

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
LEBANON, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting –September 22, 2009

The Chairman will vote only to make or break a tie.

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Donna Lafontaine, Chairman, Lori Jahoda, Marisa Haralson, Donna Skaats, Melissa Hofmann, Keith Wentworth, Darcy Battye, Felicia Bakaj, Student Representative

ABSENT: Rene Wentworth, James Mello

ALSO PRESENT: Robert McGray, Superintendent, Sandye Simon, Robert Laskaszewski, Carol Moore, Stephen Salisbury, Jerome Walsh, Maryanne Leichter.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

III. COMMUNICATIONS – No Report.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - B. Beckwith, Lyman CC Coach presented information for CC Invitational in Vermont for the boys and girls teams. The event will be October 2-3, 2009. The team will travel via school bus and all monies for the trip were either donated or fundraised.

V. CONSENT AGENDA –

Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Marisa Haralson to approve the consent agenda.

A. Approval of minutes

1) Regular Meeting – 08/25/09

2) Goals/Strategic Planning – 08/25/09, Curriculum – 09/08/09, Finance/Budget - 09/08/09, Physical Plant/Facilities – 09/08/09, Special Meeting – 09/08/09, Transportation – 09/09/09, Special Meeting – 09/15/09. Motion unanimously approved

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES –

1. Curriculum – The subcommittee met on 09/08/09 to discuss X-block. Stephen Salisbury reviewed process and results of survey distributed to students and teachers.
2. Finance/Budget – The subcommittee reviewed the timetable for meetings. The faculty input session will be held on October 1, 2009 (3:40PM) at LMS.
3. Goals – The latest version of the Boards Goals (2009-2010) were presented in Draft form.
4. Negotiations – no report
5. Policy – The subcommittee met this evening to review the following three (3) policies: A) Student Activity Fund #3451, B) Committees and Meetings #9300, and C) Lebanon Middle School Promotion/Retention Policy #5123.1.
6. Transportation/Residency – The transportation subcommittee met on 09/09/09 for a hearing.
7. Communications – no report.
8. Vo-Ag Advisory – The following accomplishments were presented: Emily Von Edwin's competed in the Creed contest and placed 2nd in the region (20 states are in our region), Brett

Caisse, April Moon and Kelly Pestey competed in the dairy judging contest and were 1st as a team with Kelly being 1st in the region, April 2nd, and Brett 9th. The marketing team which consisted of Grace Schultz, and Brandon Smith were 2nd and the dairy products team was 5th with Ian Beck being 6th individually. In addition, Brittany Pestey, 2009 graduate competed in the Regional Star Placement category which recognizes the top placement SAE project for the Eastern Region. Brittany was the first winner from our chapter and Connecticut's only winner in the last 5 years. Zac Holbrook was Connecticut's winner for the Star Business category and competed as, placing 3rd in the region. All events were held at the Big E, Springfield, Mass.

9. Physical Plant/ Facilities – The subcommittee met on 09/08/09, to discuss the status of the Tracker, CL&P light service to LMHS soccer field, holes in the track at LMHS were repaired, and water contamination at LMHS.
10. Student Representative – Ms. Bakaj presented the following information; orientation was completed for each grade, PSAT meeting was facilitated for the juniors, senior project deadlines were presented. The students received the X-block sign-up forms to be completed and submitted. Fall sports at LMHS are underway, senior picture day was today (09/22/09), and Open House is on Thursday, 09/24/09.

VI. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT –

1. Updates:

- Jody Walsh, presented an update on the wind turbine. The trenching to insert electrical conduit will begin this week, and the data shed is expected to be delivered next week.
- The Board was presented the agendas for the two Professional Development days held so far.

2. Enrollments:

The school enrollments were presented: LES – 507, LMS – 409, LMHS – 556. The Columbia enrollment is 75. The Ag-Science enrollment is 101 with 27 students in the freshman class. Total enrollment is currently 1472. Our October 1 enrollment last year was LES – 522, LMS – 413, LMHS – 600. Mr. McGray stated that enrollment is down and that the pre-school numbers will increase throughout the year.

3. Budget Calendar/Communication:

Mr. McGray provided the Board with the 2010/2011 budget calendar, along with the wording for the public input session for review.

4. Testing Report:

Mr. McGray presented an overview of the CMT and CAPT scores. The following areas of concern were identified by Mr. McGray; Table 1: Grade 3 – reading and writing, Table 2: Grade 3 – male scores reading and writing. The 8th grade male reading and writing scores were identified as a positive strength. Superintendent McGray reviewed the Average Vertical Scale Scores, also. Sandye Simon presented Pearson example student via graph to demonstrate local benchmarks. The LES staff is coordinating data with the SRBIs to track correlations for specific reading groups. The reading teachers at LES will begin working with the Kindergarteners in January; their current focus is with the children who are below/just below reading standards. Robert Laskarzewski presented how LMS is approaching deficit areas; identifying specific strands (math) and the reading teachers are targeting specific work with the 6th graders. Mr. Laskarzewski referenced a positive “team” concept embedding “fixes” throughout lessons. Stephen Salisbury reviewed the Ag-Sci v. Non Ag-Sci CAPT comparisons. Along with the CAPT graduation requirements via a comparison of Lebanon and Columbia students. Mr. Salisbury spoke briefly about the positive opportunity that LMHS has been granted with the CT Writing Project. Mr. McGray and Mr. Salisbury both spoke about the Science test results and the discrepancies.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS –

1. Moved by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Marisa Haralson to approve out-of-state field trips to: Johnson & Wales University (10/09), Veteran History Project, Springfield, MA. (11/09), Cirque du Soleil, Worcester, MA., Florida (Softball Team), Vermont (CC Team) for Lyman students. Along with Boston, Boston Museum of Science, New York City-Ellis Island, Quebec, and Nature's Classroom for LMS students. Motion unanimously passed.
2. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Keith Wentworth to approve the Board of Education Calendar of Meetings. Motion unanimously passed.
3. Moved by Marisa Haralson and seconded by Lori Jahoda to approve Board of Education Goals for 2009-2010. Voting Aye– M. Haralson, L. Jahoda, K. Wentworth, D. Battye and M. Hofmann. Opposed – D. Skaats. Motion approved.
4. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Keith Wentworth to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add an Executive Session. Motion unanimously passed.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Keith Wentworth to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a privileged written opinion from Board legal counsel and possible legal action regarding a tuition dispute with Columbia at 8:45 p.m.

Moved by Melissa Hofmann and seconded by Keith Wentworth to leave Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Keith Wentworth to authorize the Board's legal counsel to pursue all necessary measures to seek remedies for the breach of contract up to and including litigation with Columbia. Motion unanimously passed.

- X. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – Request for Communications sub-committee to meet, October 5th LES PTA meeting to present goals, District-wide website update, Issues regarding Discipline (presentation on accountability and implementation).

XI. ADJOURNMENT –

Moved by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Marisa Haralson to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Hofmann, BOE Secretary