

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

DATE: January 14, 2016
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

PUBLIC INPUT – Bernadette Costa of Franconia updated the Board about the Northern Pass project and its impact on our community. The current plan is to bury the line under Route 18, through town, to Route 116 and then to Route 112. Her understanding is that a four to seven foot trench will need to be buried down the center of Main Street. Work is forecasted to be done at a rate of 75 feet per day. The estimate is that Main Street will be difficult to impossible to access for approximately two to three days.

If abutters would like to testify to the SEC(NH Site Evaluation Committee), they need to register as an Intervenor by 2/5/16. The Select Board will speak on behalf of the Town and Mrs. Costa was asking if the School would like to speak as well.

Ed O'Brien of Easton spoke about the idea that schools are shying away from cursive writing. He feels it is an important part of the school curriculum. He reminded the Board that everyone does not have a computer and hoped that the School Board will consider making sure that cursive writing stays part of the curriculum.

LPTO REPORT

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that the LPTO met on January 13, 2016. The LPTO spent \$406 on shovels, sleds, igloo makers, balls and crates for the playground. The money came from dollars raised through the Box Tops for Education program. Snacks for Winter Program will be funded by the LPTO. Each child will be given a nut-free granola bar to put in their pocket. The Holiday Cookie Sale in December raised \$531.00. It was discussed and agreed to move the LPTO bank accounts to Woodsville Guaranty Bank

Jill Brewer Nyborg and Denys Draper are chairing this year's Community Spelling Bee which will be held on Friday, April 1, 2016. Staff Appreciation will be held May 2nd to May 6, 2016. The LPTO is trying a new event this year. There will be an Art Show on May 6, 2016 at Chef Joe's in Franconia. Along with a display of the student's artwork there will be a small silent auction of about ten items.

New officers were elected as follows:

Keri Williamson: Chair
Denys Draper: Vice-Chair
Jill Brewer: Treasurer
Amy Mullins: Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 10, 2015 MEETING

MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY CHRISTI GIGNAC TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2015 MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC INPUT – a "P" will be added to INPUT

In the fourth paragraph of the LPTO report – “....PTO made a profit of \$208.00.” and “The LPTO is looking at possibly expanding..”

In the third paragraph of the Principal’s Report, should read “Trash Trek Challenge”.....

In the second paragraph of the BUDGET report, it should read “Chairman Kinney commented that the goal of the budget committee was to stay in line with the rate of inflation, and considering a new position at the SAU for Speech, the presented budget is fairly close to this goal.”

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 reiterated that the holiday season was wonderful with our annual Holiday Concert, showed their compassion by singing Christmas carols with our neighbors at the Lafayette Center, and learned about different cultures by exchanging Christmas and Chinese New Year’s cards with students in Taiwan, China. While these types of activities will not show up on any standardized test items, they are nevertheless, important learning opportunities for our students.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the Winter Program started January 8 with all students participating in some form of outdoor activity. Approximately 75 students travel to Cannon Mountain for Alpine (downhill) skiing or snowboarding lessons. Another 14 students participate in our Nordic (cross-country) ski program at Bretton Woods. Nineteen students signed up for our Winter Fun program which incorporates sledding, skating, tubing, snowshoeing, and other winter activities. All three of these important programs integrate winter safety, an instructional skills component, and lots of fun! Lafayette’s Winter Program could not exist without the commitment of our parent chaperones. This group of adults helps our staff members adequately supervise all of these activities as we take our classrooms outside of the school.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that several professional development opportunities are being conducted during this time of year. Seven staff members participated in a recent Crisis Prevention/Intervention (CPI) training here in our SAU. Another training, also initiated by the SAU, is a science workshop to help implement the new Science NEXT Generation Standards. All of our classroom teachers are involved in this training. Another group of staff members will be traveling to Lyndon State College for Eureka Math training during our day off of school for Civil Rights Day.

Northwestern Educational Assessments (NWEA) are being given to students in all grades between January 11-22, 2016. These formative assessments give teachers standardized information regarding each student’s progress. We will communicate these results to parents and work with our students to set goals for the next assessment period.

Principal Johnk advised the Board of the impact of having a homeless shelter in our community. There are three shelters north of Plymouth, one in Franconia, one in Lancaster, and one in Berlin. Lafayette has been made aware that there is a pre-schooler living at the local shelter (Bancroft House) who turned three years old at the beginning of 2016. This student will require a one-on-one aid, tuition to a preschool and transportation. Principal Johnk will pull together figures to quantify what the historical and potential costs associated with supporting this homeless shelter could be. Principal Johnk mentioned the recent fundraiser, The Longest Night, held on December 20, 2015 to raise money for the Bancroft House. All funds will go to support this shelter.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that “No Child Left Behind” is gone and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is in.

Enforcement of the so called Cadillac Tax feature of the Affordable Care Act was pushed to 2020.

Superintendent Couture applauded the Principals for helping to make the CPI training happen "in house."
Providing professional development SAU-wide is a great thing

FINANCIAL REPORT

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Peabody distributed copies of the School Lunch Report for Board information and review noting that the program is currently in good shape. Revenue is down, but expenses are down more. The current loss is - \$5,873.54.

Business Manager Peabody informed the Board that the State is asking schools to match the State reimbursement in the amount each school charges for lunch. This would mean increasing Lafayette's lunch price by \$0.20 from \$2.25 to \$2.45. It is required that we increase by \$0.10 to \$2.35. The State is suggesting the increase to \$2.45. The Board will consider the price adjustment later in the school year to see where revenues and expenses in the lunch programs stand closer to the end of June.

Business Manager Peabody informed the Board that Chris Farro from Café Services was working on the 2016-2017 budget and reminded the administration to forward enrollment information to him.

Business Manager Peabody distributed Financial Reports for the 2015-2016 school year for Board information and review noting that the current projected year-end balance is \$52,214.14. The large increase from last month was due to the \$50,000.00 PUC grant rebate money that was received since our last meeting.

BOARD REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Information covered in the Superintendent's report.

BUDGET

A brief discussion ensued about putting funds in the SPED reserve, possibly as a warrant article.

Tom Eyman asked the board to consider the \$40,000.00 line item for fuel. This represents a \$4,000.00 increase from the amount budgeted for FY 2016. As of 1/12/16, over \$18,000.00 has been expended on fuel, (propane & wood pellets). The \$40,000 line item is our best recommendation for what actual costs will be in FY 2017. The board decided to keep the line item at \$40,000.00.

Tom Eyman asked for clarification about several salary line items which showed well over the 2% salary increase that was voted on in last years professional staff negotiations. Business Manager Peabody explained the amount over and above the 2% was the result of the two teachers that are still on step thereby increasing the total percentage increase to more than 2%. An email from Linda Gaitskill to Tina Peabody was referenced that Business Manager Peabody agreed to adjust the 2016 line items of the budget so that the year to year increases were more in line with the 2% negotiated agreement. This would not impact the figures for the FY 2017 budget.

MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO APPROVE THE 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET WITH A GROSS BUDGET AMOUNT OF \$2,607,597.00. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

BUILDING & GROUNDS

New Heating System Update - Principal Johnk distributed a handout "Heating System Update Summary", dated 1/14/2016. The costs were expended over three fiscal years, FY 14, FY 15 and FY 16. FY 2016 bills expensed were \$18,854.89. These are the only bills that the PUC grant could offset. A discussion ensued.

Window Project, handout attached - Last year we anticipated the cost to be \$45,000.00 for the windows and \$15,000.00 for paint and repairs. We found upon further research that there is zero insulation in any of the windows in the entire 1963 part of the building. We have re-grouped and determined new pricing to include 96 square feet of insulation above and below the windows. John Izzo from Presby is voluntarily helping us calculate what our costs will be. Our biggest heat loss is in the gaps between the windows and doors. Improving this insulation should enhance our energy efficiency along with our new pellet/propane heating system. We are also proposing to replace the greenhouse window (\$2,000.00) in the newer classroom wing of the school. The existing window has lost its vacuum seal. The painting estimate was increased to 14,000.00 from the earlier proposal of \$12,000.00. The miscellaneous repairs increased from \$3,000.00 to \$12,000.00 as we will need to hire someone to do this work and not rely on volunteers. Principal Johnk explained two options - (1) Do the whole package for \$92,200.00, asking for a warrant article of \$32,200.00, or (2) Hold off on painting and greenhouse window until next year, making the total project cost \$76,200.00, asking for a warrant article of \$16,200.00

A discussion ensued. The Board resolved that it would be better to do the whole project and ask for the larger warrant article. MOTION BY DENYS DRAPER, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO INCLUDE A WARRANT ARTICLE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE UP TO \$32,200.00 TO BE PUT IN THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Upgraded Computer Wiring - Principal Johnk advised the Board that we need to upgrade the technology wiring from CAT5 to CAT6, with some fiber optics. Business Manager Peabody informed the group that there could be E-rate reimbursement for this work up to 40% of the project cost. The specifications for the project need to be to Business Manager Peabody by the end of January. The plan would be to use the \$25,000.00 in the Technology Fund for the re-wiring. We have an estimate of \$13,000.00 from Goulet Communications to complete the re-wiring project. Principal Johnk informed the Board that there would be an additional \$5,000.00 cost for access points. Total project costs are estimated to be \$18,000.00.

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL – No Report

POLICIES / PROCEDURES

Christi Gignac presented the following policies for first reading:

- GBE Staff Responsibilities and Ethics
- JBAA Sexual Harassment: Students
- JICK Student Safety and Violence Prevention Bullying

GBE represents the combination of GBEA Staff Ethics with GBED Staff Relations.

JBAA includes an updated definition of sexual harassment to include sexual violence language. Tom Eyman pointed out that we should add the word “how” to the sentence at the bottom of the page to read “how often the conduct occurred and how long it continues;”.

JICK has a few changes as noted on the policy. Tom Eyman pointed out the need to delete the word “of” on page 5 in the added paragraph at the bottom of the page.

MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICIES FOR FIRST READING. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tom Eyman followed up on the earlier discussion about Intervenor Status for the Northern Pass Project. As presented during the Public segment of the agenda a letter would need to be written to hold our place if we so choose to present information when further meetings are held in regards to the actual work to be done on Main Street in Franconia for the completion of Northern Pass. The Board felt it would be prudent for us to do this letter.

MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OR PRINCIPAL TO DRAFT AN INTERVENOR LETTER BEFORE 2/5/2016. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Butterfield
Board Clerk Substitute