

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2008

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, P. Ingvoldstad, T. O'Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, S. Reber, K. Roberts, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Others: T. Bailey, C. Hindes, D. Jewett, M. Spaulding, J. Teegarden.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements and Public Input*

A. Call to Order – 6:30

B. Announcements

P. Ingvoldstad said he had read the info on Robert's Rules that D. Whitcomb sent out and learned that the agenda is not supposed to be imposed by the chair; the board is supposed to vote on it.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to adopt the agenda presented by P. Ingvoldstad. D. Baker asked if any modifications in the order of items were needed. W. Sander said the board can elect to move things around during the meeting, but it will still be the same agenda. D. Whitcomb said it takes a 2/3 majority to move items around. **J. Eisenhardt seconded the motion, and it was passed.**

W. Sander said an issue has come up with the buses from Cambridge refusing to carrying items such as athletic equipment or musical instruments. He would like the board to request policies from First Student and Eden to find out how they handle this issue. P. Ingvoldstad said the issue came up regarding baseball bats and lacrosse sticks. Bus drivers didn't want the responsibility of having those items on board. D. Jewett said Cambridge initiated that rule; it is not a HS policy. P. Ingvoldstad said Eden doesn't allow such items. M. Spaulding said First Student doesn't allow snowboards. M. Spaulding will discuss this at the next bus meeting. D. Baker suggested designating an area such as one front seat where the items could be stored, perhaps in some kind of rack. M. Spaulding said part of the issue is that there are no seats to spare.

2. *Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the April 15th Meeting and Acceptance of Administration Reports)*

ACTION: W. Sander moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. D. Griffiths said G. Chicoine had found an error: Under item 4A, in the motion after the executive session, December 15 should be changed to December 1. W. Sander noted a couple of typos: On p. 3, under C, the last sentence should begin "P. Ingvoldstad said." And on p. 5, the word "going" should be removed from the last sentence in the first paragraph. **The motion to approve the consent agenda with the above corrections to the minutes was passed.**

3. *Directors' Orders*

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$228,289.39, seconded by W. Sander. The breakdown was as follows: GMTCC Bldg. Project \$53,044.08 (major expenditures: \$20,183.70 Black River Design; \$18,265.06 Dist. #18 - interfund clearing); VOC Bldg. Trades \$5,671.39; District #18 \$169,573.92 (major ex-

penditures: \$13,315.00 Augmentative Learning; \$14,136.79 Burlington Food Service; \$33,020.26 First Student.) **The motion was passed.**

4. Administrative Action Items

A. Middle School

C. Hinder distributed the spring schedule for work on the action plan, and a list of discussion points that will be covered at various meetings with staff, including budget priorities. He discussed work on the action plan.

LUMS met AYP in language arts, but not math. We did not get the 21st Century grant, but a summer school program is planned.

W. Sander asked if C. Hinder planned to have simultaneous introduction to both Spanish and French. C. Hinder said they already do an intro to French, and he'd love to cover both. W. Sander said some studies have shown that for older kids, it can be confusing to teach two languages at once. C. Hinder said he will do research to make sure whatever they do is the best practice.

P. Ingvoldstad said parents have asked for a concentrated language opportunity in summer school. C. Hinder said no foreign language classes will be offered in summer school this year. He talked about the courses that will be offered. There will be a Transitions class, which P. Ingvoldstad would like to know more about. C. Hinder will have more on it at the next meeting. D. Osborn suggested being cautious about adding additional curriculum choices, because students already have to decide between available courses as there is not enough time for them all. Maybe what is needed is not more choices, but a restructuring of class time.

C. Hinder said Lt. Governor Dubie will be here next Tuesday morning speaking to a middle school social studies class. Then he will have a tour of the tech center.

B. High School

D. Jewett said he was filling in for B. Schaffer, who is recovering from knee surgery. He distributed a memo on hiring procedures that are to be used for the upcoming school year. T. Bailey said one candidate was very impressed with the hiring procedures – that was what swayed the person to consider LU.

D. Jewett recommended Donald Whitten for a physics position.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to hire Donald Whitten as a physics teacher, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. W. Sander said the board has asked in the past to see college transcripts for candidates. D. Jewett said D. Whitten's transcript has been ordered and is on its way. **The motion was passed.**

D. Jewett recommended Devin Camerlengo be hired as 9th grade guidance counselor.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to hire Devin Camerlengo as a 9th grade guidance counselor, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.

T. Bailey said he and B. Schaffer had received copies of a letter addressed to Holly Page-Bjerke from Bill Williams, who coordinates the Asian Studies program at UVM. He had attended a dance performance that included visiting teachers from

Thailand, and said he was extremely impressed with the quality of the presentation and its inclusiveness.

C. GMTCC

ACTION: W. Sander moved to enter executive session for a contractual issue, with administration remaining, at 7:13, seconded by K. Roberts, and the motion was passed. (C. Hindes and D. Jewett left at 7:13.) The board consented out of session at 7:33.

ACTION: D. Baker moved to pay Black River Design \$6,420.00, with a letter stating the board's position, in order to resolve the lighting issue, and to entrust M. Frederick and the superintendent's office to write the letter, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. S. Reber said the board has been well served by the building committee, J. Teegarden, M. Frederick, M. Spaulding, and T. Bailey in this matter. **The motion was passed with J. Eisenhardt opposed.**

J. Teegarden said graduation will be on Tuesday, June 17, at 7:00 PM. It will be held outside near the entrance to the Heavy Tech building, unless there is bad weather, in which case it will be in the high school gym.

J. Teegarden said he would speak about the Perkins Grant at the next meeting.

D. Central Office

T. Bailey said there will be a meeting of the LNSU executive committee on May 14 at 6:30 PM. Board chairs should come, and everyone else is invited. It is planned to be a 1 hour meeting. Thursday, May 29 there will be an LNSU board meeting at GMTCC.

School had to be closed at Eden on Friday because the automatic water regulating system shut down due to too much sediment. The system is too sensitive. They got permission from the state to bypass the system, and are using bottled water until the water can be tested. The system is connected to a water softener that had to be installed to treat for radium, which was minutely too high.

T. Bailey will talk about the educational implications of his trip to China at the May 29 LNSU meeting. K. Roberts said there will be a critical retirement plan vote at that meeting, so we need a quorum.

Kathy Holbrook, chair of the Belvidere board, has resigned.

5. Committee Reports and Action Items

A. Reformation of Building Committee for Cricket Hill Building Project

M. Spaulding listed some people he knew wanted to be on the committee. P. Ingvoldstad and K. Roberts will also be on it. The first meeting will be Tuesday May 20th, at 3:00. The schedule for future meetings will be decided then.

B. Finance Committee

M. Frederick distributed information on the Sweeney House sale, including a cumulative fund balance sheet for the property. There is a fund balance of \$144,527.93. The only thing that could change that is payment of the small claims award due us for past rent. D. Baker asked about the previous year's negative fund balance - didn't we approve extra money to cover repairs? M. Frederick said we always kept a separate extra fund for the Sweeney House. M. Spaulding

said the board authorized taking out a loan for Sweeney House expenses, but that was never done. Nothing was put in the budget for the Sweeney House. D. Whitcomb said we paid the light bill out of the regular budget before we voted to sell. M. Frederick said we essentially gave the Sweeney House a loan. D. Whitcomb didn't expect all the past expenses to come out of the sale of the house; the board was never told that would happen. K. Roberts said the question is not about the current year's finances; the issue is that any prior negative fund balances were actualized in the budget and the board wasn't consciously carrying a negative balance forward from year to year. Having already paid those bills in prior years, when we consider how much to give back to the voters, perhaps we should give back the prior years' balances. M. Frederick said a separate fund was set up in the very beginning. D. Baker asked, did we ever vote to give money back to the citizens? K. Roberts and M. Frederick said the board voted to keep up to \$100K, with the intent that the remainder be given back. D. Baker said the board needs to vote to give the money back. M. Frederick said she recommends two separate lines in the budget – one for revenue from the Sweeney House, and another for the prior year fund balance. She will ask for a motion regarding the money when we are building the FY2010 budget.

D. Whitcomb said he had heard there were problems again with the sewage system. M. Spaulding said the tank overflowed and damaged the electrical box. Everything has been fixed and the new owner has a warranty with Kenny Grimes. We have no bills coming in for that. M. Spaulding does plan to pay the bill for having the sewage pumped out of the yard. It was his decision to have it pumped.

D. Baker said we have to be careful about what kind of building we construct with the Sweeney House proceeds because of regulations. There is a difference between a storage area and a public building.

M. Frederick asked the board to approve an expense note for the last year of the three-year plan to purchase lawn equipment.

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve an expense note in the amount of \$12,879.50 at a rate of 2.95%, for purchase of lawn care equipment, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.

B. Curriculum Committee

W. Sander said embedded credits were discussed at this evening's meeting, and will be discussed more at the next meeting. There was some discussion about academic evaluations. P. Ingvaldstad said anyone is welcome to come to committee meetings.

6. *Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn*

A. Future Agenda Items:

K. Roberts suggested followup on NECAP results. J. Teegarden said he will be away at the next board meeting, so the Perkins grant info will have to be postponed until the meeting after that one.

D. Baker said she would like a clock in this room. It would be useful for other groups, as well as the board.

B. Adjourn:

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:03 and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 5/6/08:

1. **Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements and Public Input**
 - B. **Announcements**

ACTION: W. Sander moved to adopt the agenda presented by P. Ingvoldstad. J. Eisenhardt seconded the motion, and it was passed.
2. **Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the April 15th Meeting and Acceptance of Administration Reports)**

ACTION: W. Sander moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. D. Griffiths said G. Chicoine had found an error: Under item 4A, in the motion after the executive session, December 15 should be changed to December 1. W. Sander noted a couple of typos: On p. 3, under C, the last sentence should begin "P. Ingvoldstad said." And on p. 5, the word "going" should be removed from the last sentence in the first paragraph. **The motion to approve the consent agenda with the above corrections to the minutes was passed.**
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4. **Administrative Action Items**
 - B. **High School**

ACTION: W. Sander moved to hire Donald Whitten as a physics teacher, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. The motion was passed.

ACTION: W. Sander moved to hire Devin Camerlengo as a 9th grade guidance counselor, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.
 - C. **GMTCC**

ACTION: W. Sander moved to enter executive session for a contractual issue, with administration remaining, at 7:13, seconded by K. Roberts, and the motion was passed.

ACTION: D. Baker moved to pay Black River Design \$6,420.00, with a letter stating the board's position, in order to resolve the lighting issue, and to entrust M. Frederick and the superintendent's office to write the letter, seconded by J. Eisenhardt. The motion was passed with J. Eisenhardt opposed.
5. **Committee Reports and Action Items**
 - B. **Finance Committee**

ACTION: K. Roberts moved to approve an expense note in the amount of \$12,879.50 at a rate of 2.95%, for purchase of lawn care equipment, seconded by J. Eisenhardt, and the motion was passed.
6. **Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn**
 - B. **Adjourn:**

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:03 and the motion passed.