

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; Staff Members Karen Marks, Melissa Lanin; Community Members Chris Thayer, Jill Brewer, Bernadette Costa, Teresa Gould, Linnea Nemeth.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chairman Kinney.

PUBLIC INUT COMMUNITY FORUM ON FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Principal Johnk advised all present that Lafayette Regional School had done a survey of parents/community members and staff in 2008 seeking input on creating a full day Kindergarten program. At that time there were fifty-four replies, twenty-seven for and twenty-seven against. Due to the even split no decision on moving forward with this concept was made and the idea was placed on the back burner. Recently many districts have gone to full day programs with Lafayette being the only school within SAU 35 not offering a full day program. A survey was done earlier this school year with 72.9% of the participants in the strongly agree and somewhat agree categories. Currently the district is implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which are written for a full day Kindergarten program and it was felt that Lafayette students would be at a distinct disadvantage if full day Kindergarten was not implemented. Principal Johnk briefed those present on the benefits for students, the benefits for parents and the benefits for teachers that a full day program would provide. Principal Johnk further briefed **those present** on the current staffing plan and how this would change with implementation of the full day program at a cost of \$19,000.00. Currently the Kindergarten teacher is full time both as a classroom teacher and a special education teacher and the School Counselor works four days per week both as a counselor and a special education teacher. Under the proposed plan the Kindergarten teacher would be full time in that capacity and the school counselor would also be full time assuming the additional special education duties. Principal Johnk advised that Kindergarten teacher Beverly Frenkiewich who is in favor of this change and had hoped to participate in the discussion was unable to be present this evening due to illness. The floor was then opened to questions and comments from the staff and community members present. Following a brief discussion, Principal Johnk thanked all for their input. This concept is included in the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 school year and will be discussed at the upcoming budget hearing on February 12th. The community members and staff left at 6:08 PM.

LPTO REPORT

The LPTO has not met as yet this month.

MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2014 MEETING AS WRITTEN. The following corrections were requested:

Page 1, paragraph 4, line 2 should read . . . NOVEMBER 12, 2014 . . .

Page 2, paragraph 9, line 1 should read . . . had been a meeting of . . .

Page 3, paragraph 10, line 1 should read . . . discussion, it was decided . . .

Christi Gignac requested that the spelling of her name (Christi) be corrected from Christie throughout the minutes (Page 1, paragraph 4, Line 1; Page 3, paragraph 8, line 1

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 that the Holiday Concert was well received. There was a new format utilized this year which worked out well and a great time was had by all.

Principal Johnk advised that the coverage of grade six due to a medical leave of absence is going well. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the Smarter Balanced Testing Program which replaces the NECAP program will begin in March.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the competencies in all core subjects have been developed through the diligent efforts of the administrative team and staff members. Currently the Social Studies competency at the elementary level is being completed. This will leave only Science to be completed.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Technology Committee continues to meet monthly. They are currently focusing on an end user survey pertaining to Technology and how individual staff members feel it is working for them. There have been some issues in Bethlehem which will require the addition of access points in order for their system to enable students' success in the Smarter Balanced program. The SAU is also participating in a consortium with NCES for various purposes such as e-rate reimbursement and bulk purchasing. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the new Teacher Evaluation system has been implemented and is moving forward. Evaluations have begun to be submitted from all districts. Superintendent Couture advised the Board that he is in the process of purchasing a Charlotte Danielson book for all teachers **to assist them in the evaluation process**. Danielson is the premises for the first four domains of the evaluation tool. Superintendent Couture will also be providing professional development for administrators in utilization of the evaluation and walk through procedures. A brief discussion ensued.

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 \$31,870.37. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Peabody.

Ms. Peabody distributed a summary of the proposed 2015-2016 budget along with proposed warrant articles for Board information noting that this will be discussed during the Budget Report.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Kinney advised that the Board had discussed increasing the SAU mileage reimbursement and approved raising this to the current IRS rate. The Board also discussed the current manner in which support staff paychecks are issued and the proposed implementation of adhering to a time sheet program as required by the NH Department of Labor as of July 1, 2015.

BUDGET

A draft of a warrant article for the March annual meeting was distributed for Board information and review.

This article is as follows: "To see if the 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." Following a brief discussion Linda Gaitskill requested additional information as to what other Boards are doing with this article. The Board will make a decision as to inclusion of this on the warrant at their February meeting.

The need for painting and window replacement was discussed. The estimated cost of these are \$15,000.00 for the painting and \$45,613.00 for the windows.

Linda Gaitskill advised the Board that she has been informed by **Anne Getchell, USDA Community Program Specialist** that the Town of Franconia is not grant eligible based on the 2010 median income which means that Lafayette will not qualify for the USDA Grant for the Wood Pellet Heating System. A brief discussion ensued.

There was a brief discussion pertaining to the proposed painting and window projects. Business Manager Peabody advised the Board that the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 school year is \$2,373,847.40. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY THOMAS EYMAN, SECONDED BY CHRISTIE GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE OPERATING BUDGET OF \$2,373,847.40 AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. It was noted that this is the operating budget only, the gross budget figure will need to be voted on at the February meeting prior to the budget hearing.

The discussion turned to the proposed painting and window replacement projects. It was the consensus of the Board to include a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$60,000.00 to be added to the Building & Grounds Expendable Trust Fund for this purpose. Following an additional discussion, MOTION BY THOMAS EYMAN, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF A WARRANT ARTICLE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$60,000.00 TO BE ADDED TO THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Principal Johnk updated the Board on the status of the Wood Pellet Heating System. Bids will be out soon and it is anticipated that the turnaround time on this will be brief. A brief discussion ensued.

NEGOTIATIONS – No Report

POLICIES

Linda Gaitskill presented the following policies for first reading:

- 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 DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICIES FOR FIRST READING AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

AC	Nondiscrimination
EBCA	Emergency Plans
GBEBD	Employee Use of Social Networking Websites
IF	Instructional Program
IGA	Curriculum Development and Adoption
IL	Evaluation of Instructional Programs
ILBA	Assessment of Student School Performance

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Denys Draper requested clarification of the Absentee Ballot advertisement recently published in the Courier and Caledonian Record.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO ADJOURN AT 7:18 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk