

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
JANUARY 12, 2021 - REGULAR MEETING - 7:30 PM**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:	Sarah Haynes, Chairperson	Alexis Margerelli-Hussey, Vice Chair
	Maureen McCall, Secretary	Delton Wentworth, Student Representative
	Dawn Whitcher	Nicole McGillicuddy
	Matthew Smith	Danelle Person
	John Konow	

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone, Robert Sirpenski, Business Manager, James Apicelli, Principal, Rita Quiles-Glover, Principal, Robert Laskarzewski, Principal, Cheryl Biekert, Director of Pupil Services, Jeannette Picard, LEA Co-President, Kevin French, Director of Facilities, Ken Ochs, Teacher and Jacques Dulac, Director of Information Technology.

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. S.Haynes introduced Interim Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone.

II. COMMUNICATION

1. Letter of Retirement - Interim Superintendent Ciccone read a letter of retirement from Larry Strohm, Science Teacher at Lyman Memorial High School.
2. An overview was provided of a letter from Ken Ochs, stating the support of increasing the Assistant Principal position at Lyman to full time.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - BYLAWS OF THE BOARD #9324

Public participation - 30 minutes; Individual speaker - 2 minutes

Ken Ochs thanked the Interim Superintendent for visiting Lyman today. K. Ochs would like more information about when the COVID vaccines will be available, the logistics of how the process will work, and where they will take place. K. Ochs verbalized that the internet service issues were apparent and concerning for the teachers.

Jeannette Picard welcomed Interim Superintendent Ciccone.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting - 12/08/2020
2. LBOE Regular Meeting - 12/08/2020
3. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting - 12/15/2020
4. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting - 01/05/2021
5. LBOE Special Meeting - 01/05/2021
6. Budget Transfers

Motion made by J. Konow and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passes unanimously.

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

D.Wentworth spoke about distance learning. High schoolers find it awkward to speak up in class when they are distance learning, but this is not a fault of teachers, administrators or the Board. In distance learning the students are finding that organization is hard and

the students are not as engaged being at home. Midterms are this week and most of the teachers have made them open note which was very much appreciated. Tomorrow the recruitment video for Lyman will be filmed. The morale at Lyman is currently stressed due to midterms and when they are in person the overall morale is great. There are still about 30-33% of the students distance learning. D. Wentworth will reach out to some students at LMS to get a report from them and possibly LES as well. The students are looking for a statement from the BOE with information about the decisions to close the schools or keep them open. They are looking for more overall communication.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- EASTCONN- No Report.
- Finance/Facilities - N. McGillicuddy reported there were two meetings this month. The first meeting was regarding the LED lighting project, where the subcommittee heard a presentation from Environmental Systems Corporation and a presentation from Earthlight. Each presenter had two proposals; one was to replace just the fluorescent bulbs to LED lights, and the second was to replace the light fixtures and bulbs to LED. This will be discussed further at the next subcommittee meeting. The operating budget for 2020-2021 is most likely positive, but the health insurance is over budget. The second COVID relief fund was passed by the State and more information on that will be coming at a later date. Quarterly reports were provided. There will be a company hired for the superintendent search and the funding should be fairly easily to transfer from within the current operating budget. The 2021-2022 preliminary operating budget is at a 5.7% increase. At the next meeting the subcommittee will look into shaving this percentage down. At LES, the 56 and 66 wing (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade wing) ventilation system needs to be replaced. Interim Superintendent Ciccone sent a letter to the First Selectman regarding this project and is waiting to hear back.
- Enrollment/Communication/Goals - D. Whitcher reported they did not meet.
- Policy - M. McCall reported they have not met, but she did speak with Mark and will plan a day to meet.
- Safety and Security - No Report.
- Superintendent's Evaluation - No Report.
- Strategic Plan/Curriculum - D. Person reported that they have not met but they have hired a new curriculum director.
- Negotiations - They will be meeting later this month for the IA Contract.
- Governance - No Report.

VII. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

The reports were all in the board packet. R. Quiles-Glover added that LES received their re-accreditation from NAEYC. It is a five year accreditation. The process is very detailed and time consuming. LES passed in the 98% range, which is a huge accomplishment.

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. Enrollment - The district is at 951 for overall total enrollment. The percentage of distance learners at each school is always changing. Currently about 30% are distance learning at LMHS, 100% at LMS and about 20% at LES.
2. NESDEC Enrollment Projection Report - The trend overall is enrollment is decreasing. Most school districts in CT are losing about 5% of their enrollment. This impacts school districts when looking at the cost per pupil. LMHS has a lot of attractive courses which is a positive for enrollment. The NAEYC re-accreditation and the standards received can be advertised through the media.
3. School Updates re: COVID-19 - COVID-19 is still a tremendous impact on a day to day basis. Contact tracing is a huge undertaking. The Department of Public Health and Vaccination Advisory Committee has not yet made a definitive decision on the Phase 1b of vaccine distribution. This is a day by day monitoring situation. Some advice about the

vaccines is to stagger the appointments within the work force in caution of reactions and absenteeism. Interim Superintendent gave out information regarding a pediatric seasonal flu clinic. Sub availability is still minimal, but with one of three schools currently distance learning, there is less of a strain.

4. Curriculum Director Update – Holly Hollander has been hired for the Curriculum Director position and will be starting on January 19, 2021.

IX. FINANCE REPORT

1. 2020-2021 Budget and Quarterly Reports - N. McGillicuddy gave this update during her report.

2. COVID-19 Relief Funds - R. Sirpenski reported that today he submitted to the state for reimbursement of \$145,149 for COVID-19 expenses incurred from July 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. This was broken up into two categories. The non-salary expense was \$125,000 and the remaining \$20,149 was salaries. The non-salary expenses include purchasing tents, protective shields, sanitizers, water bottle fillers and PPE. The \$20,149 paid for the three temporary custodians and the CAN positions. The second COVID relief fund was just passed. The amount of money for CT K-12 schools is \$492 million but they have not yet provided information about the allocation to the districts. R. Sirpenski is hoping this fund will also include technology purchases.

3. 2021-2022 Budget - In the board packet there are incremental cost impacts for position initiatives.

S. Haynes reminded everyone that the shared agreement is to wear masks at the meetings. There is no fence by the oil tank but there is hope that in early spring this will go up. At a future meeting this will be addressed.

X. ACTION ITEMS

1. Act on Letter of Retirement

Motion made by J. Konow and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to accept the letter of retirement with regret. The motion passes unanimously.

XI. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

1. Budget

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by S. Haynes at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Hashem
Board Clerk