

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

DATE: APRIL 10, 2014
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Members Tina Peabody; Linda Gaitskill, Denys Draper, Luther Kinney; Superintendent Pierre Couture; Business Manager Sandra Stone; Principal Gordie Johnk; Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield; Community Members Bernadette Costa, Angelo Costa, Jack Cook, Jim Fitzpatrick, Kathy Mead.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Superintendent Couture.

Superintendent Couture opened the floor to nominations for Chairman of the Lafayette School Board. Linda Gaitskill nominated Tina Peabody to the position of Chairman of the Board. MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY LUTHER KINNEY TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF TINA PEABODY TO THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD. TWO YES, ONE NO, MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Peabody opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chairman of the Lafayette School Board. Linda Gaitskill nominated Thomas Eyman to the position of Vice Chairman of the Lafayette School Board. MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY LUTHER KINNEY TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF THOMAS EYMAN TO THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC INPUT

Bernadette Costa appeared before the Board to explain her reasoning behind organizing the petition to request reconsideration of the warrant article at the annual meeting pertaining to the heating system. Ms. Costa felt that due to inclement weather on the day of the meeting and lack of general knowledge that an amendment to the article to install a pellet/LP Gas system would occur along with passage two days prior to the school district's meeting of substantial money articles at the town meeting, reconsideration was a reasonable request. The amendment to the warrant article added additional costs of \$78,000.00 which seems excessive due to the current economic times. Ms. Costa advised the Board that she has since been in touch with DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) who have provided her with verbiage for additional warrant articles should she, as the petitioner, wish to withdraw the current petition and submit another in its place. This change would mean that a budget hearing would not be required so that the Board could move forward in a timely manner. Following a discussion, Ms. Costa withdrew the original petition. She will be circulating a new petition with the following warrant article language:

To see if the Lafayette Regional School District will vote to remove the existing oil tank and convert the heating system to an LP Gas system. Majority Vote Required.

It is Ms. Costa's intention to work on obtaining the legally required signatures on the new petition and submit to the Board by mid-week next week (on or around April 16th). The Board thanked Ms. Costa for her input along with the other community members present.

LPTO REPORT

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that the LPTO met this past Monday.

The second grade is currently working on a biography project which the LPTO will be funding. The data will be compiled and placed in a book of which all students will receive a copy.

The LPTO is also assisting with a school wide clay project.

The recent Spelling Bee was once again a huge success raising \$1,400.00 and providing an entertaining evening for the adults in the Lafayette community.

The LPTO is currently involved with the planning of the annual Staff Appreciation Week.

MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY LUTHER KINNEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2014 MEETING AS WRITTEN. The following correction was requested:

Page 1, paragraph 2, title should read . . . PUBLIC INPUT

ALL IN FAVOR WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED CORRECTIONS, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Johnk called the Board's attention to his written report forwarded to them earlier in the day via e-mail briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that fifth and sixth graders submitted 9 videos to the North Country Middle School Film Festival recently held in Lancaster at the Rialto Theater. Nine schools entered 31 videos for consideration. Lafayette Regional School won 4 of the 10 awards given out which was a phenomenal success for a small elementary school competing against middle school students. This experience combines project-based learning opportunities and the integration of technology which is a perfect example of the school's teaching students to think and solve real-life problems. Principal Johnk showed the winning entry based on Littleton Hospital as an example of the submissions by Lafayette. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk also presented a video explaining the CCSS (Common Core State Standards) which has been included on both the Lafayette website and that of the SAU. It is intended that this video provide insight into the CCSS for parents. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the new Smarter Balanced Assessment program will be assessing that the school is teaching the required state standards. Principal Johnk briefed the Board on how this assessment will work in the assessment of math and language arts. A brief discussion ensued.

Denys Draper advised the Board that she is a member of the Pine Grove Grange and recently accompanied Maxine Aldrich in the distribution of dictionaries /gazetteers to Lafayette Regional School. Following a brief discussion the Board thanked the Grange for this generous gift.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that they will need to set a date for the anticipated Special School District meeting based on the assumption that the new petition will be received in a timely manner. They also need to withdraw the motion setting the proposed warrant based on the original petition and the proposed date of April 29th for the meeting to address this article.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY LUTHER KINNEY TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLE FOR THE APRIL 29, 2014 MEETING BASED ON THE ORIGINAL PETITION. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY LUTHER KINNEY TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSED SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DATE OF APRIL 29, 2014. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The Board discussed setting a date for the proposed meeting on the new petition article and agreed on holding the meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 7:00 PM directly following the regularly scheduled May Board meeting. MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE SETTING OF THE PROPOSED SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING ON MAY 8, 2014 ASSUMING THAT ALL CRITERIA OF THE PETITION ARE MET. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. It was noted that the Board meeting on May 8, 2014 will begin at 5:00 PM.

Superintendent Couture recommended the appointment of support staff (copy attached) for the 2014-2015 school year. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY LUTHER KINNEY TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Business Manger search is moving forward and they hope to have a candidate finalized in the next few days. This candidate will then be presented to the Full Board at their meeting on May 7, 2014.

Superintendent Couture recommended acceptance of the NCES Associate Membership for the 2014-2015 school year at a cost of \$6.30 per student totaling \$724.00. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN NCES FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture reminded the Board that the Full Board Meeting will be held on May 7, 2014 at 6:00 PM at Profile School. All Board members are urged to attend.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that he has been participating in collaborative meetings organized by Bruce Labs, SAU 23 Superintendent for the purpose of communication and collaboration among North County school departments. Participants have included SAU's 23 & 35 along with Monroe, Lincoln, Blue Mountain, Orange County Supervisory Unit, Rivendell, etc. Superintendent Couture finds these meetings to be very productive. Among items being looked at is the possible sharing of services amongst the various entities. A brief discussion ensued.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Manifests were circulated for Board information and approval.

Business Manager Stone distributed copies of the School Lunch Report through the end of March noting that the current balance is a deficit of (\$9,627.90). This is a significant change from the prior reporting period and includes an error of \$1,000.00 in reporting last month's revenue. This is still within the limits of the amount set aside in the budget to offset this deficit.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed copies of the Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is at a deficit of (\$17,485.00). For the benefit of the new Board member, Ms. Stone briefed the Board on the function of the Surplus Deficit Statement for reporting purposes to the Board. Ms. Stone also briefed the Board on the changes since the prior reporting period noting that she is holding monies for unencumbered expenses along with the \$25,000.00 the Board hopes to retain as a beginning balance. A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Sandra Stone advised the Board that the Health Insurance rates for the 2014-2015 school year have been received. The Board budgeted for the GMR rate at a 7.4% increase. The actual rates received contain only a 1% increase across the Board. This will result in a savings to the Lafayette School District in the amount of \$18,859.00.

Business Manager Sandra Stone advised the Board that they currently have amassed \$19,400.00 in unanticipated special education expenses. The Special Education Capital Reserve Fund can be utilized if needed to offset this expense. A brief discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Luther Kinney attended the Executive Board meeting on April 1, 2014 representing Lafayette School District. The majority of items discussed were covered by Superintendent Couture. The Board did recommend the approval of stipends for the SAU staff be submitted to the Full Board at their May meeting for a decision.

BUDGET

Business Manger Stone is recommending that the Board look at possible closure of existing purchase orders that will not be needed for the remainder of the school year.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – No Report

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL

It was noted that the current Professional Staff Negotiated Agreement will expire on June 30, 2015. Negotiations for this will begin in the fall.

POLICIES

Linda Gaitskill submitted the following policies for second reading and approval:

- DBJ Transfer of Appropriations
- EAA Student Transportation
- JLCJ Concussion and Head Injuries

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Peabody advised the Board that Committee Assignments will be made at the May meeting. She suggested that the Board members review their current memberships and let her know via e-mail what committees they are interested in serving on.

The Board discussed upcoming activities. MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY LUTHER KINNEY TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1,000.00 AS DISCUSSED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL,
SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO ADJOURN AT 7:36 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk

DRAFT