

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Luther Kinney; Board Members Linda Gaitskill, Denys Draper, Christi Gignac, Thomas Eyman; Superintendent Pierre Couture; Business Manager Tina Peabody; Principal Gordie Johnk; Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield.

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM by Chairman Kinney.

PUBLIC INUT – None

### LPTO REPORT

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that the LPTO is planning a fundraiser involving long and short sleeve T-Shirts and Hoodies with the moose logo on each. This is something new and is a trial for the first year to monitor its success. The LPTO will set pricing to ensure that a profit will be made on each shirt. More details will be provided as information becomes available.

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that the annual Spelling Bee for adults will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. There are two new parents serving as co-chairs of this event.

Planning has begun for staff appreciation week which will be held the third week in May. It was moved to that week as that is when Polly's Pancake Parlor will officially be reopening after total reconstruction.

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that a Facebook page originally constructed for auction items for last year's auction has remained active. This was not something the principal was aware of nor was it an official Lafayette Regional Facebook page. It has now been shut down. If a page is developed for Lafayette in the future, it will be done with the administration's knowledge utilizing the appropriate guidelines and parameters.

MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. The following corrections were requested:

Page 1, paragraph 4, line 9 should read . . . .Principal Johnk . . . .

Page 2, paragraph 7, line 4 should read . . . is the premise . . .

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 Lafayette is cancelling their final day of Winter Program, tomorrow, February 13<sup>th</sup> due to the extremely cold conditions predicted for Cannon Mountain. It is anticipated to be +/- twenty degrees below zero with the wind chill factor which is not good weather for students to be out in. Overall, the various programs this winter have been extremely successful. Thanks to the staff and volunteers for making this program possible. Special thanks to Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield whose organizational skills make all of this come together.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the teachers are busy analyzing the recent NWEA testing results in mathematics and reading. These midyear tests indicate how much growth has occurred during the first half of the year. Similar testing will be given at the end of the year to document a full year's growth in student achievement. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised that the annual Spelling Bee was held this month for students wishing to participate from grades 3-6. Sachin Umashankar was the winner in this event as well as in the annual Geography Bee. Sachin has advanced to the state level in both of these contests.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the recent Community Meeting focused on civil rights. Each class participated in various formats such as singing, making a video, performing a play/skit and/or reading poetry dealing with civil rights. This was a very successful educational endeavor.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the bids for the Biomass (Wood Pellet) project have gone out with a return date of March 1, 2015. Wayne Fillion of Yeaton Associates has overseen the bid process.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the cold temperatures have reinforced the need to replace the windows and doors in the old part of the building which are 52 years old. This along with the proposed insulation project will be included in the warrant articles to be presented later this evening.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Bethlehem School District has a warrant article for converting to a wood pellet system on their annual meeting warrant. They will be utilizing oil as their backup and for hot water.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the planned professional development for administrators to assist them in the evaluation and walk through processes will be held in March and April at NCES.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Internship Program which has students from Lisbon, Profile and Littleton High Schools is a very rigorous competency based program which enables students in some programs to earn college credits. It was noted that Lafayette currently has a student from Profile participating in a speech/language internship. The one hurdle is this program is transportation which is currently under discussion by the advisory board.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$26,928.08. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Peabody.

Ms. Peabody advised the Board that the school lunch program is holding strong maintaining a significant increase in meals served over that of last year.

Ms. Peabody distributed Tuition Rates for 2015-2016 for Board information and review. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Peabody.

Ms. Peabody distributed Board Member Budget Books for information and review. Ms. Peabody advised the Board that the handouts for the public this evening consist of the warrant articles, estimated revenue, and the proposed budget. A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Peabody presented the Audit Report Acknowledgement for Chairman Kinney's signature.

Ms. Peabody advised the Board that they needed to vote on approval of the proposed gross budget for the 2015-2016 school year prior to this evening's hearing. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED GROSS BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,499,347.00 FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Peabody distributed copies of a potential warrant article pertaining to the retention of funds by the Board. The article reads as follows:

To see if the Lafayette Regional School District will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. Such fund balance retained may only be used to reduce the tax rate or for emergencies to be approved by the Department of Education under RSA 32:11.

This was discussed at the previous meeting with a request to bring that discussion back to tonight's meeting. Following a brief discussion the Board decided to table any decision on adding this article pending information on the voting outcome in other districts. This may be considered for addition to the warrant for the 2016 meeting.

#### BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Kinney advised the Board that that the February Executive Board meeting was cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 3, 2015.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that he is a finalist for the position of Superintendent of Schools at SAU 36 in Whitefield, NH. It is hoped that a decision will be made in early March. A brief discussion ensued.

#### BUDGET

Tom Eyman advised the Board that his presentation for this evening's budget hearing differs from what Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed earlier. The difference is in Special Education in the amount of \$150.00. A brief discussion ensued.

Warrant article presentations for the Budget Hearing were discussed. Tom Eyman will present Articles 3 and 4 and Linda Gaitskill will present Article 5.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the contractors that Wayne Fillion of Yeaton Associates has submitted the bid for the Wood Pellet System to included McGee Plumbing, Siemens, North Country Mechanical, and Presby Construction. He also plans to solicit two additional firms.

#### NEGOTIATIONS

Tom Eyman advised the Board that negotiations will be addressed by warrant article. It was a simple process with changes only being in monies not benefits.

#### POLICIES

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

- JFAA Admission of Resident Students
- JI Student Rights and Responsibilities
- JICD Student Conduct Discipline and Due Process
- JICJ Unauthorized Communication Devices

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

MOTION BY THOMAS EYMAN, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 6:10 PM UNDER PARAGRAPH II, SECTION 2 OF RSA 91A:3 OF THE RIGHT TO KNOW LAW TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES TAKING SUPERINTENDENT COUTURE, BUSINESS MANAGER PEABODY. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY THOMAS EYMAN TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 6:25 PM. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Kinney called the Board's attention to the recent SAU 36 Budget Hearing at which time there was a substantial cut to the proposed budget. He urged all members to encourage constituents to attend the March meeting to support the proposed budget.

Denys Draper advised the Board that there is a concert this evening at the Town Hall. She would like to see more communication between entities in scheduling meetings and events. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that he has been requested to write a letter of support for NCIC who are pursuing a grant from the USDA for Broad Band Connectivity. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for Principal Johnk to move forward and write a letter of support for this project.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO ADJOURN AT 7:45 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Brown  
Board Clerk