

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
JANUARY 9, 2024 - 7:30 PM
MINUTES**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Haynes (Chair)	Brian Green
Alexis Margerelli-Hussey (Vice-Chair)	Andrew Lathrop
Danelle Person (Secretary)	Rachael Archer
Dawn Whitcher	Sherry Masterson
Nicole McGillicuddy	

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Gonzalez (Superintendent)

I. Call to Order

Chair Sarah Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Introduction

A. New Business Manager – A. Gonzalez introduced Martha Starkey-Castro as new Business Manager.

III. Communication

None.

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

None.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of minutes

1. Finance Subcommittee Meeting – 12/12/2023, 2:30 p.m.
2. Strategic Plan/Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 12/12/2023
3. Finance Subcommittee Meeting – 12/12/2023, 6:30 p.m.
4. Facilities Subcommittee Meeting - 12/12/2023
5. BoE Regular Meeting – 12/12/2023
6. Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting – 12/20/2023
7. Safety & Security Subcommittee Meeting – 12/20/2023
8. Strategic Plan/Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 12/20/2023

B. Approval of Budget Transfers

Motion by B. Green and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

VI. Student Representative's Report

A. Gonzalez shared Avery Brooks' report. Highlights at LES included learning about coding, a 2nd grade field trip to the Science Center, and Reading Hall of Fame inductees. LMS staged a performance of "The Snow Queen" on December 13th, and held their winter concert on the

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15th. LMHS also held their winter concert, as well as the Casey Yates Memorial Wrestling tournament. Amnesty International took a field trip to UCONN.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation** – D. Whitcher noted the Mid-Year Evaluation will be discussed during this evening's Executive Session.
- B. Finance** – R. Archer reported they met this evening and heard the Superintendent's initial budget presentation. Capital projects were also discussed.
- C. Enrollment/Climate & Culture** – A. Lathrop reported they will meet this Thursday.
- D. Negotiations/Safety & Security** – A. Margerelli-Hussey reported Negotiations met twice, discussing 2024-2025 Tuition Rates, as well as Unaffiliated Salaries, both of which will be voted upon later this evening. Safety & Security heard a senior project presentation at their most recent meeting.
- E. Curriculum/Strategic Plan** – D. Person stated A. Gonzalez will update on the Strategic Plan Committee. Curriculum met this evening, discussing new course proposals, DESSA results, and the LES reading program curriculum mandate.
- F. Facilities** – N. McGillicuddy reported roof repairs at Lyman are ongoing. A contract has been signed for the auditorium lighting project, with work anticipated to start at the end of January. We will get a quote from Recognition Products to produce stencils to be used for in-house painting of the letters on the LMS gym wall.
- G. Policy** – B. Green stated they will meet this Thursday.

VIII. Administrators' Reports

Reports were provided in the Board Packet.

IX. Superintendent's Report

- A. Strategic Plan** – A. Gonzalez noted the 2019-2024 plan was reviewed prior to initial meetings, scheduled for February. The hope is to have the new plan finished by the end of the school year.
- B. School Study** – Kickoff meetings with S.L.A.M. have focused on data gathering, with a facilities condition assessment and site visit upcoming. A. Gonzalez will then discuss those findings with relevant town committees and determine next steps.
- C. 2024-2025 Budget** – A subcommittee meeting will be held on January 25th. The full budget presentation from the Superintendent is scheduled for next month's BoE meeting, with the presentation to the Board of Finance on February 27th. The preliminary budget increase began at 6.7%, but following cuts has dropped to 4.8%. A Special Meeting will likely be held to approve the Superintendent's budget recommendation.

X. Finance Report

- A. 2023-2024 Budget** – A. Gonzalez reported the budget is currently at 47% remaining, which is on track with the historical average.
- B. Non-Lapsing Account** – Projected balance is \$169,000.

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XI. Action Items

1. Act on change to Authorized Signer for Child Nutrition Program

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by D. Person to authorize Martha Starkey-Castro as signer for the Child Nutrition Program. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

2. Act on 2024-2025 Regular Education Tuition Rates

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by B. Green to approve the increase in tuition rate to \$12,426, representing a 2.5% increase, for contractual sending towns, and keeping the rate for children of staff at 25% of the General Education cost. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

3. Act on 2024-2025 Special Services Tuition Rates

Discussion: A. Gonzalez noted this is the first proposed rate increase in quite some time.

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by B. Green to increase the 2024-2025 Special Services Tuition Rates as presented, representing a 10% increase. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

4. Act on new ELA Course Proposals

- 1. Graphic Novel**
- 2. Nature & Animals in Literature**

Discussion: D. Person noted these are both half-year courses at LMHS.

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by D. Person to approve the two new ELA course proposals at Lyman. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

XII. Executive Session

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by D. Person to move into Executive Session for number one, the purpose of discussing a personnel matter, and number two, for the purpose of discussing 2024-2025 unaffiliated salaries, inviting the Superintendent, and then excusing the Superintendent for number three, the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

The BoE entered Executive Session at 8:02 p.m.

Superintendent Gonzalez was excused from the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

The BoE came out of Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

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XIII. Action Items

1. Act on personnel matter

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by A. Margerelli-Hussey to approve a staff member's request for an unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the school year as discussed in Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Act on 2024-2025 unaffiliated staff salaries

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by S. Masterson to approve the unaffiliated salaries as discussed in Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Items for Next Agenda

None.

XV. Adjournment

S. Haynes adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Walcott (Board Clerk)