

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
APRIL 12, 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
Bruce Calef

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Gonzalez (Superintendent), Jessica Scorso (LES Principal), James Apicelli (LMHS Principal), Rita Quiles-Glover (Director of Curriculum and Instruction), Kevin French (Supervisor of Facilities and Custodial Services), Valerie Belles (Business Manager), Dawn DeLia (Director of Pupil Services), Jacques Dulac (IT Director)

REMOTE ATTENDEES: Samantha McCarthy (LMHS Asst Principal)

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. **LMS Connections Community Service Students** – Superintendent A. Gonzalez recognized the following middle school students, who prepared a meal for the Covenant Soup Kitchen with donated goods from local organizations and businesses
 1. Cody Heath
 2. Nevaeh Hancock
 3. Ava Hartley
 4. Delani Sanchez
 5. Chase Stevenson
2. **LES Invention Convention Students** – A. Gonzalez recognized the following group of LES inventors, who will be moving on to the state level of the Connecticut Invention Convention. The BoE was then treated to presentations from the young inventors.
 1. Kai Raymond (Clean Clean Tooth Machine)
 2. Jai Polineni (Lego Vacuum)
 3. Mila McGuire (Stuffy Treehouse)
 4. Lillian Huntington (Covers Off No More)
 5. Tanner DeLucia (Earth Saver Opener)
 6. Liam Charron (Trash Time Trailer)

III. Communication

1. **Letter of Retirement** – A. Gonzalez shared a letter of retirement from Denise Dube (LES Instructional Assistant), who will be retiring at the end of the school year
2. **Letters of Resignation** – A. Gonzalez shared the following letters of resignation
 1. Jordann Turco (LMHS Math Teacher)
 2. Ashley Morse (LMS Social Studies Teacher)

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

1. Jeannette Picard (LMS Teacher and co-president of Lebanon Education Association) thanked the Board for their tireless effort in putting together a budget for next year. She noted there have been setbacks in the budget process, but she knows the Board is working to provide Lebanon students and educators with the resources they need to succeed, and it is much appreciated.
2. Jami Morek - thanked the Board for fighting for Lebanon students throughout the budget process, calling it “the most well put-together, comprehensive, well-explained budget that we’ve seen in a number of years.” She also noted the amount of time and effort put in by Board members in preparing the budget proposal. She then voiced her disappointment in the comments made by some BoE members at the Board of Finance (BoF) Public Hearing held on 04/11/2022. She stated that test scores are what some people think determines “what our kids are,” noting that test scores are not discussed in Lebanon’s Portrait of a Graduate. She said some of the comments she heard were very disappointing, but she greatly appreciates the hard work of those BoE members who are fighting for Lebanon’s students. She then wondered if other BoE members were in the right position, because “it doesn’t feel like it, from a parent’s point of view.” She also noted a lack of support staff, stating that addressing those concerns in the budget may improve scores. She finished by thanking the Board again, and offering her support as a parent, stating that the budget process is an uphill battle made more difficult when parties aren’t united.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of minutes
 1. Enrollment Subcommittee Meeting – 03/08/2022
 2. Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 03/08/2022
 3. Facilities Subcommittee Meeting – 03/08/2022
 4. LBOE Regular Meeting – 03/08/2022
 5. Policy Subcommittee Meeting – 03/15/2022
 6. 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 – no report this month

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Facilities – N. McGillicuddy reported they met tonight (04/12/2022) and discussed the following items:
 1. LES Ventilation – a meeting between the BoF and Board of Selectmen (BoS) Long Term Planning Committee will be scheduled, as well as looking into a state grant which provides funds for infrastructure repairs in schools. She also noted a new federal-level grant providing similar resources, which will be explored.
 2. LMHS Baseball project – The platform and fence are both up; arrival and installation of the bleachers is projected for early May. Five parking spots for those handicapped will also be added.
 3. LMS Gym – insulation around some of the metal piping has deteriorated; replacement options, including vinyl, are being explored.
 4. Door replacement at LES and LMS – all doors have been installed, with a few smaller parts still to come in. The fire marshal’s inspection will take place soon. All work should be completed by April 21st.
 5. Tennis courts – Although the pavement was replaced two years ago, cracks have appeared. K. French will consult with the contractor who performed the work to see if costs can be adjusted. Currently the courts are not safe to play on, so the Lyman team is playing away games.
- B. Curriculum – D. Person reported they met this evening (04/12/2022) and heard an update from Rita Quiles-Glover (Director of Curriculum and Instruction) regarding testing, as well as iReady professional development (beginning in June), which will include the option for online or in-person training. Additional training will take place in August, October, and February, all of which is included in the iReady package. Online SATs were administered on March 23rd, and NGSS and SBAC testing is upcoming. The committee also discussed the ion platform, which organizes and

streamlines student data (both academic and behavioral). The district has received a Readiness grant in the amount of \$108,000, which will fund one pre-K teacher and 24 students, as well as a partial Instructional Assistant salary. A quality enhancement grant for \$3,381 was also received. The subcommittee also heard a presentation from Mr. Apicelli and Ms. Fryer regarding the Senior Project Pathways at LMHS, which will be worth one credit for seniors. N. McGillicuddy asked if the two grants previously mentioned are for just one year; they are, with the district applying for the Readiness grant each year since 2008. She then asked if the district would be adding another pre-K teacher; they will not, as the existing position is already funded via this grant.

- C. Superintendent's Evaluation – J. Konow reported that they did not meet this month, but the evaluation process has begun. He sent an email to BoE members seeking their input, and a meeting is tentatively scheduled for 04/26/2022 at 6:30pm in the LMS conference room.
- D. Negotiations – A. Margerelli-Hussey stated there was no report
- E. Policy – M. McCall stated they have not met, but have several items to discuss at the next subcommittee meeting
- F. Safety & Security – D. Whitcher stated there was no report
- G. Enrollment – B. Calef stated they have not met
- H. Governance – S. Haynes reported on budget proceedings, stating that at the Public Hearing on 04/11/2022, the BoF presented their budget. The budget approved and presented by the BoE and superintendent was a 3.92% increase over last year's; the BoE budget presented by the BoF was a 1.13% increase. Communication between the BoE/Superintendent Gonzalez and the BoF is ongoing, in the run-up to the Town Meeting, scheduled for 05/02/2022, when the budget will be voted upon.

VIII. Administrators' Reports

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

- 1. LES – J. Scorso reported that preparations for Smarter Balance testing have begun
- 2. District (Curriculum & Instruction) – R. Quiles-Glover noted that visits to the lower schools by high school students has been popular among the younger learners. N. McGillicuddy asked if NWEA testing had already occurred; 3rd and 4th graders have completed theirs, but testing of the lower grades will be conducted in May.
- 3. District (IT/Technology) – J. Dulac noted the success of online administration of the SATs.

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

- 1. Enrollment - Enrollment report (as of 04/07/22) was included in the board packet. Total district enrollment is 961 (LES – 356; LMS – 273; LMHS – 332).
- 2. NESDEC Spring Enrollment – The enrollment report has not changed much since the fall, with NESDEC noting that the pandemic continues to make enrollment projections difficult. The most recent projection puts enrollment increases at 14 students in grades K-4, and 4 students in grades 5-8 over the next 3 years.
- 3. COVID-19 Update – There has been a slight increase in Covid incidences, but generally speaking the transition from masks-required to mask-welcoming has been smooth and without issue. A. Gonzalez thanked the public and school community for their continued efforts to stop the spread of Covid.
- 4. Sprague Transportation – The BoE received communication from Sprague school administrators informing Lebanon that Sprague will no longer provide transportation for students attending LMHS as a Choice school (Ag students will still receive transportation, as mandated by law). Discussions between Lebanon and Sprague officials are ongoing, as the district attempts to maintain transportation for Sprague students choosing to attend LMHS.

X. Facilities Report – K. French reported. The facilities tracking list was included in this month's board packet, with the following highlights:

- 1. \$13,304.67 was paid towards the district-wide door and hardware replacement project
- 2. \$2,488 was paid towards the electrical upgrade project

K. French stated he is beginning a list of projects to be completed during spring vacation. S. Haynes requested a similar list of projects slated for summer break, to be presented to the BoE at their next regular meeting. N. McGillicuddy stated she would add that item to the Facilities subcommittee agenda as well.

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

Heating/energy expenses are likely to go over budget, as the district has already purchased all fuel previously contracted; additional oil purchases will be made at market price for the remainder of the year. This is not a new practice, however recent (significant) fluctuations in fuel prices may make it more expensive than in years past. She also noted these issues when discussions for next year's fuel contracts/purchases occur. She is hoping the district can avoid costly additional fuel purchases, while also avoiding purchasing too much fuel, requiring it to be sold back to the vendor. She also noted the district is working to obtain reimbursements in the Technology capital account relating to system award management. Regarding next year's proposed budget, S. Haynes noted that the capital request increases submitted by the BoE in the areas of Tech, Athletics, and School Improvement were not reflected in the BoF proposal, with the amounts allotted for those areas remaining at current levels. She also stated the importance of holding a Finance subcommittee meeting to discuss the implications of the proposed 1.13% increase in the budget.

XII. Action Items

1. Act on Letter of Retirement

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

2. Act on Letters of Resignation

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

3. Act on compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for the 2022-2023 school year

V. Belles provided background to the BoE regarding this program, which requires schools to be healthy food certified in order to receive funding for the national school lunch program. Tonight's action item involves identifying the requirements of this program, and moving forward in continuing to meet the Connecticut nutrition standards and remaining healthy food certified. The language required by the state in official BoE motions and minutes is very specific, and V. Belles recommends the Board use option #2, using the exact language provided by the State. Two separate votes will be required; the first concerns the district's intent to participate in this healthy food option, while the second determines if the district will allow food and beverage exceptions. The exemptions would allow the district to sell additional items that would not normally be reimbursable under the healthy food certification.

Motion by J. Konow and seconded by M. McCall that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Act on exclusion of selected foods from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and selected beverages from Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes for the 2022-2023 school year

Motion by M. McCall and seconded by J. Konow that the board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. The motion passed unanimously.

On a related food-services note, V. Belles informed the BoE that the state requires the district to go out for a request for proposal, and that possible vendors are being researched as the district seeks to select a vendor for the next 5 years. S. Haynes then asked if school lunches would be paid for next year; V. Belles replied that she wasn’t sure yet, but she didn’t believe that would be the case. Currently a waiver exists that has allowed Lebanon to receive school lunch assistance during the summer, but she believes that waiver is likely to be withdrawn, though no official state determination has been made yet.

XIII. Anticipated Executive Session

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by A. Margerelli-Hussey to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing non-renewal of non-tenured teachers and inviting the superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting entered Executive Session at 8:34 PM.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 8:51 PM.

XIV. Action Item

Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Gonzalez, motion by Alexis Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by John Konow that the contract of employment of 4th grade teacher Devon Allegro, 5th grade Jillian Yaun and 6th grade teacher Jennifer Wales not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the Superintendent is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action due to the loss of positions due to potential budget cuts. The motion passed unanimously.

Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Gonzalez, motion by Alexis Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by John Konow that the contract of employment of Kenneth Ochs not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the Superintendent is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action". The motion passed unanimously.

XV. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Policy updates
- Executive Session for the final draft of Superintendent Gonzalez’s evaluation.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Walcott (Board Clerk)