

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2019 - 7:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: William Meese, Chair	Sarah Haynes, Vice-Chair
Maureen McCall, Secretary	Mark DeCaprio
John Konow	Alexis Margerelli-Hussey
Nicole McGillicuddy	Matthew Smith
Dawn Whitcher	AniRose Johnson, Student Representative

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Robert Angeli, Kathleen Mozak-Pezza, Curriculum Director, Robert Laskarzewski, Principal, Robert Sirpenski, Business Manager, Cheryl Biekert, Director Pupil Services, Jacques Dulac, IT Director, Kevin French, Facilities Director, Trooper Colin Konow, SRO Kevin Slonski and Kevin Cwikla, First Selectman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman B. Meese called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. COMMUNICATION

1. Letter of Resignation
Superintendent Angeli read a letter of resignation from Laura Gerber, School Counselor who has been offered a job as School Counselor for the State of Connecticut Technical High School System. Her last day will be January 16th, 2020.
2. Donation Letter
Superintendent Angeli read a letter from Rachael Archer of the LES PTA. They are making a donation of a new \$949.00 12.9" iPad Pro with a \$129.00 service plan for a total of \$1,078.00 to replace an old iPad. Superintendent Angeli has accepted the donation with thanks.

III. INTRODUCTION

Kevin Slonski, the new SRO who began on December 2nd was introduced by Trooper Konow. Officer Slonski has a varied background having been a teacher and a forest ranger prior to serving as a state trooper.

IV. RECOGNITION

1. CAPSS Superintendent Award Recipients
Superintendent Angeli introduced the students receiving awards. Madeline Archer and Benjamin D'Aloisio were the recipients of the 8th grade awards. While neither student was on hand to accept their

awards due to illness/athletics, Superintendent Angeli read the lengthy lists of all of the activities these outstanding young people are involved in. For the 12th grade, Christina Clouser and Jacob Michele were on hand to be recognized. Their lists of school and outside activities were also extensive and quite impressive.

2. Paraprofessional and Teachers of the Year

Samantha McCarthy announced the teachers of the year. LES-Erin Shuman, LMS-John Klosowski and LMHS-Kyo Narita were the three recipients. Cheryl Biekert introduced Anne Angelastro, the winner of paraprofessional of the year.

The Board took the opportunity to congratulate the guests and at 8:00, the meeting was called back to order.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – BYLAWS OF THE BOARD #9324

Public participation – 30 minutes; Individual speaker – 2 minutes

Robert Laskarzewski made the Board aware of his disappointment in the many cuts that have occurred over the last 14 years in various staff positions. Mr. Laskarzewski's wish is that the Board of Finance and Board of Education could somehow find a way to work together better to fully fund the school district without having to make cuts to the programs.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee Meeting – 11/19/2019
2. LBOE Regular Meeting – 11/19/2019
3. Budget Transfers

Motion made by M. Smith and seconded by J. Konow to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Governance – Bill distributed a handout outlining the six major items that the new Governance subcommittee will be involved in. These include reviewing the BOE annual plan, supervising workflows from subcommittees to and from the Board, creating the monthly agenda, tracking activities against the annual plan, holding an annual retreat and Board PD/New Member Orientation. The training will be done with the full board and the attorney and held probably in late January. Bill noted that subcommittees were realigned to hopefully make work more manageable. The Lebanon Planning and Zoning Commission is looking for board members to attend a meeting on either January 18th or 21st where they will be discussing the new Town of Lebanon's Plan of Conservation and Development. Nicole, Dawn and Bill will attend. Matt also volunteered.
- Policy – Nothing pressing so will be meeting after the first of the year to forge ahead.
- Safety/Security – Met last Friday and discussed radios, Raptors, etc. There will be a walk-through on December 19th for camera upgrades to all three

schools for the bidders. Other safety issues were discussed in executive session.

- EASTCONN – Matt could not make the last EASTCONN meeting but has plans to meet with the executive director to learn more about the organization.
- Negotiations – Nothing to report. Secretaries and Paraprofessionals contracts will come due in late winter/early spring.
- Superintendent's Evaluation – It is time for the mid-year review and John would like board member comments by the first week of January to be ready for the regular January board meeting. John will send board members the document with Superintendent Angeli's goals.
- Curriculum/Strategic Plan – This evening the committee was presented an action plan with measureable outcomes for ELA improvement. An update on Math will be ready in June and for ELA in July. In January, school plans for all three schools with curriculum overview will be ready. New course proposals were presented and will be acted upon under Action Items.
- Enrollment/Communications/Goals – The committee met briefly tonight and will meet again in January.
- Finance/Facilities – The current budget is expected to end in deficit due to reduced Title I grant money and unexpected special education costs. The superintendent will evaluate a soft freeze in January. A summary of budget drivers, based on department wish lists for the school year 2020-2021, was presented. This first pass is by the principals and Central Office. There will be staff input sessions and public input will be held on January 15th. Capital requests are due by January 9th so this committee will meet next week.

VII. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

These were included in the Board packets.

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

AniRose gave her report. Sally Rogers visited the Kindergarten on November 26th and there was a visit from the Niantic Children's Museum on December 2nd and 9th exploring "Explosions of Color". On the 6th, an assembly was held focusing on Mindfulness, Laughter & Joy. The 4th grade concert will be held on the 11th, the 1st grade class will be going to see the Nutcracker on the 13th and a pajama day will be held on the 13th as well to support the CT Children's Hospital.

LMS held pajama day on November 27th to raise money for the town's fuel bank, basketball tryouts for boys and girls were held on the 3rd, 7th and 8th grade drama auditions were held on December 4th and 5th and 6th grade drama auditions were held on the 5th. Their Winter Concert will be held on the 12th, another pajama day will be held on the 13th, this time to support CT Children's Hospital and there will be an Honor Roll movie trip on the 17th.

Lyman held an open house on November 21st with a focus on the ASTE program, fourteen students were inducted into the National Honor Society on the 26th, a Pep Rally was held on the 27th recognizing not only the volleyball win but also the NHS inductees, the students who participated in drama

productions as well as those attending the Charter Oak Festival. On December 5th, the band and chorus held their joint Winter Concert, on the 6th and 7th there was the Model UN trip and on December 9th, PSAT scores were announced.

IX. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. Enrollment - Remains flat losing two in the high school and gaining one at each of the other locations.
2. 6th Grade Culture and Climate - Superintendent Angeli noted that this issue is not being ignored. There are challenges in making quick changes and last year as 5th graders, the class was great. A meeting was held with the parents and the 6th grade team including the principal, counselor, etc. The parents were reminded of state statutes regarding behavior as well as board policies and strategies. Besides the traditional detentions and suspensions, restorative practices are being implemented to get children to understand the impact of their behavior on others and themselves. Counselors and social workers in all schools are working with the youth one on one and in groups in this endeavor. There has been a reduction in incidents referred to the office between September and October and staff is continuing PD for restorative practices. Nicole asked if it could be that there were less referrals but not less issues to report as the teachers might be washing their hands of the situation and she suggested that perhaps a recess every day could be instituted to help relieve some of the tension.
3. Traffic - Superintendent Angeli has contacted Kevin Grindle of Anchor Engineering who is working on plans but has not yet submitted those. He is waiting for the right weather to get a good drone picture. A second sign at Lyman closer to the entrance will be installed. This could be a larger sign with directional layout included.
4. Exit Interviews – Superintendent Angeli has solicited information from the superintendent group but few have shared. Any information we receive from those leaving or opting to attend other schools (students), other jobs (teachers, etc.) or even students moving from LES to LMS to Lyman would be helpful in learning what we need to do better and what we already do well.
5. Composting Cafeteria Waste – Currently a district employee is using the food waste to feed livestock.
6. Engineering Study of School Entrances – Preliminary studies have been commissioned and are still in the works.

7. School Calendar re: Conferences – At last month’s meeting, there was much discussion concerning giving more time for parent/teacher conferences and professional development. Superintendent Angeli reported that they are looking at the issue and have nothing to report to the Board at this time.

X. FINANCE REPORT

1. 2019-2020 Budget

We will be in a deficit again this year and the Board of Finance is already aware of this. While Title I grant money has been reduced and there were unexpected special education costs, there was a decrease of about \$45,000 to magnet school tuition which helps the budget.

V. 2020-2021 Budget

The initial draft summary is 6.12% over the current year’s budget or a \$1.2 million increase. R. Sirpenski noted that forecasted flat budget items could go up or down. This is obviously not known at this time. As noted in the Finance/Facilities subcommittee minutes, more work will be done with staff and public input.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

1. Act on Letter of Resignation

Motion made by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to accept the resignation with regrets. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Act on new courses at LMHS

Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded S. Haynes to endorse the new courses as presented. The motion passed with N. McGillicuddy, D. Whitcher, M. McCall, S. Haynes, J. Konow, A. Margerelli-Hussey and M. DeCaprio voted for and M. Smith abstaining.

3. Act on Capital Requests – B. Meese postponed these to another meeting.

XII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Annual School Calendar – school year 2020-2021

Exit interviews

Superintendent’s 6-month review

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen D. McCall, Secretary.