

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, P. Ingvaldstad, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, S. Reber, K. Roberts. Absent: J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb . Others: T. Bailey, C. Hindes, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

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

A. Call to Order – 6:37

B. Announcements

B. Schaffer announced the birth of his daughter, Emma Juliet.

2. *Discussion of Core Beliefs / Mission – Facilitated by Superintendent Terry Bailey*

T. Bailey passed out a sheet with 15 words on it, and asked each person to circle one of the words – one that represents something you value in your actions as a board member. (He invited administrators to participate also.) Then he asked each person which word they had circled.

D. Baker, D. Osborn, and B. Bailey chose education.

P.Ingvaldstad, B. Penberthy, and B. Schaffer chose learning.

S. Reber chose governance.

K. Roberts and C. Hindes chose student.

S. Reber said his understanding was that he should choose the most important part of his role as a board member. He isn't an educator, he isn't knowledgeable about the budget. He thinks the board's role is governance. K. Roberts said the word she would have chosen if she could would have been independence or empowerment. C. Hindes said he focused on "student" as a principal, though he almost went with education. D. Baker said education was the main reason she got on the board. The things she sees in the business world – young adults who can't fill out job applications, etc. – illustrate how much education is needed.

Then T. Bailey distributed another sheet listing 5 core values associated with student success: safe environment, instructional leadership, high expectations for student achievement, focused mission, and time on task. He talked about the importance of a safe environment. K. Roberts said she wants to be careful that we don't confuse protectionism with safety. We should allow kids space to make decisions. Too many rules and enforcement avenues could interfere with that. T. Bailey said the board needs to spend time on assuring good instructional leadership. He said time on task is important, because you will accomplish what you spend your effort at. D. Osborn said they way time is balanced is important. For instance, even though safety is very important, you don't want to spend 90% of your time on safety. S. Reber asked whether T. Bailey was referring to how students spend their time, or board members? T. Bailey said he meant how the board sets the culture and expectations for the school. This

doesn't have to do with board operations. D. Osborn said she would love an analysis of how much time is spent on active learning vs. crowd control, etc. T. Bailey said time studies are done for students (e.g. SPED students.) B. Schaffer said he will bring in department chairs to board meetings so they can give information like that. B. Bailey asked the administrators if they think a safe environment supersedes instructional leadership. J. Teegarden said it is tough to decide, but he will say safety is pretty important. T. Bailey suggested the board could start with this list of core values and build on it.

3. ***Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the June 24th Meeting, Acceptance of Administrative Report)***

ACTION: S. Reber moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by B. Penberthy. K. Roberts said she had no issue with the accuracy of the minutes, but wanted to comment about item #3. She said it seemed very circular that the board would approve the trip to Costa Rica, and then say it is not school-sponsored so we don't have to fund it. P. Ingvaldstad said it had been suggested that the policy committee look at the issue and come back with a recommendation. P. Ingvaldstad and S. Reber agreed that the board had said anyone who wanted to go on the trip should go. **The motion was passed, with D. Baker and B. Bailey abstaining.**

D. Osborn said she didn't understand what the conclusion of the core beliefs discussion was. P. Ingvaldstad said further discussion on core beliefs will be put on a future agenda.

4. ***Directors' Orders***

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$290,194.52, seconded by K. Roberts. She said one bill had been paid already to avoid late fees (\$1,415.84 to Delage Landen). The breakdown was as follows: GMTCC Building Project \$3,786.70; VOC Bldg. Trades \$1,566.17; District #18 \$283,425.81 (major expenditure \$143,447.56 quarterly installment to LNSU), plus \$1,415.84 paid on 7/10/08. She said even in the summer the electric bill for the high school is \$17K and the central office electric bill is \$2K. That seems high. Maybe it should be looked into. Some agreed it might be good to look into it. D. Osborn said her understanding is that LUSD #18 pays the whole central office electric bill – should that be the case? T. Bailey said he had thought LNSU paid it. **The motion was passed.**

5. ***Administrative Action Items***

A. Middle School

It was decided to postpone voting on the middle school action plan until the next meeting, because not all board members had seen it.

B. High School

B. Schaffer asked the board to approve the action plan which had previously been sent out. He presented it to the board and to the student body in May, in conjunction with discussion about assessment, and he held a meeting to present it to parents, but no parents showed up. Development of the action plan starts at the department level. Teachers work with department chairs, with oversight from the principal. Nothing in the action plan has changed from the draft version, except the format.

ACTION: B. Bailey moved to approve the 2008-2009 Lamoille Union High School Action Plan, seconded by D. Baker. K. Roberts said she would like to see followup reporting. B. Schaffer said he could do that. **The motion was passed.**

B. Schaffer said he had recently returned from a week in China, where he witnessed education at different levels. He has learned about the possibility of having a teacher sent to us from China for 2 years, for language or cultural instruction. There would be no cost to us other than providing room and board. Several schools in VT currently participate in this program. He asked if the board was interested in having him pursue this. S. Reber said he would like to hear more about it. D. Osborn said her main concern is sustainability. This would provide an opportunity to a small group for a year or two. She feels it is better to present opportunities to more students for longer. B. Schaffer said we could see if there is value in the program and ultimately make a determination about continuing it. S. Reber said we could look at it as an experiment; we could see if any students are interested. K. Roberts suggested it might be a good idea to do a survey of interest in the community. P. Ingvoldstad wondered if we would get a good response using Survey Monkey. B. Schaffer said it would be a challenge to get community input right now, but he could get it later in the year. T. Bailey said this wouldn't be a first for VT; there are other programs like this going on. Stowe teaches Chinese. B. Penberthy said she was really excited when she read about this possibility. Even if it is only for two years, what a benefit! B. Bailey said she thought providing Chinese language instruction just for 2 years would not be as useful as cultural instruction. P. Ingvoldstad said he would like B. Schaffer to look at ways students from other schools might be able to come here to participate, perhaps through the tech center.

B. Schaffer said he would like to create a sustainable model for having a student rep to the board. We had one whose attendance was not great. Now he has 4 applicants. He would like a subcommittee to meet with him and the interested students. B. Bailey asked, could the 4 students rotate, since meetings are so boring? She will contact other members of the staff and community relations committee and work something out with B. Schaffer. K. Roberts said even if just one student is chosen to come to meetings, all 4 interested students might work as a committee to decide on agenda items they might want to see and plan how to weigh in.

C. GMTCC

J. Teegarden talked about strategic planning. GMTCC currently has a 4 year action plan through the coming year. He discussed the 5 goals it lists for 2004-2009, and the actions listed for each goal. A lot has happened since this action plan was written. There will be an retreat August 11-12 with just GMTCC staff. They plan to compile data sources and create a basis for the next action plan. The new 5-year action plan should be ready in September for use in the FY10 budget preparation.

B. Bailey asked if algebra at GMTCC is mandatory or optional. J. Teegarden said optional. He will now be meeting regularly with the principals of the sending high schools, and they will talk about GMTCC entry requirements. They are finding that having algebra is valuable to students, but they are hesitant to make it a requirement. They are talking about saying that if students haven't had it, they have to take it at the tech center. But there would be ramifications to this decision. There is the question of when to fit it in, and transportation is affected.

J. Teegarden said to encourage kids to participate in leadership conferences and competitions, those who do will be first in line for things like scholarships. D. Osborn said she found interesting J. Teegarden's observation that an encouraging adult was the most important factor in enrollment at GMTCC, but that didn't appear in writing in the plan. She would encourage him to add it. She also said she thought it would be appropriate to have a tech center student rep to the board, as well as a high school rep. J. Teegarden said he thought his students would find it too boring. B. Penberthy said he could give students individualized opportunities to come with him to meetings and help with GMTCC updates.

P. Ingvoldstad asked if J. Teegarden has the resources to work on defining how to measure students' development in embedded credits. Is that a realistic objective with current resources? Can the board expect some progress in a year or two toward measuring success in embedded credits? J. Teegarden said no. The embedded credits are awarded, not measured. The credit does come out on the report card. If we can identify the outcomes we can start teaching to those outcomes and measuring them. We won't see improvement on NECAPs, for example, but we can work toward ensuring that students master outcomes as measured by the teacher. P. Ingvoldstad said that's what he's asking about. J. Teegarden said embedded credit outcomes are not measured consistently on a center-wide basis; different teachers do it differently. They're trying to figure out how to get the embedded credit learning measured and the material taught so it can be mastered.

J. Teegarden said there are a number of GMTCC students who have earned industry-level credentials in their programs – LNA certification, for example. There were also at least 11 kids who earned college credit while taking courses. One girl earned 12 credits. 3 kids got transcribed credits. D. Osborn said it would be nice to let the community know about accomplishments like this, and about where in the area GMTCC students end up working. J. Teegarden agreed, but said he finds it difficult to do everything he could possibly do.

D. Central Office

T. Bailey reminded everyone about the LNSU meeting July 28. The whole board is invited, even though only 3 members can vote. S. Reber asked if the decision on hiring the superintendent will be made that evening. T. Bailey said

it is up to the board. They could decide then, or defer it until later. P. Ingvolstad asked if T. Bailey could tell the board who the candidates are. He said no. Some have asked that they not be identified unless they are finalists. B. Penberthy said she is on one of the interview committees. There was discussion about who would vote at the LNSU meeting, and K. Roberts said the Secretary of State has issued the opinion that designating alternate voting members is not valid.

The financial report will be postponed until next meeting, as M. Frederick was not able to attend this meeting due to the death of her mother-in-law.

6. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

A. **Policy Committee**

S. Reber distributed copies of the latest version of the Games of Chance policy, and described the small changes that had been made since it was first warned. He said the current policy is okay with B. Schaffer, C. Hindes, and J. Teegarden.

ACTION: S. Reber moved to approve Policy 4.4 (Games of Chance), seconded by K. Roberts. K. Roberts reminded everyone that there is a policy we are supposed to have in place before school starts, about allowing students to opt out of dissection. **The motion was passed.**

B. **Cricket Hill Building Committee**

K. Roberts said the committee met today at the building site and talked about the various groups' desires and requirements for the building. They staked out a potential site and left it that each committee member would create a potential sketch. Five groups need space, so this has become a 5-bay building which is probably not buildable for \$100K. Somewhere along the line, the board will have to make a decision about not accomodating someone. Meeting all needs is proving more challenging than anticipated. D. Baker asked, are we not looking at starting the project this fall? K. Roberts said they hope to be building by then. D. Osborn asked, is there any way the board can help move the process along? P. Ingvolstad said having more people involved would probably increase the challenges. D. Osborn asked, has the committee successfully dealt with the wet building? K. Roberts said it is not going to be put back the way it was, but the building committee is okay with that. (*S. Reber left at 8:24.*)

7. ***Adjourn***

ACTION: D. Osborn moved to adjourn at 8:25, B. Bailey seconded, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 7/15/08:

3. ***Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the June 24th Meeting, Acceptance of Administrative Report)***
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4. ***Directors' Orders***
ACTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$290,194.52, seconded by K. Roberts. The motion was passed.
5. ***Administrative Action Items***
 - B. **High School**
ACTION: B. Bailey moved to approve the 2008-2009 Lamoille Union High School Action Plan, seconded by D. Baker. The motion was passed.
6. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***
 - A. **Policy Committee**
ACTION: S. Reber moved to approve Policy 4.4 (Games of Chance), seconded by K. Roberts. The motion was passed.
7. ***Adjourn***
ACTION: D. Osborn moved to adjourn at 8:25, B. Bailey seconded, and the motion was passed.