

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
LEBANON, CONNECTICUT
Regular Session –March 24, 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, Darcy Battye, James Mello, Marisa Haralson, Lori Jahoda, Rene Wentworth, Keith Wentworth, Beriah Smith, student representative

ABSENT: Donna Skaats, Melissa Hofmann

ALSO PRESENT: Robert McGray, Superintendent, Sandye Simon, Rob Laskarzewski, Stephen Salisbury, Carol Moore, Jerome Walsh, Mal Leichter, Maryanne Leichter

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. COMMUNICATIONS – 1) Letter from Town of Lebanon Plan of Conservation & Development Committee
2) Letter of resignation from Mrs. Varnum, Middle School

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none.

V. CONSENT AGENDA –

Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Darcy Battye to approve the consent agenda.

A. Approval of minutes.

- 1) Regular Meeting 2/24/09
- 2) Goals/Strategic Planning Subcommittee – 2/24/09, Physical Plant/Facilities – 2/24/09, Policy Subcommittee – 3/10/09, Curriculum Subcommittee – 3/10/09. Abstaining: Keith Wentworth Motion passed.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES –

1. Curriculum – The Subcommittee reviewed two books for adoption under Action Items tonight, Algebra 1 Concepts and Skills and Algebra 2 Concepts and Skills; discussed the book from Three Rivers Community College, Public Speaking; John and Linda Reed, residents, presented a proposal involving youth, schools and senior citizens within town to start a community garden which will be a non-profit organization to help those in need, excess produce will go to the Farmers' Market, Food Co-op.
2. Finance/Budget – The Subcommittee met tonight to discuss spending for the current year and will meet with the Board of Finance to hear the 2009/2010-budget amount on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
3. Goals - The speaker for the student survey had to be rescheduled.
4. Negotiations – no report.
5. Policy – There are two policies under Action Items, Ethics and Adoption of Learning Materials.
6. Transportation/Residency – no report.
7. Communications – no report.
8. Vo-AG Advisory – meeting postponed.
9. Physical Plant/Facilities – Refer to subcommittee meeting minutes.
10. Student Representative – 10th and 11th grade students completed CAPT testing and makeup; Guitar Heroes; Mr. Lyman was held last Friday; spring sports have begun; Lyman Idol is March 27, State Trooper presented “On-line Predators” program; State Convention in May at Lyman; FFA week ended the last week in February.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT –

1. Updates:

- Each principal updated the Board on recent and upcoming activities: Sandye Simon, LES – March 16-20 was Spirit Week; March 19 – 250 students attended the “Read-In”, March 26, 27 is Parent/Teacher Conferences, April 1, 2 there are 97 students participating in the Invention Convention, April 23, Kindergarten Orientation with a slightly different forum, May 6, 7 Science Fair, Colonial Day, June 2 Band concert, June 4 Talent Show, June 16 is Move-on Ceremonies. Robert Laskarzewski, LMS –April 13 talent show rehearsals have begun with 14 acts involving students and teachers; babysitting and CPR course completed, spring sports have begun, April 20 is transition day for 4th grade students and Open House, Spaghetti Supper on April 21 from 5-7:30 p.m. to support the New York City trip, spring musical is May 29, 30 at the Elementary School. Stephen Salisbury, LMHS – CAPT and make-ups are done and thanks to Ms. Moore and Ms. Maiese for their assistance, Jazz Band performed at the Congregational Church on March 7 and March 13 at the Greenville School in Norwich, March 13 Spaghetti Dinner for baseball, Mr. Lyman is Beriah Smith, March 22 the Senior Post-Grad Breakfast and Lions Club served 550 meals for fundraiser; Lyman Idol is March 27, French students visit Lyman on April 3 and attend school on April 6.
- School Readiness Council: Sandye Simon reported on behalf of Dr. Hanna. The Council is focusing on kindergarten transition, a Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale(ECERS) visit, NAEYC observations of all three Pre-K classes; Self Study Team is looking at center based programs, and review of kindergarten enrollment forms have been completed.
- Mal Leichter provided an update on the status of the Small Wind Turbine Grant. A telephone interview with the Sponsor took place on March 13 and a site visit will take place on Friday, March 27th with the consultants to review the facility as well as the site for possibly 2 wind turbines. Mr. Sellew of Prides Corner Farms will also be in attendance as he has some interest for his business. A decision will be made within 1-2 weeks. Mal also reported that the topsoil in the area of the softball field behind Keefe’s will be stripped and process will be brought in for a roadway. Parking will still be allowed on the grass.
- Dr. Elsa Nuñez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University will be guest speaker for the Academic Awards Ceremony scheduled for May 20th.

2. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

- Mr. McGray and Mal Leichter attended the Commissioner’s conference to explain the details of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Preliminary allocations for Lebanon are \$298,431 for IDEA Part B (special education) and \$12,689 for IDEA Preschool. The guidelines for use of the money are constraining and the special education funds may be used to support programs and not to offset reductions in regular education. There are still questions and the Commissioner stated he would contact the federal officials in regard to use of these funds.

3. X-Block:

- Ann Birrell report to the Board on her study of X-Block at the high school and provided survey data for their review.

4. Recent High School Awards:

- Middle School Math Counts Team placed 12 out of 32 teams in the regional competition. Devin McCall – 4th place and advanced to state competition in May.
- Seniors Gabe Paun and John Wentworth have been designated National Merit Scholar Finalists.
- 60 students participated in the American High School Math Exam on February 10th. Alex Drucker - 3rd place, Casey McCall –2nd place, John Wentworth – 1st place. John is a Bronze medal winner and is invited to be part of the American Invitational Mathematics Exam.
- Lebanon Regional FFA members participated in the District Public Speaking Contest on March 17th at Ledyard High School. Emily Von Edwins – 1st place in Creed Competition, Kelsey Fuller – 1st place and Hillary Woronick – 2nd place in Extemporaneous Speaking Contest, Jesse Soileau – 1st place and Anna Dobrowolsky – 2nd place in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest.
- At the 61st Annual CT Science Fair at Quinnipiac University, Sophomores Lara Reynolds and Max Wolfe – Water Quality of The Susquetonscut Brook: Does the Water Quality Decrease Downstream from the Lebanon Town Landfill? -2nd Place Life Science Sr. High Team - \$300 and Trophy

- Pfizer Life Science Award
- Audubon Connecticut & Arch Chemicals Environmental Awards
- Senior Finalist – Audubon gifts, CSF Medallion & Acrylic Award
- 1st Honors Ribbon
- Sophomore Hanna Tarbox – The Effect of Natural Pesticides on Mosquito Larvae
- Audubon Connecticut & Arch Chemicals Environmental Awards
- 3rd Place HS - \$100, Trophy, Audubon gifts
- 2nd Honors Ribbon
- Freshman Alex Drucker – Using a Venturi Tube to Circulate Air Through a Room
- The United Illuminating Company Future Sustainability Awards
- Goodrich Awards for Excellence in Engineering
- High School Finalist – Medallion and Acrylic Award
- Finalist – Physical Science Middle School – CSF Medallion & Acrylic Award
- 2nd Honors Ribbon

Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Jim Mello to amend the agenda to move Action Item #1 to the last item on the agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS –

1. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Jim Mello to approve first reading of Ethics Policy #9271. Opposed: Keith Wentworth. Motion approved.
2. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Rene Wentworth to approve first reading of Selection and Adoption of Learning Materials Policy #6161. Abstaining: Keith Wentworth. Motion approved.
3. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Jim Mello to approve Math tests: Algebra 1 Concepts and Skills for Algebra 1A and Algebra 2 Concepts and Skills for Algebra 1B. Motion unanimously approved.
4. Moved by Keith Wentworth to approve draft 1 of the 2009/2010-school calendar. With no second, the motion failed. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Marisa Haralson to approve draft 2 of the 2009-2010 school calendar. Motion unanimously approved.
5. Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Darcy Battye to approve the 2009 Graduation Date of June 22, 2009. Motion unanimously approved.
6. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Keith Wentworth to approve Special Education rates for tuition students. Motion unanimously approved.
7. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Marisa Haralson to accept the resignation of Mrs. Varnum, Middle School, 6th grade science. Motion unanimously approved.
8. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Rene Wentworth that the contract of employment of June Dunn, Kyle Evans, Heather Lyon, Melissa Orlando, Heather Pomroy, Brian Perchal, Michelle Vullo, Valerie Nettleton, Jillian Cavanna, Virginia DeLong, Paula Hopkins and Scott Yeo not be renewed for the coming year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the superintendent of schools notify those teachers in writing of this action. Motion unanimously passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – none.

X. Adjournment

Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Keith Wentworth adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bennett, Recording Secretary