

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
MARCH 8, 2022 - 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), Rita Quiles-Glover (Director of Curriculum and Instruction), Jessica Scorso (LES Principal), Stephanie DeLucia (LES Educator), Robert Laskarzewski (LMS Principal), Erica Strong (LMS Educator), Valerie Belles (Business Manager), Jacques Dulac (IT Director)

I. Call to Order

Chair Sarah Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Recognition

1. ASTE Presenter

A. Gonzalez recognized LMHS student Sarah Copley, who recently spoke of her experience in Lebanon's ASTE program (Agricultural Science and Technology) during a presentation to Lisbon schools.

2. LMHS Musical Production

The BoE was treated to a preview of the LMHS spring performance of *High School Musical*, which opens on March 18th and runs through the 20th.

3. BoE Appreciation Month

A. Gonzalez noted that March is Board of Education Appreciation Month, and thanked the BoE for their work.

III. Communication

S. Haynes noted there were no communications to the BoE this month.

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by M. McCall to amend the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by J. Konow to add Action Item #8, Act on Capital Budget Requests. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Paul Franson, 54 Bascom Rd, discussed two items regarding the nurses' positions at Lebanon schools.

- 1.** He noted he has not received a response to his previous concerns on this issue, and asked when answers to his questions would be available.
- 2.** He then discussed the district's chemical hygiene policy, which states that Karen Collins is the designated officer, appointed to implement and enforce the chemical hygiene plan. He stated that she left the district in June of 2020, and wondered if she has been replaced. He also noted that the plan refers any chemical injury to the school nurse. He believes this policy is oversimplified and requires clarification, citing his 35 years in the environmental field. He is not aware of any special chemical injury-related training provided to school nurses.

2. AJ Dunnack, 64 Kingsley Rd, first thanked the BoE for their efforts on behalf of Lebanon's schools and community, especially during the pandemic. He has been involved in organizations including Little League, soccer club, and the Recreation Commission for a substantial amount of time. He addressed the BoE about a bill recently received for the use of the LMS gymnasium for 2 dates (02/06/2022 and 02/20/2022). Little League recently collaborated with the LMHS softball team, hosting fundraising clinics to assist in the team's

springtime Disney trip. He noted that previous fees to use the gym were between \$40 and \$50. He received a bill from the Lebanon School system for custodian services for those 2 days in the amount of \$404.08. He is bringing this rise in cost to the Board's attention, as well as highlighting the need (and difficulty during Covid) in finding positive recreational outlets for kids. He fears increased costs will make it more difficult to keep local recreation organizations viable. He lastly discussed the topic of facilities oversight and preventative maintenance, citing the middle school scoreboard, which has not worked all year. He noted the importance of regular upkeep of district assets as a cost-saving measure.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of minutes
 1. Finance Subcommittee Meeting – 02/08/2022
 2. LBOE Regular Meeting – 02/08/2022
 3. Finance Subcommittee Meeting – 02/15/2022
 4. LBOE Special Meeting – 02/24/2022
 5. Budget Transfers

Motion by J. Konow and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to approve the consent agenda. D. Person noted an inconsistency in the Finance Subcommittee minutes of 02/15/2022, with starting times of both 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. referenced in the minutes. The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. **J. Konow amended his motion, seconded by N. McGillicuddy, to approve the consent agenda with the correction on the time of the Finance Subcommittee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Student Representative's Report – R. Springer reported. She met with both LES and LMS students this month.

Elementary students are learning about fractions, factors, and different states and countries. They recently had a mindfulness and stress relief assembly, and are excited to perform at Evening with the Arts. They are also excited for field trips, which are able to be organized now. At the middle school, students are learning about volcanic eruptions, Mt. Everest, and decimals. They are excited for Evening with the Arts as well. LMS Drama is going well, and Gardening Club has been a fun addition. LMHS winter sports have wrapped up, and Boys' and Girls' Tennis is beginning. The musical is going along very well. Spirit week is currently happening, with yesterday's Marvel Monday and today's Tropical Tuesday.

N. McGillicuddy also highlighted two upcoming events in support of Lebanon schools. On March 27th, there will be a breakfast at the safety complex, with proceeds supporting the 4th grade celebration at LES. The second is a 5k, held on May 1st at the Town Green. She is looking for a lot of participation, and hopes to have the assistance of LMHS students, noting their need for community service participation.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Enrollment – B. Calef stated they met tonight (03/08/2022), noting Lisbon's acceptance of Lyman as their school of choice. He noted upcoming presentations to other schools, as Lebanon seeks to raise enrollment.
- B. Finance – M. Smith stated there was nothing to report since their last meeting, but noted the BoE's special meeting (held on 02/24/2022) and the upcoming meeting with the BoF (03/10/2022) as the budget moves forward
- C. Facilities – N. McGillicuddy stated they met this evening and discussed the following items
 1. Snow and ice removal contract – the decision was made to go out to bid for a contract for next year
 2. Door installation update – K. French reported to the subcommittee that the door replacement project at the 66/1st grade wing of LES has been completed. At LMS, all designated doors have been replaced, and new kickplates are currently being installed.
 3. Fire marshal – A recent survey by the fire marshal resulted in several items for replacement/repair, including leaky doors, a window, and a crash door exit in the greenhouse, with \$3,300 from the operating budget allotted to address those issues.
 4. Catch basins – the job was awarded to Pond View, in the amount of \$10,900. Work will begin as soon as possible, weather permitting.
 5. Baseball seating at LMHS – the retaining wall is less than 50% completed. The bleachers and fencing have been ordered. The goal is to have the project completed before the start of baseball season, but it will be close. This project is also weather-dependent.
 6. LES ventilation – a grant recently put forward by the governor may help with expenses related to this project, with more details to follow

- D. Policy – M. McCall noted several policies up for second readings this evening, and stated they will be meeting next Tuesday (03/15/2022)
- E. Negotiations – A. Margerelli-Hussey stated they did not meet
- F. Superintendent’s Evaluation – J. Konow stated they did not meet
- G. Curriculum – D. Person stated they met tonight and heard a presentation on the iReady math curriculum for K-8 from Lebanon educators as well as a representative from iReady. She noted there were three programs initially considered, with iReady and Illustrative Math ultimately being piloted. After much discussion and analysis, iReady is the program of choice. She stated ESSER III funding will cover the first two years of the program. N. McGillicuddy noted her positive experiences with iReady in Middletown, and is excited to see it introduced in Lebanon schools.
- H. Safety & Security – D. Whitcher stated there was nothing to report
- I. Governance – S. Haynes noted the upcoming budget presentation to the BoF

VIII. Administrators’ Reports

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

1. J. Apicelli (LMHS Principal) shared a copy of *Spine Chillers 2021*, which features the writing of eight Lyman students. S. McCarthy also highlighted the upcoming Evening with the Arts.
2. R. Quiles-Glover (Director of Curriculum and Instruction) noted that Lebanon has been awarded additional preschool support through the OEC (Office of Early Childhood), which will include free professional development for LES administrators and educators.
3. J. Dulac (Director of Information Technology) introduced Austin Dion, the district’s newest IT Technician. He also updated the BoE on the status of the WiFi access point project. All materials have arrived. Installation will be completed by J. Dulac and staff, rather than by a contractor, at an estimated savings of \$5,400 to the district. Installation is currently underway.
4. J. Scorso (LES Principal) noted that kindergarten registration is ongoing this week, with orientation scheduled for May. Students are excited to be eating in the cafeteria again.

IX. Superintendent’s Report – A. Gonzalez reported.

1. Enrollment - Enrollment report (as of 03/03/22) was included in the board packet. Total district enrollment is 963 (LES – 358; LMS – 274; LMHS – 331), which is the highest it has been all year.
2. COVID-19 Update – There has been one confirmed case at LMHS, and one at LES. He noted that although masks are now optional, he supports those students and staffers who are continuing to mask, stating that he appreciates the Lebanon community’s efforts to take care of each other and minimize exposure, while being respectful of others’ choices.
3. Mid-Year Data Presentation – R. Quiles-Glover reported, along with school administrators. Data from fall assessments was compared to results of recent winter assessments. This data is used to drive instruction, as well as factoring in to grants (particularly ESSER in recent years). It is also a benchmark in assessing school, district, and BoE goals, particularly in promoting academic achievement and enhancement. Students were assessed in the areas of math and reading. Overall trends in each area, at each school, are summarized below.
 1. **LES** – J. Scorso and S. DeLucia reported. It was noted that kindergarteners are not assessed on reading in the fall. Additionally, some students take the NWEA assessment in math, while others take iReady. LES saw some increases and some decreases, with the decreases primarily attributed to higher absence rates (due to Covid) coinciding with the assessment period in January. The BAS (Benchmark Assessment System) is used to assess students’ reading level. Currently, 86% of kindergarteners are at or above grade level in reading. First grade has 52% at or above grade level, an improvement from 37% in the fall. Second and third grade also saw increases in reading, while fourth grade saw a slight decrease. J. Scorso noted a decrease in students requiring Tier 3 intervention as compared to the fall. S. DeLucia also highlighted the performance of those students using the iReady math assessment, with 25% of those participating achieving a year’s worth of academic growth since the fall assessment.
 2. **LMS** – R. Laskarzewski and E. Strong reported. LMS saw gains in nearly every area and every grade level, with all grade levels achieving growth in one or both areas. Highlights include fifth grade math, which rose from 28% to 61% at or above grade level. 50% of LMS students are at or above grade level in both reading and math. iReady has been very useful in providing targeted instruction. All grades saw gains in math. Grades 5, 7, and 8 saw gains in reading. E. Strong noted that LMS also saw

high growth among students using the iReady program, with 50% of those participating achieving a year's growth by mid-year.

3. **LMHS** – J. Apicelli and S. McCarthy reported, noting a slight drop off for 9th graders in both areas. Winter assessments were conducted immediately following exams, which J. Apicelli noted may have contributed to 9th grade decreases, as those students were taking exams for the first time. 10th grade saw improvement from fall to winter. 80 of 83 10th grade students and 70 of 73 11th grade students took the PSAT; LMHS 10th graders averaged two points below the state average score, with the 11th graders scoring four points above the state average for that grade level. S. McCarthy highlighted recent academic support enhancements, including an additional math lab and support study hall interventionist.

X. Facilities Report – The facilities tracking list was included in the board packet. A. Gonzalez noted one correction, with the district-wide door replacement project being in progress. He highlighted the fact that all BoE-approved projects are either in progress or completed.

XI. Finance Report – V. Belles reported. The monthly budget report was included in the board packet, with the following highlights.

1. There is currently (as of February 2022) 31.82% of the budget remaining; in February of 2021, there was 29% remaining.
2. The district received \$148,688 in Excess Cost Reimbursement and Medicaid reimbursements recorded.
3. A Purchase Order (PO) under the 510 Pupil Transportation group has been corrected to reflect actual expenses.

A. Margerelli-Hussey stated her appreciation for the historical data provided in the budget reports, saying she finds it extremely helpful. N. McGillicuddy asked when the earliest is the district can lock into fuel prices. V. Belles replied there is no deadline, and it can be done at any time. She noted the volatility of the market currently, with prices fluctuating between \$0.40 and \$0.50, as well as the fact that this is a town contract. Discussions are ongoing, sometimes on a weekly basis, as fuel prices change. V. Belles also noted one correction to the non-lapsing balance sheet, with the baseball seating project in progress.

XII. Action Items

1. **Act on 2022 Graduation Date**
Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by J. Konow to make June 17th, 2022 the graduation date for Lyman. D. Person asked about dates for LES and LMS graduations. A. Gonzalez said planning for those events typically begins once the high school graduation date is set. **The motion passed unanimously.**
2. **Act on Second Reading, Update – Policy #9010 – Public Meetings and Executive Session**
3. **Act on Second Reading, Update – Policy #9011 – Meeting Conduct**
4. **Act on Second Reading, New – Policy #1012 – Communications**
Motion by M. McCall and seconded by J. Konow to approve action items 2, 3, and 4. B. Calef asked for clarification within Policy #9011 – Meeting Conduct, specifically references to smoking at meetings. A. Gonzalez referenced the policy, which states that smoking of any kind is not permitted in any room in which a board meeting is being conducted. **The motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Act on Second Reading, Delete – Policy #1000 – Community Relations and Communications**
6. **Act on Second Reading, Delete – Policy #1100.2 – Communications with the Public**
7. **Act on Second Reading, Delete – Policy #6146.3 – Graduation Exercises**
Motion by M. McCall and seconded by D. Person to approve the Second Reading, Deletions of policies #1000, #1100.2, and #6146.3. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Act on Capital Budget Requests**
Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by J. Konow to approve capital budget requests of \$141,000.00 for IT/Technology, \$62,500.00 for athletics, and \$305,000.00 for facilities for 2022-2023. M. Smith asked if these numbers are set, once approved. S. Haynes stated yes. D. Person noted items listed at \$600,000.00, asking if that number was correct. A. Gonzalez stated those items are part of a five-year plan, with the \$600,000.00 number reflecting the overall expense, not just the yearly expenditure, which is \$62,500.00 for fiscal year 2022-2023. Tonight's vote is only for that amount, for FY 22-23. It was clarified that the budget items voted on tonight are in addition to the budget previously voted on by the BoE. D. Whitcher noted that these are separate requests, not something added on top of the existing, previously

submitted budget request. M. Smith stated he still has concerns pertaining to some items in the budget, including the maintenance truck. D. Whitcher, J. Konow, A. Margerelli-Hussey, S. Haynes, M. McCall, N. McGillicuddy, and B. Calef voted in favor. D. Person and M. Smith voted against. **The motion passed.**

XIII. Items for Next Agenda

N. McGillicuddy asked about setting the calendar for next year. S. Haynes stated the BoE did so in November.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Sarah Haynes adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Walcott (Board Clerk)