

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Tina Peabody, Board Members Thomas Eyman, Luther Kinney, Linda Gaitskill, Mary Jo Greene; Superintendent Paul MacMillan; Business Manager Sandra Stone; Principal Gordie Johnk; Administrative Assistant Toni Butterfield; Staff Members Garret Ferguson, Ben Woo; Profile Technology Representatives Chris Harris, George Smith.

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

Chairman Peabody requested that the Technology Discussion be moved from the Superintendent's Report to the beginning of the meeting in order for the staff and Profile Technology participants to be able to present their data and leave in a timely manner.

TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION

Chairman Peabody advised that the Budget Committee had questioned the expenses for the conversion to Time Warner Fiber Optics. The issue of the Lafayette's computers not being able to function under the new program, the slowness of the up and down loads and the overall frustration of the staff is also an issue. The discussion this evening is to seek a solution to the current situation which would afford better access, remove the frustration level and provide adequate computer speed/availability for all involved.

Tom Eyman briefed the Board on the costs currently included in the proposed budget for the internet and all associated costs.

Chairman Peabody distributed copies of comparisons for making internet access choices from Christopher Harris at Profile Technologies along with a listing of charges associated with the Time Warner fiber optics program currently in place. Christopher Harris and George Smith addressed the current situation and provided insight as to how this could be addressed if Lafayette chooses to opt out of the Time Warner Fiber Optics currently in place. One of the main concerns is the Prism filtering system through the SAU. Christopher Harris of Profile Technologies advised the Board that if the District agrees to a standalone program no longer associated with the SAU, they would be looking at a three year commitment which the monthly breakdown of charges would be as follows:

\$66.66	New Sonic Wall firewall with filtering
<u>\$269.99</u>	Time Warner 35 Mbps x 5 Mbps Service
\$326.65	Total

This amount is a significant annual savings over that currently in place.

Superintendent MacMillan advised that the switch to Time Warner Fiber Optics was discussed at the Administrative Team last spring and that Principal Johnk had not voiced any objections to this program at that time. Superintendent MacMillan further advised the Board that the major force behind this switch was to ready the Districts for the change to SMARTER Balance on-line testing in 2014. The program is readying to be piloted in 2014 and take effect in 2015. Superintendent MacMillan requested that this be kept in the forefront by Profile Technologies and the Lafayette Administration in order to be sure that the appropriate internet levels are available to the students for this testing program.

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL BY PROFILE TECHNOLOGIES TO REPLACE THE CURRENT FIBER OPTICS WITH THE NEW SONIC WALL AND TIME WARNER 35 Mbps x 6 Mbps SERVICE AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Peabody charged Profile Technologies with the duties to see that this change occurs in a timely fashion.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

LPTO

Principal Johnk called the Board's attention to the LPTO written report distributed prior to the meeting.

The LPTO met on November 5, 2012 at which time three requests were approved for funding. They are;

Friday, December 14th – Hampstead Players performance of Dickens' A Christmas Carol at a cost of \$535.00.
Giant Chess Set which includes 32 chess pieces, nylon board and 2 canvas storage bags for a cost of \$600.00,
XC Skis and Boots for 4-6th grade recess consisting of 7 sets of skis and 13 pairs of boots for a total cost of \$600.00

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the Silent Auction originally scheduled for November and then moved to the Spring of 2013 has been cancelled. This will be replaced with a bucket raffle (similar to a penny sale) with items already donated being available for the cost of a ticket. Tickets will be \$1.00 each and will begin to be sold on November 26th with the actual event occurring prior to the Christmas Concert.

MOTION BY LINDA GIATSKILL, SECONDED BY TOM EYMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2012 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

Principal Johnk advised that Lafayette Regional School is a drop off point for clothing and other non-perishable items to be delivered to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. The truck is due tomorrow and will be picking up the donations from several area sites.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the Monster Project has been completed by Grade 4 students in a collaborative effort with students from thirty countries. The finished "Monster" is on display in the Library.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the Outdoor Education Program's hike scheduled for today was cancelled due to the forecast of a Nor' Easter in the area. Needless to say the storm did not materialize in the scheduled time frame but it is better to err on the side of safety as was discussed with the students. This hike will be rescheduled for the spring.

Principal Johnk advised that he has been working with the new Franconia Police Chief David Monahan. Chief Monahan and Chief Wentworth from Sugar Hill presented the Halloween Safety program.

Principal Johnk advised that staff members have been juggling their duties to provide needed assistance/therapies/services for the new student as discussed at last month's meeting. Principal Johnk will be looking to hire an additional paraprofessional following the Thanksgiving Break for this student.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of the Professional Development Committee's meeting minutes held on 10/22/12 for Board information and review. The committee is being Co-Chaired by Courtney Vashaw-Piper and Kerry Riley. A second meeting was scheduled for today but needed to be cancelled as several participants were unable to make it. This will be rescheduled in the near future. The committee is looking at ways to connect Professional Development to student growth.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of the minutes of the Teacher Evaluation Committee meeting on November 2, 2012 for Board information and review. Superintendent MacMillan noted that the committee broke up into pairs to do research on what other states are doing for assessments to measure student growth when it comes to teacher evaluations. They will be looking at Connecticut, Washington State, Rhode Island and North Carolina. The next meeting is scheduled for November 29th at 3:00 PM at Profile School.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that at the NCSAA (North Country School Administrators Association) meeting earlier today it was noted that the Commissioner will be rolling out the leadership model for teacher evaluations on December 14th. The DOE cannot come out with a list of mandates when it comes to assessments. They can recommend but the Districts are free to choose the assessment model(s) they wish to utilize for this process.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that Randy Bell is the North Country's liaison to the DOE.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that the North Country Superintendents had a stressful meeting with Commissioner Barry following the recent Commissioner's meeting in Concord. There was major concern among the Superintendents pertaining to the awarding of the Common Core Curriculum RFP to SERESC with nothing being given to the NCES or other entities statewide. This is similar to the awarding of the Focus Monitoring RFP and will once again result in the North Country having to travel to Bedford in order to participate or adding costs for SERESC presenters to travel to our area. Following a lengthy discussion the Commissioner advised that she would give \$33,000.00 from the funding to the North Country for Core Curriculum. It is also possible that the area may receive funding for Focus Monitoring.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that Superintendent Harry Fensom of SAU 36 sent his technology person to Vermont to observe the piloting of the SMARTER Balance testing program last week. One observation as a result of this visit was that large screens with high resolution will be needed to afford the students the ability to work on a split screen during the testing program. Ipads are not a wise choice for this purpose.

Superintendent MacMillan advised that the Race to the Top Grant was submitted on time. Due to Hurricane Sandy, additional time was extended for submission. In view of this, our team withdrew their original proposal, did some tweaking in various areas and resubmitted, all within the appropriate time frame. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of the updated SAU 35 Community Link for Board information and review. This has been added to the SAU website along with the proposed 2013-2014 Budget Summary and Pie Chart. These were also sent to the various Districts for inclusion on their individual web sites.

Superintendent MacMillan reminded the Board that the SAU Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 6:00 PM at Profile School. The SAU Full Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 6:00 PM at Profile School.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that two representatives of the Jane's Trust Grant met with NCES recently. The group have applied for this grant in order to participate in NISL (National Institute for School Leadership) training and programs. Grant awards are anticipated to be made in December. A brief discussion ensued.

FINANCIAL

Manifests were circulated for Board information and approval.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed School Lunch Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is (\$5,853.70). Ms. Stone advised that the School Lunch applications inputted into the new computer system have been approved and it is anticipated that federal meals reimbursements will be forthcoming now that that step has been completed.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$58,589.00. This includes all monies being held for unencumbered items. Ms. Stone briefed the Board on the changes since the prior reporting period. A brief discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mary Jo Greene advised that Superintendent MacMillan had covered the majority of items discussed at the Executive Board meeting. Ms. Greene advised the Board that Mileposts which has replaced Performance Plus is being utilized by all schools with the exception of Lafayette. Ms. Greene asked why Lafayette is not utilizing this student tracking program. Principal Johnk advised that he opted to not join for this year as the cost is \$8.50 per student and he felt he would like to see how it all works before committing Lafayette to participation.. Principal Johnk feels that Lafayette keeps excellent track of their student's progress. Principal Johnk acknowledged that it is distinctly possible that Lafayette will be required to have an SIS (Student Information System) in the future. A brief discussion ensued.

BUDGET

Tom Eyman advised that the Budget Committee has met three times and is approximately three quarters of the way through the review of the proposed budget. The committee will hopefully finish the review of line items next week and move on to other issues.

BUILDING & GROUNDS PLANNING FOR OIL TANK REPLACEMENT

Principal Johnk advised the Board that he feels that the District should begin planning for this financially by constructing a warrant article to add monies to the Building & Grounds Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose. Linda Gaitskill raised the issue of possibly seeking a more current estimate of the cost for this project. Business Manager Sandra Stone will look into this matter. A brief discussion ensued.

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL

Chairman Peabody advised the Board that the committee has a proposal that they will be submitting to the teachers in the near future.

POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Linda Gaitskill advised the Board that the Policy Committee is seeking Board input and direction into policies included in the NHSBA Spring Policy Update.

The first is a Policy along with two procedures dealing with School Board Evaluation and Goal setting. These policies are "recommended" by the NHSBA. They are:

- BA School Board Self-Evaluation and Goal Setting
- BA-R1 Evaluation of School Board
- BA-R2 Individual Board Member Self-Evaluation Worksheet

Following a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board that these policies are not necessary at this time.

Next is Policy JFAB – Admission of Non-Resident Students. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to leave this policy as is for the present.

Policy DIA – Fund Balances. This policy has not yet been adopted and the committee is looking for input from the Superintendent and Business Manager pertaining to the provision allowing the District to retain yearend unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment. Business Manager Sandra Stone advised that this would be done by a warrant article. DRA has produced the wording for a sample warrant article to address this issue. Chairman Peabody requested that the SAU bring copies of this article to the December meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tom Eyman who is a member of the AHEAD (Affordable Housing Education and Development) Board advised the Board that they are planning on refurbishing the building on the access road to Lafayette. This building was originally a store and now is four apartments. They are hoping to utilize the renovation project to create an educational opportunity for the students at Lafayette.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY MARY JO GREENE TO ADJOURN AT 7:47 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted;

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk

Approved by the Lafayette School Board December 13, 2012