

LAFAYETTE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SCHOOL
FRANCONIA, NH 03580

DATE: September 13, 2018
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:31 PM

In attendance:

Board Chairman, Luther Kinney
Board Members: Chris Thayer, Amy Mullins, Christi Gignac
Principal, Gordie Johnk
Superintendent, Pierre Couture
Business Manager, Kristin Franklin
Administrative Assistant, Toni Butterfield
Board Clerk, Lynne Warren

LPTO REPORT

Amy Mullins presented the LPTO report, including an update on the current Check Writing fundraising campaign. The campaign, to raise funds for next year, has been very successful so far – raising about \$3200 at this point. It will continue until September 20.

The father of one of Lafayette's students has offered to help design T-shirts and sweatshirts to be sold to raise funds.

One funding request has been received this year to date. It is a request from Lafter Care for supplies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2018 MEETING

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 9 MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING REVISION. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Page 2, paragraph 4 revised to mention additional specifics re: Northcountry Health Consortium creating a response team to support in crisis situations.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Johnk provided a summary of the report which had been emailed to the board prior to the meeting.

The year is off to a great start with a strong staff and positive attitudes all around.

He gave a brief overview of how the school's goals are developed – and offered to provide additional detail to anyone who might be interested. Then discussed how Lafayette's goals and activities support the SAU goals for the 2018 - 19 school year.

He noted that the current enrollment numbers had changed just today down to 115, and tend to fluctuate often.

NWEA testing is being done to get a baseline for all students and to better understand level of summer regression. Kids who read and do some academics over summer have less regression. Sometimes it takes a couple of months to get back to prior year's level.

Outdoor Education program is going smoothly so far.

The Lafter Care program is going well so far. Not a lot of progress yet with Franconia Recreation Department board on moving toward a different program in the future. Twelve students signed up for the first month, and there were a couple of drop-ins. Sign up goes out tomorrow for next month. FCC totally discontinued their program. The 7 students who were going to attend FCC decided not to participate.

A brief discussion ensued.

A request has been received from the middle school Newspaper club for a late bus. The request, with 31 student signatures, is for a bus that would run later than normal hours for students with after school activities - taking them from Profile to Lafayette. Some initial analysis has been done but more is needed, including gauging true utilization of the service. Chairman Kinney felt this would be a good educational opportunity for the students on the process of analysis, evaluation, approval / disapproval, budgeting, and more. There was additional discussion among the board.

Principal Johnk will follow up asking the kids to write a letter to parents to get a more definitive number of students who would use the bus. Then there may possibly be a trial month to see if the service would be utilized and feasible.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Superintendent Couture

SAU 35 Goals

Outlined goals, and discussed activities that support the goals.

PACE assessments are not being utilized any longer. Discussed how student assessments will be done going forward based on what was learned during the use of PACE assessments.

There have been recent staff and structural changes in the business office. These changes are being seen as an opportunity to look at business practices and improve where appropriate.

There was some discussion of the staffing changes going on, as well as vacancies in the business office.

Staff Nomination

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF LYDIA WALKER-WHARTON

MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO AFFIRM THE NOMINATION OF LYDIA WALKER-WHARTON AS ART TEACHER FOR 2018 - 19 SCHOOL YEAR. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

There was brief discussion and clarification this is a 1 year contract and a full search will be done going forward for next year.

Superintendent Couture recently attended a School Funding Forum in Berlin. The forum was presented by two attorneys who are starting a grass roots effort to educate the public about the school funding

crisis. A grass-roots effort is underway to equalize the tax rate per student in order to make it more equitable. In towns with lower property values the children are at a huge disadvantage because the taxes and funding are very low. The issue could ultimately have a profound effect on Profile in the form of significant budget cuts over time.

APPROVAL OF BILLS - Kristin Franklin

Kristin presented the current Financial Statements which show revenues are on target with plan so far this school year.

The End of Year financial statements were signed by Chairman Kinney and the board members in attendance, and will now be sent to the state.

There was a brief discussion related to homeless services and grants.

Lafter Care budget information was presented. It was noted that this information only represents one month so far, with only one pay period reflected.

Lafter Care received an offer of a \$500 donation. After some discussion it was determined the program has sufficient funds at the current time.

The board asked if it was normal to have some appropriations approved and paid early as has occurred recently. Per Franklin this commonly occurs and is a result of cash flow issues caused by reduced funds coming in over the summer and the budget being so tight. It was suggested that in the future it might be a good idea to build some contingency / cushion in the budget to mitigate cash flow issues.

Kristin reminded the group that the budget timeline this year will be expedited.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Board

Chairman Kinney presented the report. Fall is a busy time for the e-board. The budget has to be approved early on, and there are a lot of activities going on. The board is full steam ahead working on the budget.

Budget

Principal Johnk made a recommendation to approve the following budget committee members: Amy Mullins, Denys Draper, Sarah Reeder, Dave McPhaul Sr., Kevin Low, Cindy or Tim Burnell, Wes Burhoe, Toni Butterfield, Gordie Johnk.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO APPROVE THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS PROPOSED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The first budget committee meeting is planned for October.

There was discussion on clarification of some budget related items and timing.

Building & Grounds

Principal Johnk gave an update on the issue with the abutting property (Hunt) regarding clean-up efforts, and proposed lot-line adjustment. There was some progress on the debris removal early on, but very little lately. Johnk expressed disappointment in the lack of progress. He asked if the board wants to escalate the issue via a letter from the board – or potentially the board’s attorney – with a specific deadline for the clean-up to be completed. Chairman Kinney suggested that the letter be sent from the board at this point, specifying the requested date and asking that the property owners install a fence. He feels the letter should also mention the proposed lot-line adjustment.

Chairman Kinney also suggested getting the opinion of an attorney, but having the initial letter come from the board. Then, if necessary, have an attorney contact the property owners.

Superintendent Couture recapped that there are two issues: The cleanup, which needs to be the initial focus, then the lot line adjustment to be addressed subsequently. He will consult the SAU attorney to get advice on how to proceed

Policies / Procedures

Christi Gignac outlined the changes and updates to the following policies.

1. Policies for 1st reading

a) ILD – Non-Educational Surveys & Questionnaires

b) IMGA – Service Animals

Discussion related to clarification of whether the animal must be a dog. Other species not permitted. Gignac will research a bit more to determine if other species are defined as service animals. ADA requirements seem to define as dogs only.

2. Policies for 2nd Reading and Approval – Per Gignac, there are no changes from the 1st reading.

a) BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics

b) EHB – Data and Record Retention

MOTION BY AMY MULLINS, SECONDED BY CHRIS THAYER TO APPROVE ALL POLICIES AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO ADJOURN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM