

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Tina Peabody; Board Members Thomas Eyman, Linda Gaitskill, Toni Butterfield, Mary Jo Greene; Superintendent Paul MacMillan; Business Manager Sandra Stone; Principal Gordie Johnk; Community Member Nick De Mayo.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peabody at 5:40 PM.

PUBLIC INPUT

Community Member Nick De Mayo asked for clarification on who the moderator for this evening's annual meeting would be. He noted that two write-in candidates tied for the position at last year's election. Chairman Peabody advised that both candidates had declined the position. James Walker of Franconia has volunteered to serve in this capacity this evening and will be appointed by a motion from the floor. Mr. Walker is also running for the position and his name will appear on this evening's ballot.

Mr. De Mayo asked what the percentage increase for teachers salaries will be for the 2011-2012 school year and was advised by Tom Eyman that the increase is 0.92%.

Mr. De Mayo asked for clarification of the school truck situation mentioned in Principal Johnk's written report. Chairman Peabody advised that the Board has not discussed this situation as yet and it will be addressed later in the meeting.

LPTO REPORT

Toni Butterfield advised that the LPTO has not met this month. She distributed copies of a brief written report for Board information and review.

The trial fundraiser, Singing Valentines, was very successful. This was basically used to plant the seed for this fundraiser to continue in future years. The cost to send a singing valentine this year was a request for a voluntary donation only. Four fourth graders serenaded many people from Littleton to Franconia with a rendition of You Are My Sunshine. \$75.00 was raised and it is felt that this will increase dramatically in future years.

The Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, March 11, 2011 at 6:00 PM at the school. Currently there are twenty teams registered to perform at the Bee. There will also be a pizza fundraiser at the same time.

Over 5300 Box Tops for Education were submitted netting \$265.30. The committee chairman had hoped that the net gain would have been more significant and will continue working towards this goal.

This week, the LPTO is funding Wunderlee's Big Top Adventure at Lafayette Regional School. This is an awesome program and the students have been very involved. The culmination of this program will be their performance tomorrow at 1:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

MOTION BY MARY JO GREENE, SECONDED BY THOMAS EYMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 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.

The Winter Program has come to a successful completion. All students had an extremely enjoyable time participating in their chosen event (i.e. alpine skiing, snowboarding, assorted winter adventures, etc.). Principal Johnk thanked the staff and volunteers who participated in this program for making the students experience such a success.

The annual Valentines for Volunteers luncheon was attended by approximately 44 volunteers. The Student Council performed some skits to show the students' appreciation for all that these individuals do for their school. Once again this was a very successful event and was totally enjoyed by the volunteers.

Principal Johnk advised that Lafayette School recently combined resources with the Grafton County Sheriff's Department to host an anti-bullying performance for our students entitled "Kids on the Block". This is a puppet troupe that presented skits which focus on the issues of bullying among children as well as some of the strategies for them to use when confronted by a bullying situation. Landaff Blue School students and staff members joined with Lafayette for this presentation.

Wunderlee's Big Top Adventure is presenting a residency workshop this week at Lafayette. All students are involved and learning skills such as juggling, plate spinning, feather balancing, hula hooping, devil sticking, etc. The culmination of this will be a performance at 1:00 PM on Friday.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that it was his intention to provide a presentation on the NECAP Writing program with examples no longer included in the testing program. However, due to technical difficulties beyond his control, he will be unable to do so and will prepare this presentation for the April board meeting.

Principal Johnk distributed copies of the PowerPoint presentation at last month's meeting on NECAP Testing for Board information and review. Several members had requested a hard copy of this presentation. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the school truck has a rusted frame and will no longer pass inspection. The registration runs out on March 31st. It is Principal Johnk's intention to contact Ronnie Lyster to see if he has anything available at Littleton Chevrolet for a reasonably priced replacement. Principal Johnk will keep the Board updated on this matter and hopes to have it resolved in early April. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Johnk advised the Board that the advertisement for the successor to the Administrative Assistant's position due to the retirement of Joyce Evans has been placed. The closing date is April 1st. Principal Johnk hopes to have a decision on the position in early May. Ideally the new person would come on board in June and work with Joyce. This would enable her to work for two weeks with students in the building and two weeks without. Mrs. Evans has agreed to stay on until the end of June. A brief discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent MacMillan recommended the nomination of Professional Staff (copy attached) for the 2011-2012 school year **MOTION BY MARYJO GREENE, SECONDED BY TONI BUTTERFIELD TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR AS RECOMMENDED.**

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that he was told at the NHSAA meeting earlier today that the retirement issue at the state level is really heating up. Kathleen Murphy of the NH

DOE advised that some larger districts in the state are issuing pink slips to all employees in anticipation of the district bearing a larger portion of the retirement cost. This is not something that Superintendent MacMillan is advocating but wanted the Board to be aware of the situation. Following a brief discussion, the motion was brought to a vote. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent MacMillan recommended the appointment of Support Staff for the 2011-2012 school year. MOTION BY MARY JO GREENE, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed the handouts from the NHSBA and NHSAA for Board information and review. These pertain to items currently before the legislature; education funding issues; pension reform; and, professional development offerings.

Superintendent MacMillan briefed the Board on the conscientious objection proposal also before the legislature which would allow a student to remove themselves from a class if they objected to the manner the material was being presented in or the material itself. They could then report this to their parents who in turn would help the student develop a program to address this subject with no input from the school / teacher. Students would be allowed to avail themselves of this option in any class. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Board that changes are already being made in the recently passed bullying law. The Superintendent's Waiver is being removed which will result in the Superintendent needing to notify all parents of an incident. There is also a change in the cyber bullying component which will require the Superintendent to only notify the parents but will no longer be required to investigate.

Superintendent MacMillan distributed copies of the actual Health Insurance rates for the 2011-2012 school year noting that the increase is less than originally anticipated. Lafayette savings will be approximately \$13,700 for the school year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed School Lunch Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is (\$325.45) over the \$20,000.00 set aside for this purpose. This is a very minor change from the prior reporting period. A brief discussion ensued.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed an updated report on all Lafayette Regional School District's grants briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary.

Business Manager Sandra Stone distributed Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is (\$2,565.00). This includes monies set aside for all anticipated encumbrances along with the monies for warrant articles from the anticipated unencumbered fund balance. Ms. Stone reminded the Board that many of the monies set aside for expenditure may not be used and she is comfortable that the District will end the year in the black. A brief discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Toni Butterfield advised the Board that the Evergreen Clause Law was overturned. Only districts whose current negotiated agreements contain this language will continue to be affected by this clause.

The SAU office move was completed on schedule. The office staff was commended for all their work in making this go very smoothly.

Superintendent MacMillan advised the Executive Board that HB 39 failed. This was the bill seeking to eliminate Art, World Languages, Health and Technology from the adequate education program.

Toni Butterfields advised the Board that the Executive Board approved a vacation request from Superintendent MacMillan who will be traveling to Ireland during Spring Break. He will be leaving on Friday, April 15th and returning to work on Friday, April 22nd.

BUDGET – No Report

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Principal Johnk advised the Board that there was a meeting with the community in February to further discuss the addition of a generator at Lafayette Regional School for emergency purposes. This is in the early planning stages and thus will not be put to a vote until the Annual Meeting in March of 2012. As future information becomes available, Principal Johnk will update the Board.

Linda Gaitskill advised that the last check from the Playground Grant will be received in the near future.

NEGOTIATIONS/PERSONNEL – No Report

POLICIES/PROCEDURES – No Report

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Peabody distributed copies of RSA 189:1-a Duty to Provide Education along with a copy of the Lafayette Policy BDE-Board Committees for information and review. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Linda Gaitskill requested that the Board discuss changing the May meeting date at the April meeting as this will conflict with the Festival of the Arts at Profile School. This will be added to the April agenda.

Chairman Peabody distributed copies of an article from Newsweek Magazine Entitled "From Lockers to Lockup" for Board information and review.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY TOM EYMAN, SECONDED BY LINDA GAITSKILL TO ADJOURN AT 6:45 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted;

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk