

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
LEBANON, CONNECTICUT
Regular Session – February 10, 2009

The Vice-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: Vice-Chairman, Darcy Battye, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, James Mello, Donna Skaats, Marisa Haralson, Rene Wentworth, Keith Wentworth

ABSENT: Donna Lafontaine, Chairman, Beriah Smith, student representative

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE III.
COMMUNICATIONS – none.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -

Courtney Adams - A Junior at Lyman High School, spoke against the proposed budget reductions; loss of supplies, teachers, high school guidance counselor; salary freeze hurts teachers who earn less than surrounding towns; opposed to a 0% budget.

Nathan Pendelton – A Junior at Lyman High School, spoke against the elimination of classes and teachers, which could result in a loss of the school's accreditation.

George Gray – Teacher at Lyman, spoke on the elimination of “unknown” electives, many of which offer students an opportunity to earn college credits during their high school years; providing work skills for those students seeking employment after high school.

Miguel Garcia – President of LEA, provided a handout to Board members on the retirement incentive package.

Requested the Board to prioritize areas of savings and where are the teachers in the scenario; before making staff cuts, first eliminate extra-curricular activities; opposed to the emails and rumors on the wage concessions; primary function of the Board is to present a budget to keep schools running for the students and teachers.

Debbie Ieni – Teacher, parent, resident expressed concerns on student class sizes at the elementary school as these students are not independent learners; inclusion classroom support additional special education students; the need for sports and extra-curricular activities teaches self-esteem, need to be competitive for the college market and provide a student with success who may not otherwise be in the classroom; teachers volunteer at special evening events such as Arts Night, the Read-In; volunteers developed the on-line report cards which was a savings; unit leaders deserve their stipends; education first.

V. CONSENT AGENDA –

A. Approval of minutes.

1. Regular Meeting – 1/27/09

2. Physical Plant/Facilities Subcommittee – 1/27/09

Moved by Donna Skaats and seconded by Keith Wentworth to approve the consent agenda. Motion unanimously passed.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES – none.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT – 1.

Updates:

~ The Superintendent presented the 2009/2010 3-tier budgets. The budget scenarios includes a 0% budget, a 2 % budget or \$332,291.29 increase and 4.71% budget or \$693,185.60 increase. This will be brought to the Board as an Action Item this evening.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS –

1. Moved by Donna Skaats and seconded by Rene Wentworth to approve remaining with the motion procedure current in use. VOTING AYE: Rene Wentworth, Keith Wentworth, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, James Mello, Marisa Haralson. OPPOSED: Donna Skaats. Motion passed.
2. Moved by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Rene Wentworth to approve for submission to the Board of Finance a 3 Tier Budget. VOTING AYE: Rene Wentworth, Keith Wentworth, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, Donna Skaats, Marisa Haralson. OPPOSED: James Mello. Motion passed.
3. Moved by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to authorize the Superintendent to develop and present a retirement incentive package not to exceed \$11,000 in health insurance subsidy or a \$5,000 cash payment each for three years per eligible certified employee. VOTING AYE: Rene Wentworth, Keith Wentworth, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, James Mello, Marisa Haralson. ABSTAINING: Donna Skaats. Motion passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – 1) Report on Evaluations and other certified staff. 2) A report on tuition students and sending towns for analysis on financial impacts.

X. Adjournment

Moved by Donna Skaats and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bennett, Recording Secretary