

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
DECEMBER 14, 2021 - 7:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sarah Haynes (Chair)  
Alexis Margerelli-Hussey (Vice-Chair)  
Maureen McCall (Secretary)  
Dawn Whitcher  
Danelle Person

John Konow  
Nicole McGillicuddy  
Matt Smith  
Bruce Calef

**ALSO PRESENT:** Andrew Gonzalez (Superintendent), Rachael Springer (Student Representative), James Apicelli (LMHS Principal), Samantha McCarthy (LMHS Assistant Principal), Kevin French (Supervisor of Facilities and Custodial Services), Valerie Belles (Business Manager), Jacques Dulac (IT Director)

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Sarah Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Recognition**

**A.** Student Recognition – Superintendent A. Gonzalez recognized the following student athletes

1. Callie Nanos – Co-captain of the volleyball team, which won the Class S Championship title; was voted CHSCA Player of the Year
2. Fallon Bailey – Co-captain of the volleyball team; earned All-State honors
3. Magda Carpenter – two-time all-ECC All-Star in girls' soccer; voted team MVP for 2021; led team to ECC Division 4 Championship

**B.** LES Principal – Jessica Scorso was announced as the full-time principal at LES

**C.** Director of Pupil Services – Dawn DeLia was announced as the new Director of Pupil Services

**III. Communication**

**A.** Letters of Resignation – A. Gonzalez read letters of resignation from Cory Tobler (Varsity Boys Soccer coach at LMHS), Olivia Sirois (Resource Room Special Education teacher), and Jennifer Thompson (Administrative Assistant to Director of Pupil Services)

**B.** Email Regarding Seating Project – S. Haynes shared an email from Jamie Bender voicing support for the baseball seating project.

**C.** S. Haynes shared communications from Anne Green and Shelly Laibrandt, both expressing concern for the vaccine clinic.

- D. S. Haynes also shared Paul and Cristyn Franson's concerns regarding nurse's pay; discussions on that issue are ongoing.

#### **IV. Public Participation (Bylaws of the Board #9324)**

There was no participation from the public.

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of minutes**

1. Strategic Plan/Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting - 11/16/2021
2. Policy Subcommittee Meeting – 11/16/2021
3. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting - 11/16/2021
4. LBOE Regular Meeting – 11/16/2021
5. Budget Transfers

**Motion by J. Konow and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **VI. Student Representative's Report – R. Springer reported. A more detailed report was included in the board packet.**

- A. LES –** She met virtually with elementary students. They are learning about plate tectonics, and are excited to continue the coding unit. There is a winter chorus concert on 12/15/21.
- B. LMS –** She was unable to meet with middle school students this month, but reports that Drama started Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>, with about 43 students participating. They will perform *A Walk in the Woods* this year.
- C. LMHS –** Recent events and fundraisers include Miss Lyman, Pajama Day, and Trivia Night; Ag is selling Christmas decorations as well.
- D. LMHS Winter Sports –** Updates were given on basketball, wrestling and indoor track, which have all recently begun their seasons.

#### **VII. Committee Reports**

- A. Safety & Security –** D. Whitcher stated they did not meet
- B. Strategic Plan/Curriculum –** D. Person stated they met tonight (12/14/21) and discussed the following items
1. Proposed coursework recommendations – The committee previously heard new courses proposals for LMHS; they support the additions and will recommend their adoption to the full Board.
  2. British Lit textbook – The textbook is extremely comprehensive. The committee discussed teachers' facilitating discussions rather than leading them, but noted the public has not expressed any concerns with the proposed textbook.
  3. Policy regarding Online Coursework Credit – There is some confusion in the currently drafted revision, as it includes mention of remote learning. The committee would like to keep distinct policies for online courses and remote learning. They will revisit the issue next month, once the policies have been separated and clarified.

4. SRO (School Resource Officer) – The committee was updated on the duties and activities of SRO Kevin Slonski.
  5. Math programming update – The district is currently piloting two math programs, I-Ready and Illustrative Math (IM). Teachers have observed both programs in action at other schools, and will collaborate with colleagues as the district assesses the best program to adopt in the future.
- C. Superintendent's Evaluation – J. Konow stated they did not meet. He sent an email to Board members soliciting their input for the mid-year evaluation, which he hopes to have completed by the end of January.
- D. Negotiations – A. Margerelli-Hussey stated they did not meet
- E. Policy – M. McCall stated they met tonight (12/14/21) and discussed the following three policies, which are scheduled for first readings tonight.
1. Policy on Therapy Dogs
  2. Policy on Conduct by Members of the Public on School Property
  3. Review of Policy #4121, Substitute Teacher Categories
- F. Facilities – N. McGillicuddy reported they met tonight (12/14/21). Updates include:
1. Door replacement at LES and LMS – currently waiting on parts to arrive
  2. Camera installation - completed
  3. Crack sealing/line striping at LMHS – crack sealing is complete; line striping will take place in the spring
  4. LMS painting – projected start date is 12/20/21; it will be completed by 1/3/22
  5. WiFi Access Points – many parts are on backorder until February; the project is on hold until all parts are received
  6. Baseball seating project – The retaining wall block has been received; work can begin pending Board approval of additional funding
  7. S. Haynes asked for an update regarding catch basin replacement at LMHS; it will be added to the agenda for the next committee meeting
- G. Finance – M. Smith stated he will be meeting with Superintendent Gonzalez in the coming weeks
- H. Enrollment – B. Calef stated they did not meet
- I. Governance – S. Haynes stated they met, and will be looking into joining CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education)

### **VIII. Administrators' Reports**

Reports were included in the board packet. Additional updates are below.

- A. J. Apicelli reported that LMHS hosted visitors from feeder towns (including Bozrah, Sprague, and Franklin), which was very successful.
- B. J. Scorso reported that LES collected \$612 (so far) from Pajama Day. The school social worker has also been discussing Internet safety with the older grades.

### **IX. Superintendent's Report – A. Gonzalez reported.**

- A. Enrollment - Enrollment report (as of 12/10/21) was included in the board packet. Total district enrollment is 957 (LES – 350; LMS – 275; LMHS – 332), which is an increase of 20 since September. Much of this increase is due to enrollment in pre-

school. He also noted that several students previously enrolled at magnet/STEM schools had returned to LMHS.

- B. 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget Projection** – A. Gonzalez and Business Manager Valerie Belles have begun meeting with administrators to build a budget proposal. Initial projections, based on supply line and staffing requests, result in a 3.9% budget increase, which is likely to be larger than the final proposal. They will provide a tiered cut list at the next full Board meeting. There is roughly \$210,000 representing each percentage point in the budget.
- C. COVID-19 Update** – Numbers as of 12/10/21 – 9 new positive cases among students; about 100 cases among students have been reported for the year. There have been fewer than 10 cases among staff members for the year. Screen & Stay has allowed about 150 asymptomatic students to remain in classrooms since its adoption. COVID-19 statistics for the district are updated every Friday, and are available on the website. The Board then discussed the current contact tracing protocols, and which are state requirements (versus best practice recommendations). N. McGillicuddy stated she would like to provide additional support to the staffers tasked with contact tracing, possibly by increasing part-time administrative assistants to full-time positions. The Board directed A. Gonzalez to explore options to that end.
- D. CT Grown for CT Kids Grant** – A. Gonzalez met with local officials, farmers and parents, and is drafting a proposal with V. Belles, which will be submitted by the 12/20 deadline.

**X. Facilities Report** – K. French reported, stating much had been covered in the Facilities committee meeting report. N. McGillicuddy noted a typo in the Facilities Tracking Report, which erroneously stated funding for the door replacement project was not Board-approved. A. Margerelli-Hussey inquired about the status of the catch basin replacements. K. French stated he hopes the project will be completed by the end of the year, but that delays from the contractor have held it up. A. Gonzalez confirmed the source of the delays. A. Margerelli-Hussey asked about building a walkway from LES to the new utility field, which is currently obstructed by curbing. K. French will look into installing an ADA-compliant walkway to provide access from the elementary school to the field. M. Smith asked for an update on the generator oil tank replacement. K. French said that the project is awaiting materials, but assured the Board that there is no risk of a spill, as the issue has not gotten any worse.

**XI. Finance Report** - V. Belles reported. She modified the Budget Status Report, removing two items from the Purchased Services section, which she believes skewed that section of the report. There is closer to 20% of the budget remaining for Purchased Services. She also reported a duplicate purchase order under Other Professional Technical Services, which has been fixed and will be reflected in next month's budget report. There was a similar occurrence in the Computer Software & Supplies section. She also introduced a trial balance sheet reflecting the technology budget and athletic facilities budget. D. Whitcher asked if our contract with the busing company has been honored, given the shortage in drivers and subsequent scheduling difficulties. A. Gonzalez will look into that issue.

**XII. New Business** – The following policies will be brought up for a second reading at the next full Board meeting.

1. First Reading, Policy on Therapy Dogs
2. First Reading, Policy on Conduct by Members of the Public on School Property
3. First Reading, Policy #4121- Substitute Teacher Categories
4. First Reading of new LMHS British Literature textbook, titled *Only Literature*

### **XIII. Action Items**

#### **A. Act on Letters of Resignation**

**Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. McCall to accept the letters of resignation with regret. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **B. Act on use of non-lapsing funds for stadium seating project**

**Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by A. Margerelli-Hussey to request \$30,000 to be taken from non-lapsing funds for the stadium seating project at Lyman. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **C. Act on LMHS Courses for 2022-2023**

1. Certified Nursing Assistant
2. Nutrition for Sport and Exercise
3. Mathematics for Machine Technology
4. FAA 107 Drone Pilot Training
5. Landscape and Turf Management
6. Lifetime Fitness and Exercise

**Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. McCall to accept the Lyman high school courses for 2022-2023.** M. Smith noted missing information in the course proposals (no textbook is listed for the CNA course, for example). J. Apicelli stated that this is a partnership with Three Rivers Community College, which will be supplying all necessary materials. M. Smith expressed concern regarding the impact to the district's finances and budget from the new courses. J. Apicelli stated much of the funds will come from grants such as ASTE. A. Gonzalez stated the only budget impact to the district is via staffing.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **XIV. Items for Next Agenda**

N. McGillicuddy requested discussion regarding the secretaries.

### **XV. Adjournment**

S. Haynes adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Walcott (Board Clerk)