

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

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 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 5:30 PM by Chairman Kinney.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

LPTO REPORT

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that there were ten-eleven participants at the recent LPTO meeting which was fantastic. Many of the parents of younger students are getting involved, bringing new energy to the group.

The LPTO is busy working on the Silent Auction to be held on November 21st at Chef Joe's in Franconia.

MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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 distributed the NECAP Science Results from Grade 4 testing in the Spring of 2014. Lafayette did not have any students scoring in the proficient w/distinction category; the State average in this category was 1%. Lafayette had 72% scoring in the proficient category and 28% in the partially proficient category. The state average for these categories are 45% and 44% respectively. Lafayette also had no students in the substantially below proficient category while the state average is 10%. Principal Johnk stated that he is very pleased with the test results. He will be working with the staff to see which areas can be improved upon. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the fifth and sixth grade students continue their outdoor program. They have gone on three hikes consisting of the Pemigewasset Trail in Franconia Notch, the Zealand Train to the AMC Hut, and the Middle Sugarloaf Mountain Trail. Students have been recording wind speeds, water temperatures, cloud types and also observing flora and fauna. They record their findings in their outdoor notebooks along with their observations and some poetry. Kudos to Erica Sieberg and Ben Woo who are presenting the students with an awesome program incorporating science, geography and writing experiences. Principal Johnk also extended thanks to the parent volunteers. The program could not be held without the volunteers.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that all students participated in this month's International Peace Day celebration. Students worked in multi-aged groups to design and build a peace mural that is now

hanging in the lobby. This mural includes all student's hopes and dreams for their future. There was also a group photo, a walk through the students' Peace Flag Garden and a Peace Day slideshow.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the LPTO financed a trip to the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College for Grades three to six to see the musical, The Lightning Thief. This is a story based on a modern day boy who interacts with the ancient Greek gods. Following the performance, the students had lunch on Dartmouth Green. A big thank you to the LPTO for this opportunity.

Principal Johnk advised that the annual Fire Prevention activity was held recently. The Franconia FD, Sugar Hill FD, Franconia Life Squad and Police Department were on hand to lend support. Students experienced how to stay safe in their home in the trailer exhibits from the NH Fire Marshal's Office. They also enjoyed a visit with Sparky the Fire Dog who is remote controlled and was on hand to entertain and provide education to the students.

Principal Johnk advised that Jesse Lyman held the US Open Tennis Tournament earlier this month and the World Wiffleball Tournament today. These activities are always well received and enjoyed by the students.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that Progress Reports were sent home last week. Parent/Teacher Conferences are being held this afternoon and evening. These conferences are always well attended and afford parents an opportunity to view their student's work and discuss their progress. Thanks to the LPTO and parents who have provided food for the staff during this long day.

Principal Johnk distributed the proposal for the full day Kindergarten program for Board information and review noting that the cost involved in funding this would be approximately \$19,000.00. The Kindergarten Teacher is currently at .7 teacher/.3 Sped and would move to full time Kindergarten teacher. The school Counselor who is currently .6 counselor and .2 Sped would move to .6 counselor and .4 Sped. The \$19,000.00 amount includes all foreseen expenses for salaries and benefits for these positions. A brief discussion ensued.

Linda Gaitskill requested that Beverly Frenkiewich come to the Board to brief them on how the full day program would unfold as previously discussed. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to have Ms. Frenkiewich attend the November Board meeting for this purpose.

Linda Gaitskill asked if there had been any improvement in the paperwork issue with Café Services. Principal Johnk and Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield advised that it is improving. Both the cafeteria manager and Ms. Butterfield have been on a learning curve in this process but it is getting better each day. A brief discussion ensued.

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the SAU Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 5:00 PM at Profile School.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Susan Maltais, Federal Grants Bookkeeper, at the SAU office submitted her notice of retirement effective December 31, 2014 to the Executive Board at their October meeting. It is anticipated that her successor will begin early in December to allow for a training period. Ms. Maltais has advised that she will be available as needed beyond her retirement date for additional training/assistance as needed.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Administrative Team continues to work well together. Currently they are working on the new Teacher Evaluation Plan implementation. They have collaborated on the development of a walk-through tool to assist in this process. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the newly formed SAU-wide Technology Committee has had two meetings. Ben Jellison and Dan Inghram provide the support needed for the network SAU wide as well as support for their respective buildings. They will be reviewing the infrastructure at Bethlehem and Lafayette in order to provide support to them as well. The team will be negotiating the renewal of the Time Warner Contract together. They are continuing to review support services in place in an effort to streamline both services and costs overall. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Department of Homeland Security is looking at school safety plans/programs. They will review safety plans, evaluate schools and provide self-assessments. They will then send a team to meet with key personnel (administrators, custodian, fire and police departments) to do a hands on review and update of existing safety plans. A brief discussion ensued.

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 September noting that the number of meals served have increased significantly over the same time frame of last year.

Business Manager Tina Peabody requested a motion to approve awarding the oil bid to Stiles Fuel for a prepaid cost of \$35,481.80 for 11,400 gallons for the 2014-2015 school year. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE AWARDING OF THE FUEL OIL BID TO STILES FUEL AT A PREPAID COST OF \$35,481.00 FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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 \$54,840.87. A brief discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Kinney advised that Superintendent Couture had covered the majority of the topics discussed in his report. Mr. Kinney further advised the Board that the draft of the proposed SAU budget for the 2015-2016 school year was presented for Board information and review.

BUDGET

Principal Johnk distributed copies of the updated list of members for the Budget Committee for Board information. The membership consists of:

Tom Eyman	School Board Member (Franconia)
Linda Gaitskill	School Board Member (Sugar Hill)
Sue Ford	Community Member (Easton)
David McPhaul	Community Member (Sugar Hill)
Kevin Low	Parent (Easton)
Trevor Hamilton	Parent (Franconia)

Beverly Frenkiewich Teacher (Sugar Hill)
Gordie Johnk Principal (Bethlehem)

The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2014 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. There are six additional meetings scheduled concluding of Monday, December 1, 2014. It is anticipated that the budget development will be completed and that the last meeting will not be needed. Following a brief discussion, Chairman Kinney appointed the aforementioned members to the Budget Committee.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the slabs for the Energy Box and the Silo have not yet been poured. Currently Presby Construction and Wayne Fillion of Yeaton Associates have been researching ways to locate them further away from the building. This is an effort to save as many parking spaces as possible. Following a brief discussion, Chairman Kinney advised that if there is a change in the location of the energy box and silo, he would like a written guarantee from all parties (Maine Energy, Yeaton Associates, Presby Construction) that should this affect the operation of the system in any way, they will assume financial responsibility to rectify the situation.

NEGOTIATIONS

Tom Eyman advised the Board that they have had two brief negotiation sessions. It appears that this will be a fairly simple negotiation process as health insurance is not a concern this time around. The LEA submitted their first proposal and the Board representatives have submitted a counter proposal. The two sides will meet next week to discuss. A brief discussion ensued.

POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Linda Gaitskill distributed an updated To Do Listing for the Policy Committee as of October, 2014 for Board information and Review. There are several policies to be updated and this process will begin next month.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO ADJOURN AT 6:55 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk

APPROVED BY THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD NOVEMBER 13, 2014