

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
DECEMBER 13, 2022 - 7:30 PM
MINUTES**

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Gonzalez (Superintendent), James Apicelli (LMHS Principal), Robert Laskarzewski (LMS Principal), Jessica Scorso (LES Principal), Jacques Dulac (IT Director), Valerie Belles (Business Manager), Rita Quiles-Glover (Curriculum 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 – A. Gonzalez recognized the following LMHS students:

A. FFA National Convention Participants

1. Farm Business and Management - Erin Grossmann, Sarah Cropley, Rebecca Risley, and Sadie Boothroyd, who won bronze.
2. Milk Quality – Taylor Ruitto, Laurelin Boyer, Rebecca Risley, and Brianna Doyle
3. Livestock – Isaac Cone, Nate Cone, Chris Sarnik, and Amelia Withington

B. Fall Sports All-State Athletes

1. Hazel DeLucia (Cross-Country)
2. Arianna Garcia & Cassidy LaTour (Volleyball)
3. Magda Carpenter (Girl's Soccer)

III. Communication – A. Gonzalez noted two letters from the Town of Lebanon and Social Services Office, thanking the 2nd grade staff and students for a generous donation to the Food Pantry following a food drive, as well as the high school class advisors, who facilitated the donation of 12 Lyman Orchard Pies to the Pantry.

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

Leah Comerowski (LMHS Student) spoke to the BoE regarding privileges for seniors at the high school. She would like to see expanded choices for students who have achieved the mandatory credit requirement to graduate, namely the option to have more than one study hall. Currently, many students end up taking courses they are uninterested in, or which are irrelevant to their college or career plans, simply because they are required to take something. She feels this time would be better spent studying topics related to future plans, or engaging in employment opportunities.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of minutes

- 1. Safety & Security Subcommittee Meeting – 11/10/2022**
- 2. Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting – 11/15/2022**
- 3. LBoE Regular Meeting – 11/15/2022**
- 4. Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 12/08/2022**
- 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 – L. Zimnoch reported. LES students are conducting a pajama drive, and the band and chorus concert was held tonight. Second graders will be taking a field trip to the CT Science Center December 16th. LMS Spirit Week was in late November, and a holiday-themed Spirit Week is planned for December 19th – 23rd. The middle school band and chorus concert is December 16th. 7th & 8th graders had an 80's themed dance last week. LMHS students saw a presentation of Looking In Theater from the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. Winter sports are underway. Casting for the spring musical (*Mamma Mia*) is complete, and rehearsals have begun. An Open House for LMS 8th graders was held on December 1st.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Safety & Security** – D. Whitcher stated there was no report.
- B. Curriculum** – D. Person reported they met last week, discussing the following items:
 - A. DESSA Results**
 - B. ECE (Early College Experience) and AP Courses**
 - C. Agriculture in Curriculum**
 - D. Updates on Grants and PD**
- C. Superintendent's Evaluation** – J. Konow will be seeking email input from the BoE for the upcoming mid-year evaluation.
- D. Negotiations** – A. Margerelli-Hussey stated they met tonight, with unaffiliated salary contracts scheduled as an action item. There is an anticipated executive session prior to the vote.
- E. Policy** – M. McCall noted they met, and highlighted several second readings for tonight.
- F. Facilities** – no report. N. McGillicuddy will chair the committee going forward.
- G. Enrollment** – N. McGillicuddy stated they had not met.
- H. Finance** – B. Green will chair this committee. He noted preliminary budget discussions are beginning.

VIII. Administrators' Reports – Full written administrators' reports were included in the board packet.

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

- A. COVID/Health Update** – As of December 9th, there have been 79 student and 31 staff cases in district. He also noted the district still has a good supply of at-home test kits, which are available to students and their families. There is also a significant rise in other flu and respiratory illnesses, which have impacted attendance.
- B. ASTE Barn** – Obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy is the next step, which involves installation of emergency lights, emergency exits, and fire extinguishers. Quotes for electrical work have been received, and will be scheduled soon. Commercial-grade gutters will also be installed. Gates and fencing will also need to be purchased and installed prior to any new animals arriving. It is believed the Certificate of Occupancy will be achieved within the next month or so; scheduling of contractors is the main hurdle.
- C. 2023-2024 Budget** – A. Gonzalez noted there are budget input sessions scheduled for December 15th. Sessions will be held at 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30 in the LMS library. Staffers and interested parties are invited to join Superintendent Gonzalez as he discusses initial budget proceedings, and to provide their feedback. He will bring that input to the next Finance meeting, scheduled for next week.
- D. Bus Transportation Contract** – A. Gonzalez stated M & J has been much more responsive and proactive in communicating regarding missed bus runs, and crediting the district as necessary. He noted the district has used M & J for 10 years, and feels they will offer the best value and service. He is recommending the BoE extend the transportation contract with M & J. They can extend for up to five years without going out to bid.

X. Facilities Report – V. Belles noted funds paid to Sullivan Paving in the amount of \$2,125, but not much else has changed. There is roughly \$88,000 for the fiscal year remaining in capital. Non-lapsing has roughly \$341,000 remaining. A. Gonzalez stated paving around the seating area will be completed in the Spring as the asphalt plants are now closed. District painting will occur during winter break. The district is still looking to purchase a scissor lift, but Facilities administrators have not been able to inspect potential lifts yet. The BoE then discussed plans for remaining funds. N. McGillicuddy expressed interest in replacing the scoreboard at LMS. D. Person asked about updates to school locker rooms, and noted problems still exist with the LES gym floor. There is also a significant crack in the walkway, which impedes access. A. Gonzalez stated Dalene Flooring will be on-site next week. S. Haynes asked about the asbestos removal project; A. Gonzalez stated he believes a contractor has not been solidified yet. The BoE is hoping scheduling will occur soon, so a timeline for the project can be established. V. Belles believes K. French is awaiting information from engineers regarding build specs, which will be used to select a contractor. N. McGillicuddy also stated she and B. Green would like to conduct a mid-year Facilities walkthrough, perhaps in late January or February. A. Gonzalez will contact the Board of Finance to seek a representative from the town for the walkthrough.

XI. Finance Report – V. Belles reported.

- A. 2022-2023 Budget** – Historical comparisons were provided; the district is performing comparably with previous years. There are overages in tuition and transportation for special education students. The first ECS filing was successfully completed, so the

district will recoup a portion of those overages. The district spent about \$10,000 on heating oil in November. \$40,000 had been budgeted.

XII. Action Items

1. Act on LMHS Out of State Field Trip to Costa Rica

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by J. Konow to approve the Costa Rica field trip for the environmental science/biology students in June of 2024. B. Calef, B. Green, N. McGillicuddy, M. McCall, S. Haynes, A. Margerelli-Hussey, J. Konow and D. Whitcher voted in favor. D. Person abstained. The motion passed.

2. Act on 2023 Meeting Dates

Motion by J. Konow and seconded by A. Margerelli-Hussey to approve the 2023 meeting dates. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Act on Bus Transportation Contract

Motion by J. Konow and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to authorize the superintendent to engage in negotiating a contract extension with M & J Bus Company for a term of 5 years. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Second Reading, Update, Policy #4014 - Nepotism

5. Second Reading, Update, Policy #5004 – School Meal Charging

6. Second Reading, Update, Policy #5017 – Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes

7. Second Reading, Update, Policy #5029 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students

8. Second Reading, Update, Policy #5030 – Confidentiality and Access to Education Records

9. Second Reading, Update, Policy #5031 – School Health Services

10. Second Reading, Update, Policy #5032 – Chemical Health for Student Athletes

11. Second Reading, Update, Policy #6003 – Field Trips

12. Second Reading, New, Policy #6008 – Advanced Course or Program/Challenging Curriculum

13. Second Reading, New, Policy #6009 – Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

M. McCall recommended the BoE act on items 5 through 13, then discuss and vote upon item number 4.

Motion by M. McCall and seconded by B. Green to approve action items 5 through 13. The motion passed unanimously.

The BoE discussed the proposed Nepotism policy revision, which removes references to the BoE in regards to hiring practices. Several members feel the revision would allow the district

to increase available staffers, namely substitutes, which have been in short supply. D. Person is in favor of adopting the revision, and feels any potential conflicts of interest are blocked by the checks and balances in the BoE/district hiring practices already in place. N.

McGillicuddy is in favor of any action that increases available staffers. A. Margerelli-Hussey is conflicted; she wants to address the staffing shortages, but is wary of setting a precedent which may be abused by future Board members or superintendents. B. Green shares those concerns. D. Whitcher and S. Haynes noted that although the BoE is not involved in hiring, they hire the individual who does so (the superintendent), and stated the potential perception of undue influence in hiring exists.

Motion by M. McCall and seconded by D. Person to approve action item #4. M. McCall, N. McGillicuddy, J. Konow, and D. Person voted in favor. B. Calef, B. Green, S. Haynes, A. Margerelli-Hussey, and D. Whitcher voted against. The motion failed.

XIII. Executive Session

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by J. Konow to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing 2023-2024 unaffiliated salaries, inviting Superintendent Gonzalez to join. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 8:55 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:27 p.m.

XIV. Action Item

1. Act on 2023-2024 Unaffiliated Salaries

Motion by Alexis Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by Nicole McGillicuddy that the board act on the 2023-2024 Unaffiliated Salaries as discussed in executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Items for Next Agenda

Executive session for the superintendent's mid-year evaluation
Student Voice per Public Participation

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Walcott (Board Clerk)