

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
February 10, 2015 REGULAR SESSION – 7:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:	Albert Vertefeuille, Chairman James Mello, Vice Chairman Sandra Tremblay, Secretary Keith Wentworth	Lori Jahoda Jason Nowosad Bert Bosse Amanda Minicucci, Student Representative
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ABSENT: Donna Skaats

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Janet Tyler, James Apicelli, LMHS, Principal, Robert Laskarzewski, LMS Principal, Andrew Gonzalez, LES Principal, Anne Axton-Jones, Director of Curriculum, Cheryl Biekert, Director Pupil Services, Don Neel, Business Manager, Wesley Shaver, Director of Technology, Kevin French Facilities Director, Member of the press.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Albert Vertefeuille called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Clerk introduced guests, four students from Eastern Connecticut State University who are here to observe a Board of Education Meeting as a requirement for a health class.

Albert Vertefeuille made a motion to add to the agenda under Action Items:

Item 10: Discuss and act upon report from Anchor Engineering Services regarding School Buildings Roof Snow, seconded by Stephen Nelson. Motion passed unanimously. Keith Wentworth made a motion to move this item up on the agenda. Seconded by Jim Mello. Motion passed unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATION

None

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – BYLAWS OF THE BOARD #9300

Public participation – 30 minutes; Individual speaker – 2 minutes

Parents thanked the Board for reinstating the Pre-K bus. Thanked Board for involving parents and staff in the superintendent search. Suggested weekly posting on the web site as to the progress of the search.

Vito DeNapoli a primary school parent gave some information on the Arts for Learning Connecticut program. A flyer for the 2nd Annual Arts for Learning Fundraiser was distributed. An upcoming event will be held on April 26th at Roberto's Log Cabin. 10% of the proceeds that night will be given back to Lebanon for programs here. All were encouraged to attend. Three parents thanked the Board for the Pre-K bus.

IV: CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

**Motion by Stephen Nelson and seconded by Bert Bosse to approve the consent agenda including the following minutes; Finance/Budget Subcommittee – 1/13/15, Physical Plant/Facilities Subcommittee – 1/13/15, Regular Meeting – 1/13/15, Finance/Budget Subcommittee – 1/29/15, Special Meeting – 1/29/15.
Motion passed unanimously.**

V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee
Jason Nowosad reported that a public input session will be held tomorrow night for the public, and a session in the afternoon for staff. These session have been postponed twice due to snow storms. Budget will be discussed as an action item tonight.
2. Communications Subcommittee -No report
3. Curriculum Subcommittee:
Lori Jahoda reported that two new courses will be added as electives with no additional funding at this time – World Music and Music Theatre. Offering these courses is contingent upon approval of the Board.
4. Transportation/Residency Subcommittee -No report
5. Goals/Strategic Planning Subcommittee -No report
6. Negotiations Subcommittee - No report
7. Board Policy Subcommittee - No report
8. Physical Plant/Facilities Subcommittee - No report
9. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee - No report
10. Superintendent Search Subcommittee - No report

VI. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Amanda Minicucci reported that winter season sports are going on. There is a spring musical being planned. Oral/visual presentations by seniors are being worked on, deadline is March 13th. There have been several tours going on. Franklin students toured on January 7th, Lebanon 8th grade students toured on January 29th, and 32 prospective Vo-Ag-program students have toured. A pasta and cabaret night were recently held.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. Superintendent Tyler highlighted the information given earlier tonight by Mr. DeNapoli
2. NEASC Update
Principal Apicelli and Anne Axton-Jones gave an update on the letter that had been received from NEASC in December which notes that accreditation was continued. The self-study was done a year ago. Work on curriculum is continuing including Common Core. Anne Axton-Jones reported that there have been 220 new units of curriculum. Professional Development days have been snowed out for two years so they are being incorporated into faculty meetings. An outline of the professional development was given. Assistant Principal Ann Birrell and Principal Apicelli have worked also with curriculum and we should be on target to address the recommendations that were made by NEASC that are due in October.
3. Enrollment
Superintendent Tyler reported that there was a small increase in enrollment.
4. 2014-2015 Budget

Don Neel reported that the excess cost reimbursement has been capped. The funds have been significantly reduced from what was budgeted. There have been increased special education costs. I have held off on some purchases. The snow on the school roofs and there potential costs, if necessary, are of concern. The recommended adjustments by the auditor would take \$35,000.00 out of the current year budget. The Board of Finance is meeting tonight, and one of their items is the acceptance of the recommendations of the auditor. Stephen Nelson asked what the options are for auditor recommendations.. The Board of Finance could disregard the recommendations. We will have to wait for the decision by Board of Finance. Impact of excess cost was discussed. Every district has felt the impact of the cap. We were projected to have received \$580,000.00 now we will be receiving \$525,000.00.

5. 2015- 2016 Budget

Superintendent Tyler and Jason Nowosad noted that the public input session will be held tomorrow night which has been snowed out twice. Notification of the session has been done through postcards and newspaper. Superintendent Tyler explained the process of distributing the postcards. Jason Nowosad discussed the new initiatives that have been added to the budget which are team leaders, department heads, funding the current vo-ag secretary, increasing world language requirement, mid-day pre k bus for the entire year, seasonal grounds keeper, and a part time IT technician. Other additions are software and elementary school goals for curriculum. Other increases are contractual. Budget at status quo \$18,538,786.00. This is an increase of 1.96%. New initiatives are \$159,796.00 for an increase of .88% of budget, thus the proposed increase will be 2.84%.or \$18,698.582.00. Jason Nowosad noted the increase is much smaller than in previous years. Stephen Nelson asked if this includes the projected increase in health insurance costs. Jason Nowosad responded that it does. Anything under 2% would affect current programs. Lori Jahoda discussed adding World Language. Principal Laskarzewski noted it would be ideal to have World Language for 7th and 8th grade as the requirements in high school have increased. Lori Jahoda asked about team leaders in the middle school. Principal Laskarzewski commented that the current set up of team leaders works well at the Middle School.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS DISCUSS AND ACT UPON

1. Approve Safe School Climate Plans
Motion by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Bert Bosse approve the Safe School Climate Plans. Discussion that this is an enhancement to what was done in the fall. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Technology Grant Submission
Anne Axton-Jones discussed the submission of this grant. The grant would fund computers, Smarter Balance, laptop carts and firewall protection. The grant is being submitted for \$90,000.00.
Motion by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Stephen Nelson to approve submission of the Technology Grant. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve New High School Courses (World Music, Music Theatre)
Motion by Jason Nowosad and seconded by Lori Jahoda to approve new high school courses, World Music and Music Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Approve Senior Citizen passes

Motion by Bert Bosse and seconded by Keith Wentworth to approve Senior Citizen passes. Discussion of how passes would be used. Individual would have to call seven days ahead of event to reserve pass. Stephen Nelson discussed if event is sold out would Senior Citizens be turned away. Discussion of how passes would be used. They would be for residents only. The Senior Center will administer with guidelines given by the Board of Education. Passes would be numbered and returned after each activity. Stephen Nelson expressed concern of fund raising for events and passes being used. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve first reading of revised policy #3511 Policy Regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Motion by Keith Wentworth and seconded by Jim Mello to approve the first reading of revised policy #3511 Policy Regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973..

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve first reading of revised policy #5114 Student Discipline.

Motion by Bert Bosse and seconded by Stephen Nelson to approve the first reading of revised policy #5114 Student Discipline.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Approve second reading of deletion of policy #2111.1 Title IX Compliance Office and Grievance Procedures due to redundancy.

Motion by Jason Nowosad and seconded by Keith Wentworth to approve second reading of deletion of policy #2111.1 Title IX Compliance Office and Grievance Procedures due to redundancy.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Adopt 2015-2016 Budget

Motion by Bert Bosse and seconded by Jason Nowosad to approve the 2015-2016 Budget as presented total budget \$18,698,582.00. Jim Mello noted that the public input session was delayed due to weather twice and is being held tomorrow night February 11th. Jason Nowosad noted we could approve now, if any changes following public input session we could have a special meeting. Sandra Tremblay noted the Board of Finance public hearing on the budget is April 6th. Bert Bosse noted the circumstances makes it out of the ordinary and if public input is strong changes could be made and must have a special meeting. The special meeting could be on February 19th. Bert Bosse withdrew the motion and Jason Nowosad withdrew his second of the motion.

Motion by Sandy Tremblay and seconded by Keith Wentworth that we approve the 2015-2016 budget as presented.

Vote in favor – Jason Nowosad, Sandra Tremblay, Bert Bosse. Opposed – Keith Wentworth, Jim Mello, Lori Jahoda, Stephen Nelson. Motion failed.

9. Approve 2015 Capital Budget

Kevin French distributed information regarding capital requests; Facilities, Athletics and Information Technology. **Keith Wentworth made a motion to approve the FY 2015-2016 Capital Budget. Motion was not seconded and was withdrawn by Keith Wentworth.** Consensus to discuss all items together on February 19, 2015 at a Special Meeting here at 6:30 p.m. Need to correct dates on capital, and facilities and column headers.

10. Discuss and act upon report from Anchor Engineering Services regarding School Buildings Roof Snow

Kevin French distributed the report from Anchor Engineering. The Town Engineer had been contacted but he is not a structural engineer, and there would be a liability issue, and he referred Mr. French to this firm. Mr. French explained the report and the need to lower the 18 inch drifts of snow on the roof. Tomorrow the drains will be cleared by maintenance staff. Staff will also look at the accumulation on the roofs. A couple of local contractors will

be contacted for cost estimates. Jason Nowosad asked if this would be a capital expense for the Town. Keith Wentworth thought this would be maintenance expense and would come out of operating budget. A discussion of a ice storm was brought up, which would add weight to the roofs. Keith Wentworth considered this an emergency and the town should be made aware of costs and possible solutions. Lori Jahoda noted that it could be more costly if not taken care of. Keith Wentworth noted it is good we have the engineering report to discuss with the town. Superintendent Tyler noted there is urgency to this situation. Kevin French reported that staff will clear the drains tomorrow but the snow needs to be down below 18 inches. I will get quotes for clearing the roofs ASAP. Al Vertefeuille will notify the town of the problem. An emergency meeting may be held if necessary.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Discuss calendars

Gym for all three schools, look at structure

Speed limit signs – Superintendent Tyler had a meeting scheduled with Sen. Cathy Osten will request to meet again.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Jason Nowosad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Seconded by Bert Bosse. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Kathleen E. Chapman

Board Clerk