

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

Regular Session – September 23, 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 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman, Donna LaFontaine, Darcy Battye, Beth Damble, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, James Mello, Donna Skaats, Rene Wentworth, Beriah Smith, student representative

ABSENT: Keith Wentworth

ALSO PRESENT: Robert McGray, Superintendent, Sandye Simon, Robert Laskarzewski, Stephen Salisbury, Mal Leichter, Jody Walsh

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. COMMUNICATIONS - none.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Middle School Student Council representatives, Levi Duhaime, Alison Konow, Blake Smith and Lucas Bazzano asked the Board to continue to support student field trips and expressed ideas for greater voter turnout; telephone campaigning and explore learning opportunities. Diana Bazzano expressed support for the continuation of field trips and creative ideas to maintain field trips and sports.

V. CONSENT AGENDA –

Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to approve minutes of:

1. Regular Meeting – 8/26/08
2. Special Meeting – 8/25/08, Curriculum Subcommittee – 8/26/08, Policy Subcommittee – 8/26/08, Special Meeting 9/6/08, Physical Plant/Facilities Subcommittee – 9/9/08, Finance/Budget & Communications Subcommittees – 9/9/08 with correction: present - Donna Skaats; Goals/Strategic Planning Subcommittee – 9/9/08, Curriculum Subcommittee – 9/9/08. Motion unanimously passed.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**CURRICULUM** – The Subcommittee met and discussed the results from the September 9 meeting to further discuss field trips and the cost to parents; administration provided reduced list of field trips from the elementary and middle schools.; remaining out-of-state field trips to be approved under Action Items.

**FINANCE/BUDGET** – The Subcommittee met this evening to discuss the upcoming budget process; Public Input is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> with postcard mailings; discussed DelMac Consulting contract to quantify savings and length of contract and the Superintendent to review and further discuss at the October Regular Meeting; review fundraising policy.

**GOALS** – The Subcommittee met on September 9<sup>th</sup> for review of the current Strategic Plan. The Subcommittee will review and make changes and/or deletions and report back at the next subcommittee meeting.

**NEGOTIATIONS** – no report.

**POLICY** - no report.

**TRANSPORTATION** – no report.

**COMMUNICATIONS** - The Subcommittee is working with the Finance Subcommittee on the postcard mailings to residents and finance budget for 2009.

**VO-AG ADVISORY** – no report.

**PHYSICAL PLANT/FACILITIES** – The Subcommittee met on September 9 to discuss the completion of the summer projects and a report of the progress of the larger items to be completed. A buried 10,000-gallon oil tank was discovered under the central office parking lot. The Board will present to the Town Board of Finance at their October meeting with the cost of the disposal, repaving and contractor's removal cost and

will report back to the Board. The Eagle Scout project to construct an amphitheater behind the High School will be completed this week.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** –Class meetings took place last week; yearbook; sophomore class rings; athletics are starting off strong; upcoming play with Mrs. Birrell is scheduled for the week before Thanksgiving; Open House on Thursday; Vo-AG students took a trip to the Big E; Guidance prepares for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade PSATs; student surveyed for input and future goals as part of Senior Project.

## **VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT –**

### **1. Updates:**

- Jim Shifrin provided an update on the status of Bailey’s Garden and to announce Phase 2 installation of equipment on Saturday, October 18 from 7am-3pm. “Family Day” will kick off the next round of fundraising on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 11am-3pm.
- This is the last year of the Cooperative Football program with RHAM due to the increase in participants from RHAM.

### **2. Enrollments:**

- Stephen Salisbury reported on the student enrollment in Spanish and English classes and will get input from Columbia for the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Spanish Level I, II, III classes are currently an average classroom size of 24-25 students; French classroom size is 18/19 students; English 9<sup>th</sup> grade-20-25 students; 10<sup>th</sup> grade-20 students; 11<sup>th</sup> grade-20/26 students; 12<sup>th</sup> grade-19/29 students.
- School enrollment at LES-520, LMS-416, LMHS-601, Columbia enrollment is 117; Ag-Science-105 with 27 freshman students, current total enrollment is 1537.

### **3. CAPT Recognition:**

- The Commissioner of Education recognized the following students for scoring Advanced Level in all CAPT tests: Courtney Adams, Felicia Bakaj, Sarah Lamotte, Megan O’Brien, Macy O’Hearn, Cobey Stevenson, Cecily Varvitsotis, Christine Wengloski and Rachel Williams.

### **4. Budget Calendar/Communication:**

- A draft of the budget calendar is provided to Board members and post card communications to be sent to all residents.

### **5. Testing report:**

- The Superintendent presented on the CMT/ 2008 CAPT testing results and State reported SAT average score. Highlights on math and science as well as areas to focus. Further reports will be provided to Board members at the next Regular Meeting.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS –**

1. Moved Beth Damble to approve participation with New London as a sending district for students as a result of NCLB legislation. With no second, the motion failed.
2. Moved by Rene Wentworth and seconded by Donna Skaats to approve leave for one year for Kevin Brodie as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher. Motion unanimously passed.
3. Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Darcy Battye to allow fundraising and/or contributions to support extracurricular or athletic programs that has been eliminated. VOTING AYE: Melissa Hofmann, Darcy Battye, James Mello, Beth Damble. VOTING NAY: Lori Jahoda, Rene Wentworth, Donna Skaats, Donna LaFontaine. Motion failed from a tie.
4. Moved by Darcy Battye seconded by Rene Wentworth to approve submission of Consolidated ESEA Grants. Motion unanimously passed.
5. Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Darcy Battye to approve Request for Permission to Apply for the School Security Competitive Grant. Motion unanimously passed.
6. Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Rene Wentworth to approve out of state field trips (see attached list). Abstaining: Donna Skaats. Motion passed.
7. Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to approve meeting dates for 2009. Motion unanimously passed.

8. Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by James Mello to approve the purchase of new student management system. Motion unanimously passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – The following subcommittees will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in October: Policy, Transportation and Facilities.

Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to move into Executive Session at 9:25. Motion unanimously passed.

X. Executive Session

- XI. Adjournment   Melissa Hofmann moved to adjourn at 10:50  
                          Second Rene Wentworth  
                          Motion Unanimously passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Bennett, Recording Secretary