

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Kinney.

PUBLIC INUT – None

### LPTO REPORT

Toni Butterfield reported that the first meeting will be the following week. There seems to be renewed energy and new faces that plan to be part of things this year.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. The following corrections were requested: (4 Corrections)

Page 1, under Principal's Report, paragraph 4, line 1, the abbreviation should read LEIP, not LEAP. The second bullet, needs to read Common Core State Standards.

Page 2, under Superintendent's Report, paragraph 4, Gignac is spelled Gignac, no "e" at the end

Page 3, under Building & Grounds, papagraph 3, should read "...Gaitskill for their dedication..."

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 the entire school has embarked upon a Peace Groups projects. For four Mondays over September and October, multi-age groups come together weekly to discuss this year's theme about friendship and superheroes. We can all be super heroes if we are all super friends.

Fire Prevention Day was held this past month. The Sugar Hill Fire Department, Franconia Fire Department, the Franconia Life Squad and the State House Trailer were all here for the kids to learn about and experience fire safety. Kim Cowles set up three stations that the kids rotated thru and took home great advice for families to be prepared for when they "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep", this year's Fire Prevention slogan.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the teachers have been heavily involved in professional development activities this summer which included a two day math conference in Durham to implement the new math program, Eureka Math. In conjunction with this, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, a retired math professor at MIT, provided a five day workshop at Lafayette. This workshop provided the staff with a concise method of making sure that students learned the "non-negotiable" skills of mathematics at each grade level. Dr. Sharma's understanding of mathematics instruction and learning in general was excellent and all staff members now have a better understanding of how to improve his/her teaching.

Principal Johnk advised that while the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) mandates that we use the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC tests) for state standardization in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, they still stipulate that we test Science competency with the old New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP tests). Our test scores from last April recently arrived from the NH DOE and might be summarized thusly:

**Percentage of Students at Proficiency Levels or Above  
Science NECAP (4th grade)**

Lafayette= 73% (11 out of 15 students)

State = 49%

Other standardized test scores, the Northwest Educational Association (NWEA) tests were administered this fall to all students. These results will be communicated to parents during the upcoming October 22, Parent-Teacher Conferences. Overall, our scores were lower than previous years due to the alignment with the more rigorous Common Core State Standards. We are using these formative assessments to modify our instructional strategies in order to better meet the needs of every student.

Principal Johnk explained that our new math program, Eureka Math, is being implemented in each grade, K-6. There is a steep learning curve for both students and teachers as this program addresses the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards and subsequent Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium mandated state testing. The introductory year is always the hardest year; however, the teachers believe that we will be able to increase student achievement more significantly in the years ahead.

The new hybrid heating system (80% wood pellets, 20% propane) is almost fully commissioned; however, we have been heating our hot water as well as the building on one wood pellet boiler in these mild fall temperatures. We are working on getting the other two wood pellet boilers up and running as well as the propane boiler. It is unclear how much we will be saving in terms of energy costs with the price of heating oil being significantly lower than in past years. What we will have is a heating system for the school for the next 20 years!

Mrs. Gaitskill asked for clarification about the LEIP Goals that were discussed in the Principal's report in September. Principal Johnk explained that the staff look at the prior year's LEIP goals during the August in-service days. We see where we are and come up with a plan for the coming school year. The staff reviews monthly and comes up with PD that will help meet our "new" LEIP goals.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Couture distributed enrollment figures as of October 1, 2015 for all schools in the SAU..

The SAU Budget Hearing Date is November 9, 2015. The meeting will be held at 5:30pm at 262 Cottage Steet, Littleton, in the conference room on the second floor.

Superintendent Couture explained that there will be some health insurance changes, specifically changes to the prescription plan. Health Trust will be sending out information to all those affected. The prescription rider will be eliminated. This should be discussed during teacher negotiations. Health Trust will grandfather districts that aren't negotiating this year. Health Trust is recommending districts to offer an alternative health plan with a higher deductible. Data shows that younger teachers may want that type of plan. That could mean savings for staff and the district. Health Trust will set up a day after school when a representative will come tell staff what might be offered, pricing to come. The Superintendent advised that the GMR for budget purposes will be set on October 16.

The new Copier Cost comparison (Current vs. Proposed) was distributed. Lafayette will save \$512.47 annually. MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ACCEPT THE NEW COPIER CONTRACT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

## FINANCIAL

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

It was noted that there are no financial reports for this meeting. Business Manager Tina Peabody has just returned from medical leave and will have a financial report next month.

Food service is up and in the black for now.

Tina Peabody and Principal Johnk explained that this year's Siemens contract is about \$700 less than last year because there is now one boiler instead of two. MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ACCEPT THE NEW SIEMENS CONTRACT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

## BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Kinney advised that Superintendent Couture covered what was discussed at the October E-Board meeting.

## BUDGET

Principal Johnk distributed a list of proposed Budget Committee members and planned dates for the Budget Committee meetings. Discussion of approval of committee members was deferred to a non-public session and voted later.

## BUILDING & GROUNDS

Siemens Contract for Heating/Air Handling Maintenance & Controls. The new contract for 2015-2016 was discussed above during the FINANCIAL reports.

Principal Johnk distributed the proposed Froling Contract for Wood Pellet Boilers for the 2015-2016 year. The service contract includes three cleanings of each of the three OkoFEN pellet boilers. This cleaning schedule is recommended to keep the system running at the highest efficiency. Chairman Kinney noted that in his experience at AHEAD that the cleaning and servicing of the wood pellet boilers is very important. MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ACCEPT THE FROLING CONTRACT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

Principal Johnk expanded on what he reported in his Principal's Report about the wood pellet system. The system has a few final items that need to be completed to consider the project 100% complete. This includes the communication system that is being worked on by Siemens and motor replacement that is being worked on by Dead River and Froling. Principal Johnk would like to move forward on applying for the \$50,000 rebate monies as time is critical in making sure there is enough money available. To apply for the rebate, all invoices need to be paid in full. Principal Johnk asked if the Board would consider paying Froling in full so that we could move forward with the rebate. MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO PAY FROLING in FULL. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

## NEGOTIATIONS – No Report

## POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Linda Gaitskill distributed to the Board the Policy Committee's To Do List for the 2015-2016.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY THOMAS EYMAN TO ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 6:35 PM UNDER PARAGRAPH II, SECTION 2 OF RSA 91A:3 OF THE RIGHT TO KNOW LAW TO DISCUSS APPROVAL OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS, TAKING SUPERINTENDENT COUTURE, PRINCIPAL JOHNK. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY THOMAS EYMAN TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 6:48 PM. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET COMMITTEE APPROVAL - MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET COMMITTEE. LINDA GAITSKILL, TOM EYMAN, LUTHER KINNEY AND CHRISTI GIGNAC WERE IN FAVOR, DENYS DRAPER OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO ADJOURN AT 6:50 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Butterfield  
Acting Board Clerk

APPROVED BY THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD, NOVEMBER 12, 2015