

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

DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2014
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT – None

MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 MEETING AS CORRECTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Page 1, paragraph 10, line 1 should read . . . International Peace Day ...

Page 2, paragraph 2, line 2 should read . . . The Lightning Thief . . .

Page 3, paragraph 6, line 5 should read . . . ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PRESENTATION – BEV FRENKIEWICH

Bev Frenkiewich remarked that we are the last school in the area to not have full day Kindergarten. Littleton has had it for 20 years, Bethlehem for 5, Landaff started last year and Lisbon started this year. Bev was concerned when she heard that Common Core Standards were for full time kindergarten. How would she squeeze in full day requirements to a half day – or what would they not get and when would it get made up? Bev handed out a report of the time schedule for the full day compared to half day. Most of the difference will be increased time for science. This will also aid in the transition to the full day First grade. After discussion with questions answered Bev left.

LPTO REPORT

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that they spent the meeting getting ready for the Silent Auction to be held on November 21st at Chef Joe's in Franconia. This is their biggest fund raiser. The recycle sale will be December 8th. They are soliciting contributions. The Christmas concert and cookie sale will be December 16th at 6PM.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the fifth and sixth grade did their Lonesome Lake hike today, thus the change from his normal dress.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that recess is going well. The programs are now more unstructured but the students seemed to have profited from this exercise and there have been less disciplinary incidents.

Luther Kinney mentioned that he had been at a conference with USDA and they are pushing the Summer Meals Program. They will fund lunches for anyone under 18 that shows up. Copper Cannon is taking advantage of this. He will forward information to the Principal and Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the SAU Budget Hearing was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 5:00 PM at Profile School. The Budget is up 1.7%. The full board meeting, which will vote on the budget, will be held December 3rd at 6PM at Profile. There will also be a vote on the school calendar. There will be a presentation on the Smarter Balanced Testing.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that they are moving forward with interviews for Susan Maltais, Federal Grants Bookkeeper, position.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Administrative Team continues to work well together. Currently they are working on SLOs and the walk-through evaluations. The state is pushing this and will shortly have a tool to assist in this process.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Ben Jellison and Dan Inghram have reviewed the infrastructure at Bethlehem and Lafayette in order to provide support to them as well. All of Lafayette's hard wired computers are now going thru the SAU Barracuda Filter. This is the first step to hopefully moving the entire building to the same platform as the other districts.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that a bus route change was made for Toad Hill Road that has benefited 12 families and was done at no additional cost. Tom asked how the routes are developed. Gordie stated that Toni provides the bus company with a spreadsheet each year with the location of the students. There was a brief discussion.

Linda Gaitskill requested that the SAU budget and the proposed calendar be mailed out prior to the meeting. She also asked how it was developed and Superintendent Couture noted that the state sends out a base calendar which is then modified if necessary by the SAU with the input of the Administrative Team.

FINANCIAL

Manifests were circulated for Board information and approval.

Business Manager Tina Peabody provided the Board with a preliminary school lunch report through the end of October noting that the number of meals served remains on a par with the increase noted in September over the same time frame of last year.

Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed copies of the Financial Report (Surplus Deficit Statement) for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$65,661.82 and that the Net Health Trust Refund in the amount of \$20,611.20 is included as well as the payment of \$90,756 for the Wood Pellet Box. A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Tina Peabody requested a motion to move the balance of \$46,000 authorized at the Annual Meeting for the Boiler project from the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve fund. Following a brief discussion, **MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO TRANSFER \$46,000 FROM THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Peabody also noted she has received the price for next year's unemployment cost from Primex. The price is down \$1,028 to \$1,565 from \$2,593. This contract runs from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Kinney advised that they had an exceptionally long meeting reviewing the proposed SAU budget for the 2015-2016 school year.

BUDGET

Tom stated that the Budget Committee has reviewed the entire budget and now needs decisions on the increase for the Support Staff and Principal Johnk, full day kindergarten and the building and grounds issues to be discussed. Principal Johnk passed out a spread sheet that Toni had done outlining where the budget is and what effect the different options would have.

The window project would replace all the windows in the older portion of the school with energy efficient windows and add insulation in the panels which currently have none.

The committee has reduced the School Board contingency fund from \$3,000 in the original budget to \$1,000.

Tom started a discussion on staff salaries noting that most of the bargaining units and the SAU staff have had 2% increases. That the cost of living is approximately a 2% increase and that the Social Security COLA is 1.7%. He favors the 2% increase. A brief discussion followed. DENYS DRAPER MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE SUPPORT STAFF WAGES BY 2%. LINDA GAITSKILL SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

After a brief discussion it was decided, for now, to keep the School Board Contingency at \$1,000.

The wood chips for the playground should be replaced every three years and it has been five. The cost for the chips is \$2,650 and will increase the budget by .10%.

Denys asked how cost of implementing Common Core math would impact text books. Principal Johnk advised that they no longer use text books as in the past and Superintendent Couture remarked that any cost for text books for the common core changes are already in the budget.

Linda Gaitskill remarked that the Window and Painting projects could be done now or combined with a long term energy efficiency project that would include changes in the lighting. That complete project would be approximately \$100,000. The window project will save money over the long term.

She recommended that the painting be done now as the wood trim and sills are deteriorating and a delay will increase the cost. Yes some of the painting would be need to be done twice if the windows were done later but that cost is in the windows estimate.

Luther noted a concern about asking the voters for more money when we are not sure of the total cost for the Wood Pellet project. Principal Johnk noted that we should have the bid by the end of January. Linda will follow up with Barbara Bernstein as to the status of rebate funds.

It was noted that the painting project, approximately \$15,000 could be done from the Building maintenance fund or from surplus.

After further discussion it was decided to defer the decision on these items to the December meeting.

Tom Eyman handed out a record of Principal Johnk's salary increase for the past five years. He recommended that he be given a 2% raise. After a brief discussion TOM EYMAN MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE PRINCIPAL'S SALARY BY 2%. CHRISTI GIGNAC SECONDED THE MOTION. THE VOTE WAS 4 AYES TO 1 NAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Gordie thanked Toni for the time and effort in creating the spreadsheet which was very helpful in assessing the budget and the cost of the different options.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The box is here and is stored out back. Total spent to date is 105,000. There was discussion about the pros and cons of locating the box outside the multipurpose room or out back. The estimated cost for changing the location to the back of the lot is \$19,000 to \$23,000. There was discussion about what this entailed, basically a 2nd and larger pump, and perhaps funding this from the anticipated rebates. Tom mentioned that it was the voters that decided to do this project and that we should do it right even if it requires spending the extra. After a discussion TOM EYMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDED COST FOR LOCATING THE WOOD PELLET BOX AT THE BACK OF THE LOT. CHRISTI GIGNAC SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

NEGOTIATIONS

Tom Eyman advised the Board that they have an agreement that the Union has approved and signed. This is a 2 year agreement with no changes to benefits. There is a 2% increase to those that are off step and a 1.5% increase to the base which is approximately a 2% increase for the 4 teachers not off step. There were minor language changes and the association agreed to a change to notice the School Board by February of anticipated continuing Education costs so they would have them for budgeting. A brief discussion ensued. LINDA GAITSKILL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2015-2016 AND 2016-2017 CONTRACT. DENYS DRAPER SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

POLICIES/PROCEDURES

There were no policies to present at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Linda Gaitskill was looking for Board support of the all-day kindergarten and thought we should have a parent and community forum prior to February. Denys said we need to get the information out. Tom suggested we plan it for the night of the January Board meeting and have the forum prior to the board meeting. Tom noted that we would be doing the kids a disservice by not going forward with this. TOM EYMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT AND FUNDING OF FULLDAY KINDERGARTEN. DENYS DRAPER SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR THE MOTION CARRIED.

It was noted that the December meeting is December 11th at 5:30.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO ADJOURN AT 7:37 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Peabody
Business Manager

APPROVED BY THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD DECEMBER 11, 2014