

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
LEBANON, CONNECTICUT**

Regular Session – October 28, 2008

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 7:31 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman, Donna Lafontaine, Darcy Battye, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, James Mello, Donna Skaats (7:41 p.m.), Rene Wentworth, Keith Wentworth, Beriah Smith, student representative

ABSENT: Beth Damble

ALSO PRESENT: Robert McGray, Superintendent, Robert Laskarzewski, Stephen Salisbury, Carol Moore, Dr. Bonnie Hanna, Mal Leichter, Maryanne Leichter, Jody Walsh

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. COMMUNICATIONS - A thank you from Ms. Moore.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Stephen Salisbury - on behalf of students and parents interested in golf next spring, seeking a one time exception to the fundraising policy in order to raise the necessary \$5,000 to run the program. Robert Laskarzewski on behalf of the Middle School Ski Club seeking a one time exception to fundraise for the advisor stipend and reinstatement of the club. Robert McGray acknowledges and thanks Mr. Mulcahy from the Columbia Board of Ed for attending tonight's meeting.

V. CONSENT AGENDA –

Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to approve minutes of:

1. Regular Meeting – 9/23/08
2. Curriculum Subcommittee – 9/23/08, Finance/Budget Subcommittees – 9/23/08, Policy Subcommittee – 10/14/08, Goals/Strategic Planning Subcommittee – 10/14/08, Curriculum Subcommittee 10/14/08, Transportation/Residency Subcommittee – 10/14/08. Abstaining: Keith Wentworth. Motion passed.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

CURRICULUM – The Subcommittee met tonight and received a presentation from Stephen Salisbury on the math and science placement for Juniors and Seniors; discussed the Career Pathways program offered by Three Rivers Community College where students can earn up to 15 credits and discussed a public presentation/speaking course. A textbook will come before the Board for approval.

FINANCE/BUDGET – The Town Board of Finance will release funds at the next town meeting for the Student Management Software; discussed the underground oil tank; Public Input Session is scheduled for November 19th at 7:00 p.m.

GOALS – Review of Strategic Plan with the Goals Subcommittee; another meeting to be scheduled to narrow the scope of goals.

NEGOTIATIONS – The Instructional Assistant contract is an Action Item.

POLICY - There are two policies for informal approval.

TRANSPORTATION – Mal Leichter will present to the Board under Superintendent's Report.

COMMUNICATIONS - no report.

VO-AG ADVISORY – Handouts were provided at the last meeting with input from the industry and further information to come; students attended the National Convention and did very well.

PHYSICAL PLANT/FACILITIES – Jody Walsh to the Board under Superintendent's Report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Senator Dodd made a surprise visit today; political debate was held on October 14 with Joe Courtney, Sean Sullivan, Scott Deshefy; mock election on October 16 as part of a senior project; VO-AG students received 1 gold and 3 silver medals at the National Convention in Indianapolis; Homecoming Pageant was successful; Juniors took PSATs on October 15; VO-AG students sponsor a Blood Drive on November 5; School Play on November 21 and 22; Student Inductions on October 29; French

exchange students to attend Lyman; another Senior Project deadline; Student Survey for input and future goals.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT –

1. Updates:

- Board of Education Presentations for 2008-2009: October – Review of X Block and input from BOE for in depth study of the program; November – Presentation of intervention services at Lyman by the guidance department; December – Presentation of intervention services at LMS and LES; January – Presentation of the teacher evaluation plan; February – Presentation of scheduling process at Lyman; March – Presentation of X Block report; April – Presentation of reading and writing instruction.
- Sandy Belisle, nurse at Lyman, has received National Board Certification for school nursing.

2. Testing Report:

- A continuation of the testing report by Stephen Salisbury on: Spring 2008 CAPT Testing Results. A CAPT Committee has been established to help improve test scores; Fall 2008 CAPT Scores Comparison of AG students and Non AG students; CAPT Graduation Requirement; CAPT Graduation Requirement Comparison Lebanon and Columbia students; 2008 AP Scores; 2006-2008 Advance Placement Testing Results; SAT & ACT for Junior and Seniors; SAT Scores 2006-2008; PSAT Summary 2005-2007.

Robert McGray reported on the No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress Report.

3. X Block:

- Ann Birrell, Activities Director and Stephen Salisbury provided a brief overview of the X Block: what is currently in place, tracking of student participation, clubs vs. hobby sessions, and academic reinforcements. Ms. Birrell will survey students and teachers and asks the Board members to submit any questions they would like to be included in the survey. These questions should be submitted with two weeks. A formal presentation of the findings will be presented to the full Board in the spring.

4. Transportation:

- Mal Leichter presented on the beginning of the year transportation which included changes in Special Education transportation to the in town bus company; cameras on the buses; status of seating capacity on the Middle/High School buses and student numbers and length of runs; 3 new bus drivers are experienced and certified trainers; group pick ups.

5. Facilities:

- Jody Walsh presented on the status of maintenance progress since the opening of school. Bailey's Garden, Phase 2 was completed on October 18, Senior Project at LES center island is progressing; Eagle Scout amphitheater at LMHS is near completion; baseball fields have been fertilized and grass has been established. 237 maintenance orders have closed since August 27; 221 new orders; 135 orders currently open and which are awaiting parts and/or maintenance during school off hours. These are to be completed by December 23. Mr. Walsh has met with Tom Conley, Town DPW Foreman to allow for a plow to be left on school grounds and will look into CDL licensing with DOT. To date, time spent with lawn care, mowing and weed whacking totals 131.5 hours and does not include field cleanup. Monthly progress reports will be provided.
- Mal Leichter reported on the status of the discovery of an oil tank outside Central Office and obtained architectural plans which confirms that this is a 4" fill pipe located under a portion of the paving and not an oil tank. This information has been conveyed to the Chairman of the Town Board of Finance. It was also reported that we continue to have problems with the new boilers at the elementary school. This is being pursued.

6. DelMac Consulting:

- The Board has had previous discussions on this subject and the Board expressed concerns with quantifying savings, length of agreement and bid process with similar businesses. The Board's recommendation is to "set aside" this matter.

7. School Readiness Council:

- Dr. Bonnie Hanna presented updates on the Connecticut School Readiness Objectives, Lebanon School Readiness Council and 2008-2009 Local Focus. Plans are to host meetings at Town Hall; increase Pre-K availability with the hiring of a new teacher and paraprofessional; professional development for Pre-K and K teachers; learning opportunities for Lebanon parents/guardians, grandparents and caregivers; improve Kindergarten transition process; post meeting schedule at Town Hall, monthly reports to groups and agencies and press releases in local newspapers.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS –

1. Moved by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to postpone Action Item No. 1. Motion unanimously passed.
2. Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Donna Skaats to approve a one time exception to Policy #3281 to allow parent support/fundraising to fund Varsity Golf including coach's stipend and middle school Ski Club advisor stipend. Motion unanimously passed.
3. Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Darcy Battye to approve the first reading of Bullying Policy #5131.911. Motion unanimously passed.
4. Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Jim Mello to approve the first reading of Ethics Policy #9271. Approved: Melissa Hofmann, Darcy Battye, Rene Wentworth, Lori Jahoda, Jim Mello, Donna Skaats. Opposed: Keith Wentworth. Motion passed.
5. Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Jim Mello to approve Bulldog Productions trip to Springfield, MA. Motion unanimously passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – The following subcommittees will meet: Strategic Planning/Goals; Communication – review Senior Survey.

Moved by Melissa Hofmann and seconded by Jim Mello to move into Executive Session at 9:41 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION -

Moved By Melissa Hofmann and seconded by Keith Wentworth to leave executive session at 10:30. Motion unanimously passed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT -

Moved by Melissa Hofmann and seconded by Keith Wentworth to Adjourn at 10:30. Motion unanimously passed

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bennett, Recording Secretary