

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
NOVEMBER 15, 2022 - 7:30 PM
MINUTES**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Haynes (Chair)	John Konow (Remote)
Alexis Margerelli-Hussey (Vice-Chair)	Nicole McGillicuddy
Maureen McCall (Secretary) (Remote)	Brian Green
Dawn Whitcher	Bruce Calef
Danelle Person	Alexis Zimnoch (Student Representative)

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Gonzalez (Superintendent), James Apicelli (LMHS Principal), Samantha McCarthy (LMHS Assistant Principal), Jessica Scorso (LES Principal), Valerie Belles (Business Manager), Dawn DeLia (Director of Pupil Services), Rita Quiles-Glover (Curriculum Director)

REMOTE ATTENDEES: Kevin French (Supervisor of Facilities and Custodial Services)

I. Call to Order

Chair Sarah Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Recognition – A. Gonzalez recognized LMHS students Laurelin Boyer, Rowan LaFleur, and Ella Allen for designing and presenting a marketing study on equine grooming at FFA Nationals.

III. Board Reorganization

A. Election of BoE Officers

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to nominate Sarah Haynes as Board of Education Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by J. Konow and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to nominate Alexis Margerelli-Hussey as Board of Education Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by D. Person to nominate Maureen McCall as Board of Education Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Subcommittees - S. Haynes requested BoE members submit their subcommittee assignment input forms as soon as possible.

IV. Communication – A. Gonzalez shared the following letters of resignation:

1. Komi Adzimawo (LMHS French Teacher)

2. Fran Fox (Dept of Pupil Services Administrative Assistant)

V. Public Participation (Bylaws of the Board #9011)

None.

VI. Consent Agenda

Motion by D. Person and seconded by D. Whitcher to amend the consent agenda to include the Curriculum subcommittee meeting minutes of 11/09/2022. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of minutes

1. Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 10/11/2022
2. LBoE Regular Meeting – 10/11/2022
3. Enrollment Subcommittee Meeting – 10/25/2022
4. Policy Subcommittee Meeting – 10/27/2022
5. Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting – 10/27/2022
6. LBoE Special Meeting – 10/27/2022
7. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting – 11/01/2022
8. Budget Transfers
9. Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 11/09/2022

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by B. Green to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Student Representative's Report – A. Zimnoch reported. LES students were visited by therapy dog Willow, earned a "Crazy Hair" school Spirit Day, and have several upcoming field trips. LMS students received first term report cards, with many new students earning first and second honors. Winter sports begin on November 28th. The first dance will be held on December 2nd. The winter band/chorus concert is December 16th. At LMHS, fall sports have ended, with the cross-country team making it to states. Girls' volleyball won the ECC Championships. Girls' soccer is playing in the semifinals this weekend. Seven new members were inducted into the Tri-M music honor society.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Safety & Security – D. Whitcher reported they met and heard a presentation from Eastern DataComm regarding the use of technology in school safety. Per A. Gonzalez, a free audit of existing technology is scheduled for December 7th.

B. Curriculum – D. Person noted they met 11/9 and discussed the following items:

A. 3 New Courses – AP Precalculus, AP Environmental Science, and Media Literacy

B. SRO – School Resource Officer Kevin Slonski briefed the subcommittee on his role and efforts within Lebanon Schools.

C. Textbook Approval – Text for the new Sports and Nutrition course (*Sports Nutrition for Young Adults*) has been on display in the library for the past month and is scheduled to be voted upon this evening, with the subcommittee's recommendation for approval.

- D. Assessments** – NWEA assessments for 9th and 10th graders were discussed, as well as possibly transitioning upper grades to this assessment.
- E. Grant Updates** – staffing issues at state offices have caused delays in the grant process.
- F. PreK-3 Reading Programs** – the state has added an additional eligible reading program to the approved list. A. Gonzalez will provide further updates.
- G. K-3 State Legislated Assessments** – new, mandated assessments are projected to cost about \$4,000, which could potentially be covered by a grant. Administrators will review and possibly eliminate some currently used assessments, as there are already several conducted in the younger grades.
- C. Superintendent's Evaluation** – J. Konow stated work on the informal mid-year evaluation will begin in January.
- D. Negotiations** – A. Margerelli-Hussey reported negotiations are busy and ongoing, with the next meeting scheduled in December.
- E. Policy** – M. McCall noted several scheduled first readings for tonight's meeting. S. Haynes requested the committee review the existing policy regarding movies and videos, and, if there is none, researching Shipman's recommendation.
- F. Finance/Facilities** – N. McGillicuddy reported they met on 11/1 and discussed the following items; minutes were included in the board packet.
 - A. ASTE Barn** – Electrical, plumbing, and garage door installation are next. All money must be spent by 11/30/2022.
 - B. Capital List** – The five top-priority items from the improvement list were reviewed.
 - C. 2023-2024 Budget** – Meetings with administrators have begun. A. Gonzalez will hold a staff and public input session on December 15th at 2:30 p.m. The next subcommittee meeting is 12/20.
- G. Enrollment** – B. Calef reported they met on 10/25 and discussed the following items; minutes were included in the board packet.
 - A. Lisbon Visit** – 8th grade students from Lisbon visited LMHS for a presentation and tour.
 - B. Sending School Outreach** – A. Gonzalez has reached out to superintendents in Columbia and Windham.
 - C. Recruiting Efforts** – School visits to surrounding district middle schools are ongoing, as well as personalized tours. The possibility of advertising on Facebook and other social media platforms will be explored. N. McGillicuddy asked about outreach to Canterbury; S. Haynes will follow up.
- IX. Administrator's Reports** – Full written administrator's reports are included in the board packet, with the following updates provided during the meeting.
 - A. LMHS** – J. Apicelli and S. McCarthy reviewed their outreach and advertising efforts regarding recruiting. Visits to and from sending towns are ongoing. 8th grade Open House is December 1st at 6 p.m. 33 families attended the recent Ag Open House.
 - B. LES** – J. Scorso reported that conferences were recently held, with a 94% participation rate. Veteran's Day celebrations were held on Thursday. i-Ready math implementation has begun. DESSA screening for SEL has concluded.

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

- A. Enrollment** – District enrollment is 955, the same as last month.
- B. NESDEC Enrollment Report** – A. Gonzalez noted Lebanon's first positive enrollment change since 2013-2014.
- C. COVID Update** – As of 11/10, there have been 65 cases among students, and 23 among staff. The district is continuing to adhere to state recommendations, which have not changed lately.
- D. ASTE Barn** – Trenches for electrical and plumbing have been dug and backfilled, with the connections to be completed at a later date.
- E. CT Approved K-3 Reading Programs** – Following outcry from administrators and districts, the state has added eligible reading programs, and is possibly reviewing the initial criteria. A. Gonzalez reiterated that he has already applied for a one-year waiver.
- F. Grants** – The district missed out on applying for the previously discussed HVAC grant, due in part to the extremely stringent application criteria. A. Gonzalez did not feel the deadline allowed enough time for adequate research and presentation at Town Meeting. He applied for the "CT Grown for CT Kids" grant today, which brings experiential learning to Lebanon schools. The district has requested roughly \$14,000, and hopes to expand it to grades K-4. The district will also be applying for a school-based mental health worker grant (deadline 11/17), which would fully fund the position for two years, and 70% in the third year. The BoE then discussed the state's HVAC grant, and the likelihood that the requirements might be revised in order to make the funds more accessible to districts. N. McGillicuddy asked about the district's plans going forward regarding ventilation updates at LES. S. Haynes stated estimates were established several years ago, but those numbers are out of date now. The process of establishing estimates and securing funding was discussed.

XI. Facilities Report – K. French reported. He will be inspecting two used scissor lifts, with the aim of purchasing one next week. One costs \$17,500, and the second is \$13,995. The difference is due to size and prior usage. Sullivan Paving is awaiting receipt of a deposit for asphalt work on the walkway near the bleachers. Work may have to wait until the spring, depending on weather. BoE members expressed concern that waiting may cause further erosion and issues. D. Whitcher asked if the seating and asphalt projects prevent the press box from being used this spring. K. French replied they do not. The press box is ready to go. B. Green noted discussions regarding a scissor lift were based upon a set of numbers that seem to have shifted, and stressed the importance of accurate numbers in determining the BoE's recommendations.

XII. Finance Report – V. Belles reported.

- A. 2022-2023 Budget** – Recent financial activity was included in the board packet. Additional updates include M & J Bussing providing monthly reports regarding missed runs, etc, and issuing credits as needed if the bussing contract requirements are not met. V. Belles also took advantage of a 1% discount by paying the bill in full. A. Gonzalez will check that the district is meeting its bussing policy requirements. V. Belles also provided updates regarding food services. Input from students and parents

is being sought, and food service committees are meeting again. Free meals provided by the Smart Funds grant are projected to last until mid-December.

- B. 2023-2024 Budget** – A. Gonzalez restated his scheduled budget input session on December 15th, with the initial budget presentation hopefully held in January.

XIII. New Business

1. First Reading, Update, Policy #4014 - Nepotism
2. First Reading, Update, Policy #5004 – School Meal Charging
3. First Reading, Update, Policy #5017 – Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes
4. First Reading, Update, Policy #5029 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students
5. First Reading, Update, Policy #5030 – Confidentiality and Access to Education Records
6. First Reading, Update, Policy #5031 – School Health Services
7. First Reading, Update, Policy #5032 – Chemical Health for Student Athletes
8. First Reading, Update, Policy #6003 – Field Trips
9. First Reading, New, Policy #6008 – Advanced Course or Program/Challenging Curriculum
10. First Reading, New, Policy #6009 – Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

XIV. Action Items

1. **Act on Letters of Resignation**

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by D. Person to approve the letters of resignation with regret. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Act on Out of State Field Trip for LMHS Baseball**

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by A. Margerelli-Hussey to approve the out-of-state field trip for LMHS Baseball. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Act on 2023-2024 School Calendar**

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to approve the 2023-2024 school calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Act on 2023 Meeting Dates** – The November 2023 meeting was originally scheduled on the 21st (the third Tuesday of the month), but the BoE revised that date to the 14th.

Motion by B. Green and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to approve the 2023 scheduled board meeting calendar with the amendment of November 14th, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Act on new textbook, *Sports Nutrition for Young Adults*, for Nutrition for Sport and Exercise course at LMHS**

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by D. Person to approve the new textbook *Sports Nutrition for Young Adults*. The motion passed unanimously.

- 6. Act on New Courses at LHMS**
 - 1. AP Precalculus**
 - 2. Media Literacy**
 - 3. AP Environmental Science**

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by D. Person to approve the new courses at LMHS. The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Anticipated Executive Session – tabled to next meeting.

XVI. Adjournment

S. Haynes adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Walcott (Board Clerk)