

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Tina Peabody; Board Members Thomas Eyman, Linda Gaitskill, Mary Jo Greene, Luther Kinney; Superintendent Paul MacMillan; Business Manager Sandra Stone; Principal Gordie Johnk.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peabody at 5:37 PM.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

LPTO REPORT

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the profit from the Silent Auction appears to be approximately \$7,000.00 rather than the \$8,000.00 reported at last month's meeting. The LPTO is in the process of reconciling all monies and expenses for this event.

The annual December Cookie Sale was once again a resounding success. The LPTO reports a profit of \$300.00 to \$400.00 from this event.

The annual Recycle Sale which allows students to shop for their family members Christmas gifts for a nominal fee was also a very successful venture. LPTO members play "Santa's Elves" in assisting the students with their purchases and wrapping the presents. The amount of \$140.00 taken in on this sale will be donated to a charity chosen by the students as in the past.

MOTION BY LINDA GAITSKILL, SECONDED BY THOMAS EYMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2011 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Johnk called the Board's attention to his written report distributed earlier via e-mail requesting that the Board review and advise him of any questions.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that Lafayette Regional is actively moving forward to incorporate 21st Century Learning school wide and encompass the 4 C's – Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. The staff is diligently trying to integrate these with the traditional three "R's" of education (Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic). It is Lafayette's belief that this will assist our students to be ready for the real world outside of our small school/community. Principal Johnk further advised the Board that they will be hearing lots more about the 4 C's as we move forward.

Principal Johnk briefed the Board on the methods he utilizes for Teacher Evaluations. He distributed both the Walk-Through Observation Form and Rubrics for Enhancing Professional Practice for Board information and review. Principal Johnk walked the Board through the processes of both teacher self evaluation and his narrative response. Currently all evaluations are in process and will be concluded in a timely manner. It was noted that Lafayette has gotten away from the standard planned observations for obvious reasons. Impromptu walkthroughs on a more frequent basis afford the evaluator more insight into what is occurring in each classroom. Video evaluations are done every three years and Principal Johnk advised that although this format was difficult for many staff members at first, it is now readily accepted and has become a valuable tool.

Principal Johnk advised that the SAU Administrative Team is currently working on developing an observation method to be utilized SAU wide.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT HEALTH COST CONTAINMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that the first Health Cost Containment Committee meeting was held on December 13, 2011. The turnout was not as good as hoped due to rumors that the purpose of the committee was to look at doing away with health insurance. This is completely false; the purpose of the committee is to do whatever possible to curb healthcare costs in the various districts. Superintendent MacMillan distributed notes from the meeting along with data provided by Tim Parsons of the LGC (Local Government Center) entitled Building a Successful Committee to Combat Healthcare Costs for Board information and review. As all are aware, the rising rate of healthcare costs is the greatest threat to our economic system. At the current inflation rate, it is estimated that healthcare costs for a family in the next seven to nine years will increase to \$64,000.00. Primary factors in the rising costs are improper use of health coverage and prescription costs. In areas such as ours there is no health care available on weekends forcing people to feel they have to go to the hospital emergency room. Anthem has a nurse on duty 24/7/365 to address patient/parental concerns. We need to educate our employees on better use of their insurance coverage. It was also suggested at the meeting that a local pharmacist be invited to speak to the group pertaining to prescriptions and the use of generic drugs. Superintendent MacMillan noted that Merrimack NH has had a committee of this type for a number of years and have been successful in lowering their costs significantly. Superintendent MacMillan advised that Merrimack's budget is 36.4 million dollars with 10 million plus being the cost of health insurance. Superintendent MacMillan advised that there will be a second committee meeting in the foreseeable future. He will keep the Board advised as this project moves forward.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of the request for nominations from the NHSAA (New Hampshire School Administrators Association) for the Champions for Children Awards. Superintendent MacMillan noted that there was not a nominee from the North Country this past year. Superintendent MacMillan requested that all give serious consideration to recognizing someone in the district for this honor. All suggestions and information should be forwarded to him.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that the Grade Level and Subject Alike meetings have been very successful. A common focus of all groups is the need for vertical articulation. Superintendent MacMillan is hoping to address this at spring meetings. He has also requested input from all participants as to how to utilize opening day in a different fashion to maximize the needs of various groups. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed data from NHSBA pertaining to HB 542 which amends RSA 186:11. The new law requires that school districts adopt a policy allowing parents to object to specific course material. If a parent finds specific course material objectionable, the district and parents must work together to agree to an alternative instruction plan that allows the student to satisfy state minimum standards. Copies of sample policy IGE - Parental Objections to Specific Course Material were also distributed for Board review and information. The Policy Committee will be working on this for adoption in the near future. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed the NHSAA Legislative Update for Board information and review.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that Commissioner of Education Virginia Barry recently visited Bethlehem Elementary and Profile Schools. Commissioner Barry's term will expire with the election of a new governor in approximately fifteen months. Commissioner Barry advised that there will be four positions opening up on the State Board of Education and she would like to see a representative from the North Country be appointed to the Board.

Superintendent MacMillan advised that Vinnie Spiotti, former Bethlehem Board member, and Bob Butson, retired Lisbon Principal, have both applied for a position on the State Board.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Manifests were circulated for Board information and approval.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed copies of the School Lunch Report for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is (\$14,428.82) which is \$3,260.82 over the monies set aside to offset this deficit. A brief discussion ensued. Luther Kinney asked how the new collection system was working. Principal Johnk advised that basically there have been very few complaints. Principal Johnk further noted that the cafeteria is now serving more nutritious meals but that participation is down. Students unfortunately prefer "fast food" as opposed to home made. A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed the Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$31,114.00. Mrs. Stone briefed the Board on the changes since the prior reporting period again noting that she is holding monies for anticipated expenses not yet encumbered as well as the Library/Media Specialists salary. There is also an increase in the legal encumbrance of \$5,000.00. A brief discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met on January 4th and this report was covered under the Superintendent's Report.

BUDGET

Thomas Eyman advised that nothing has changed in the proposed budget since the discussion at last month's meeting. There are still a few loose ends to tie up and currently the proposed budget is down .07%.

Business Manager Sandra Stone advised the Board that they will need to be looking at what they would like for proposed warrant articles later in the meeting.

A brief discussion ensued as to the possible change in health care plans for the support staff which includes the principal's health care as well. Following a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board to leave this coverage as it is for the upcoming year.

MOTION BY MARY JO GREENE, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,244,512.00. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Principal Johnk suggested that the Board take \$100,000 from the surplus at the end of the year for the asbestos removal and carpet replacement project. They can utilize the funds encumbered for the Library/Media position along with monies in repair to building to reach this amount. This would mean that the building would be asbestos free. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY MARY JO GREENE, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO ADD A WARRANT ARTICLE FOR \$100,000.00 TO BE ADDED TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR THIS PURPOSE WITH SAID FUNDS TO COME FROM THE JUNE 30 UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE ABAILABLE FOR TRANSFER ON JULY 1. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The Board decided that the proposed generator warrant article in conjunction with the town be tabled until next year.

MOTION BY MARY JO GREENE, SECONDED BY LINDA GIATSKILL TO ADD A WARRANT ARTICLE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$5,000.00 TO BE ADDED TO THE TECHNOLOGY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL – No Report

POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Linda Gaitskill distributed copies the Lafayette Policy Committee “To Do” List for Board information along with a full listing of current Lafayette School Board Policies.

OTHER BUSINESS

The February Board meeting will be held on February 9, 2012 at 5:00 PM prior to the Budget Hearing at 7:00 PM.

The March Board meeting will be held on March 8, 2012 at 5:00 PM prior to the Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted;

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk