

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
LEBANON, CONNECTICUT
Regular Session – August 26, 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 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman, Donna LaFontaine, Darcy Battye, Beth Damble, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, Keith Wentworth, James Mello, Donna Skaats (7:33 p.m.)

ABSENT: Rene Wentworth

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. COMMUNICATIONS - Letter of resignation from Donna Ecsedy, Special Ed, Elementary School.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none.

V. CONSENT AGENDA –

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

1. Regular Meeting – 7/22/08
2. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – 7/22/08, Communications Subcommittee – 7/22/08, Special Meeting 7/29/08. Motion unanimously passed.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

CURRICULUM – The Subcommittee met and discussed AP courses and scheduling of them; field trips and impact of cost to families and possible cut backs on some of the field trips offered.

FINANCE/BUDGET – The Subcommittee will look at the budget dollars for the upcoming year and a Public Input Session for later in the year rather than early fall.

GOALS – no report.

NEGOTIATIONS – Instructional Assistant negotiations are still in the process.

POLICY - no report.

TRANSPORTATION – no report.

COMMUNICATIONS - no report.

VO-AG ADVISORY – no report.

PHYSICAL PLANT/FACILITIES – Board members and administration conducted a walk-through of the school buildings and received positive comments on the excellent condition of the buildings and summer maintenance work; continue to look for products and ways to keep the “clean” appearance.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – no report.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT –

1. Updates:

- Mr. McGray has received the CMT and CAPT reports from the state. Each school will prepare the reports to be sent to parents. Further information on the spring testing reports will be presented to the Board this fall.
- The Finance Subcommittee reviewed the new IRS regulations regarding the district’s responsibility in administering employee’s 403B participation. It will be necessary to contract with a third party administrator to develop the required plan and language and to administer the plan. ING will take on the responsibility at no cost to the district and the Superintendent will pursue this agreement.
- The current student management system will no longer be supported. The Board of Finance has allocated \$15,000 to continue support. The program Power School/Inform is with the current vendor and will be able to apply current costs to the purchase. Sandye Simon reported on the

system's capabilities to computerize the elementary report cards, track all student assessments over time as well as storing data from year to year. The Board will also present to the Board of Finance on September 11.

2. Back to School Report:

- Professional Development Day began with opening ceremonies and the announcement of Teachers of the Year - Sally Muir, LES, Larry Barlow, Middle School and District Teacher of the Year, Kevin Brodie, High School.
- Sandye Simon, Principal, Elementary School reported 515 students anticipated enrollment; new teacher and paraprofessional hired with funds from the School Readiness Grant for the additional PreK teacher, and up to 28 additional slot for students; excellent job by the custodians in preparing classroom for opening day; mailings were sent to all parents with bus pickup and drop-off times; PreK and Kindergarten students will be wearing colored "buttons" for bus placement. Robert Laskarzewski, Principal, Middle School reported 411 students anticipated enrollment; two new hires this summer for guidance and science; Professional Development focus for the year to have school wide goal for reading and writing across the curriculum and planning future sessions with staff presenting on their "specialty"; custodial staff did a great job with summer maintenance and will work on maintaining the cleanliness of the building. Stephen Salisbury, Principal, High School reported 606 students anticipated enrollment, of which, 109 students are in the Ag-science Dept.; compliments to custodial staff on the grounds and building appearance; FFA sold milkshakes at the Lebanon Fair, Post Grad Committee sold sausage sandwiches. Friday was freshman orientation with 137 new students and upper classman as student guides conducting tours. Saturday, August 23 was opening day of fall athletics.
- Maryanne Leichter reported on 6-week special education summer school. Student enrollment was 66 students, grades PreK -high school. PreK-12 students received physical therapy, occupation therapy and speech therapy and academic support.
- Jody Walsh reported that all contract work has been completed which included, septic, fire and sprinkler system, and maintenance of the boilers.
- Mal Leichter reported on technology - 550 computers received preventative maintenance, 120 computers were reloaded with software updates, 17 computers were repaired, maintenance to the server and filter system replaced at no cost. The 2007/2008 budget was closed out and review of the 2008/2009 budget to be finalized. A report to the Board at the next regular meeting. The 2007/2008 audit has begun and the state Ed-001 Financial Statement will be prepared and presented on September 1. Transportation – Individual letters were sent to households with bus pick up and drop off times, minor adjustments were made and positive feedback was received by parents. Current bus capacity is 68-71 passengers with a max of 71 students. Special education transportation will be done within the district by First Student.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS –

1. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Beth Damble to approve the extraprofessional positions as presented (attachment). Motion unanimously passed.
2. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Beth Damble to approve entering into a contractual agreement with DelMac Consulting to develop energy cost savings recommendations. Motion withdrawn. Moved by Melissa Hofmann and seconded by Donna Skaats to table the motion to the September Regular Meeting for review of the sample contract. Motion unanimously passed.
3. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Beth Damble to approve the out-of-state field trips as presented (attachment). Voting Aye: Melissa Hofmann, Keith Wentworth, Darcy Battye, James Mello, Beth Damble, Lori Jahoda. Opposed: Donna Skaats. Motion passed.
4. Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Keith Wentworth to appoint Beriah Smith as student representative to the Board of Education. Motion unanimously passed.
5. Moved by Beth Damble and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to approve the elimination of preschool tuition. Motion unanimously passed.

6. Moved by Darcy Battye and seconded by Beth Damble to approve waiving fees associated with building use for the Girl Scouts of America to charge a flat fee of \$500 plus custodial overtime. Motion unanimously passed.
7. Moved by Melissa Hofmann and seconded by Donna Skaats to accept the resignation of Donna Ecsedy. Motion unanimously passed.
8. Moved by Melissa Hofmann and seconded by Donna Skaats to appoint the list of teachers as presented: Heather Pomroy-ES, Kyle Evans-ES, Melissa Orlando-ES, June Dunn-ES, Heather Lyon-ES, Michelle Vullo-ES, Valerie Nettleton-MS, Barbara Varnum-MS, Victoria Fagan-HS.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – The following subcommittees will meet on September 9: Curriculum, Goals, Communication, Budget/Finance; Board Retreat scheduled for Saturday, September 6 at 8 a.m. at the Community Center; Board attendance is requested for the Board of Finance meeting on September 11 at 7:30 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT –

Moved by Donna Skaats and seconded by Melissa Hofmann to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:06 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bennett, Recording Secretary