. Public funding not be used to support religious or private education. (Raymond School Board)
 - a. NHSBA Board of Directors does not recommend any action on this resolution since it is already covered in NHSBA Resolution I:A and I:B.
 - b. MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION THAT NO ACTION IS NEEDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.
8. Decision as to what date to start the school year should remain a local decision, not mandated by the State. (Raymond School Board)
 - a. NHSBA Board of Directors believes no action is needed on this resolution as it is already covered in NHSBA Resolution V:I.
 - b. MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION THAT NO ACTION IS NEEDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.
9. Same subject as resolution 8 regarding local school districts determining their school start date. (Keen School Board)
 - A. MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION THAT NO ACTION IS NEEDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.
10. Local school districts allowed to determine whether guns are allowed in schools. Same subject as resolution 1. (Keene School Board)
 - A. MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER, TO SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.
11. Restore support for local decisions in change of school assignments related to hardship requests. (Litchfield School Board)
 - a. NHSBA Board of Directors recommends no action, since the deadline for submittal was missed.
 - B. MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION IF IT COMES UP ON THE FLOOR OF THE ASSEMBLY IN THE INTEREST OF LOCAL CONTROL. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture noted that the terms for two Lafayette Board member positions will be expiring this year, so those positions will need to be filled. There was brief discussion regarding the filing window to run for those positions.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Kristin Franklin

Financial Statements

Not much change since last month's meeting.

There is a projected budget surplus of \$45,500 end of year.

Franklin stated she supports putting funds in Capital Reserve (as discussed earlier) to help cover environmental testing costs.

Christi Gignac had a question regarding change in amount budgeted related to Speech. Brief discussion ensued and clarification was given.

Chairman Kinney asked for clarification regarding the figures related to supplies. Brief discussion ensued.

Mileage Rates

Effective January 1 the new IRS mileage allowance rates took effect. Lafayette has historically not adopted new rates until July 1, which is the start of the fiscal year. Franklin asked for a motion to adopt the new rate as of the IRS effective date of January 1 each year. The fiscal impact is expected to be negligible.

Principal Johnk believes the date the new rate is adopted is specified in the Professional Agreement. Chairman Kinney suggested that since the agreement is not due to be re-negotiated for 3 years it would be good to approach the teachers and ask if it's OK to modify it at this time. The Board will revisit the topic next month.

It was noted that the government shutdown could potentially delay some funds coming in. Franklin will monitor this and communicate if any issues come up in this regard.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Executive Board – No report – the board did not meet this month.

2. Budget

Several items related to the budget were discussed.

Operating Budget

Account range 2140 - 2160 were areas with the most questions in the last meeting.

Chairman Kinney suggested reducing Speech Services back to historical norms. And if there was an unanticipated deficit, funds could be pulled from Special Ed funds. Johnk questioned whether it would be OK to use Special Ed funds (1200 account series) to cover Speech related services for non-Special Ed students. Franklin reviewed / read the Special Ed protocols and it seemed to confirm the acceptability of doing as proposed.

Discussion ensued and it was determined that the currently proposed budget amount is likely to be accurate, even though it is higher than in the past. Kinney retracted suggestion above based on the discussion.

Denys Draper asked about the significant increase in OT Services budget amount. After brief discussion it was determined that as with Speech Services, the OT figure seems to be valid based on increased costs and use of services.

Discussion ensued of various aspects, accounts, and changes from last year's budget amounts.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AS PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN FORWARD TO THE BUDGET HEARING. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO CREATE A WARRANT ARTICLE TO MOVE UP TO \$25,000 FROM SURPLUS INTO BUILDING AND GROUNDS AS NEEDED RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING OF PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THE ISSUE WITH THE ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNER. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

3. Building & Grounds – Principal Johnk

As mentioned earlier, there is no insurance coverage to assist with environmental testing of the ground on the adjacent property. The options are to either pay an attorney to pursue the abutting property owner to cover the testing fees, or to simply pay the fees.

Brief discussion ensued. The board needs to be cognizant of potential future liability for not following up on the potential environmental issues appropriately. The school will need to work with the abutting property owner, and understand that the issue is creating a hardship for all involved.

There will be discussion with the consulting firm Stonecipher & Clark regarding next steps. Superintendent Couture will compose a letter to the property owner based on information obtained from the firm.

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL - None

POLICIES / PROCEDURES: Christi Gignac

Policies for first reading were presented and voted on.

- AC - Non Discrimination
- BEDG - Minutes
- BEDH - Public Participation at Board Meetings
Gignac discussed several aspects of the policy where she felt discussion and board input was needed.

MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER, TO ACCEPT THE POLICIES PRESENTED FOR FIRST READING. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Second Reading:

- ADC - Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession In and On School Facilities and Grounds
 - GBED- Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession In and On School Facilities and Grounds
 - JICG- Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession In and On School Facilities and Grounds
- No changes from first reading.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO ACCEPT THESE THREE POLICIES PRESENTED FOR SECOND READING. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

- ADB - Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools
 - GBEC - Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools
 - JRA - Student Records and Access - FERPA
- No changes from first reading of these policies.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO ACCEPT THE POLICIES PRESENTED FOR SECOND READING. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

There was brief discussion regarding the subject of aromatherapy and essential oils from last month's meeting. Per Christi Gignac, we should have a policy to review from Will Phillips from NH School Board Association Policy Services within a couple of weeks.

Non Public Session: None

Other business

Principal Johnk expressed appreciation to Denys and Amy for their work on the budget, and to Chris Thayer and Christi Gignac for work on policies.

Deny Draper expressed concern that based on her observation at the Christmas concert, she is not seeing any improvement in the music program. She feels that some action would be appropriate to make improvements. Principal Johnk said all of the feedback he's received has been positive. Brief discussion ensued.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, TO ADJOURN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.