

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
LEBANON, CONNECTICUT
June 7, 2010
SPECIAL MEETING SESSION

The Chairman will vote only to make or break a tie.

PRESENT: Donna Lafontaine, Chairman, Keith Wentworth, Donna, Skaats, James Mello, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, Sandra Tremblay, Deanna Kokoszka (7:33 p.m.)

ABSENT: Darcy Battye, Felicia Bakaj, student representative

ALSO PRESENT: Robert McGray, Superintendent, Sandye Simon, Rob Laskarzewski, Stephen Salisbury, Carol Moore, Maryanne Leichter, Mal Leichter, Dr. Bonnie Hanna, Jerome Walsh

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. COMMUNICATIONS – Correspondence received from: Steve & Jen Olsen, Lynn Olson, Kevin Brodie, Mark Morello, Richard Shea, Cindy Petrie, Kathryn Walsh

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

- C.J. Bergamo, sophomore student at LMHS, class president, presented to the Board 5 petitions containing a total of 140 student signatures petitioning to keep teachers from being cut from the budget; pass the budget with no cuts; improve the quality of education; the cuts in certified teaching staff will have effects on accreditation in 2013.
- Suzanne Yeo, resident and retired teacher in Lebanon, expressed concerns with the school budget cuts, reinstatement of the \$300,000, and make the decisions on the budget reduction items public information.
- Heidi Tarbox, resident, questioned if the Board and/or the Superintendent had heard about the emergency funding to towns for schools by the State Legislature. Mr. McGray stated that he was not aware but this maybe on the federal level.
- Miguel Garcia, former LEA president, Spanish teacher at LMHS, expressed concerns on the loss of certified staff; cutting extracurricular activities to retain certified staff and consider a balance of needs of this important piece.
- Kathleen Smith, resident, mother of 3, LES teacher, expressed the importance of keeping extracurricular activities to fulfill college requirements.
- Ellen Turner, LES art teacher, past president of LEA, expressed concerns on the lack of documentation of team leaders, department heads, the loss of these and the importance of these to be made available.

V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Curriculum – no report.
2. Finance/Budget – The subcommittee has brought to the full Board the list of budget final reductions. Discussion will be opened to Board members on these reductions. L. Jahoda looked at the impacts to students and wants alternatives to the reductions that have been presented. Would like to look at extracurricular activities before losing a teacher. S. Tremblay stated her unhappiness with the budget reduction list and would like to see pay-to-play at the high school and elimination of middle school sports, and a need to retain the guidance and history positions at the high school. D. Skaats reviewed the least important items which included: elimination of clubs, field trips – have programs come to the schools, and to retain the guidance position at the high school. D. Kokoszka expressed disappointment in the budget reduction list, the 0% budget, look to the future at changing the process, increase further negotiations with the Town Board of Finance. M. Hofmann would like to see pay to participate for sports and extracurricular activities. J. Mello encouraged Board members to consider the work done by

administration in preparing the list of reductions and to give direction to administration to meet Friday/Monday deadlines. The Board provided the following to the Superintendent to review more closely: 1) reinstate guidance position; 2) eliminate science enrichment at LES; 3) reinstate .4 P.E. LMS) elimination of extracurricular activities, including clubs and eliminate middle school sports and have pay-to-play at the high school.

3. Goals – no report.
4. Negotiations – Beginning stages of meetings with teachers, custodians and instructional assistants.
5. Policy – no report.
6. Transportation/Resident – no report.
7. Communications – no report
8. Vo-Ag Advisory – no report.
9. Physical Plant/Facilities – no report.
10. Superintendent Search – Appointment of new superintendent is under Action Items.
11. Student Representative – no report.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Moved by K. Wentworth and seconded by L. Jahoda to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:55 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussion regarding the status of Superintendent search and election of Superintendent. Motion unanimously passed.

Moved by D. Skaats and seconded by M. Hofmann to return from Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. and to re-enter to the Special Meeting. Motion unanimously passed.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

1. Moved by M. Hofmann and seconded by J. Mello to appoint a new Superintendent for the Lebanon Public Schools, Janet Tyler, with a start date to be determined. VOTING AYE. Donna, Skaats, James Mello, Melissa Hofmann, Lori Jahoda, Sandra Tremblay, Deanna Kokoszka OPPOSED: Keith Wentworth. Motion passed.
2. With no motion made to approve the budget reductions, the motion died.
3. With no motion to rescind contract non-renewals, the motion died.
4. Moved by K. Wentworth and seconded by S. Tremblay to approve Board of Education 2010-2011 budget of \$17,255,520. VOTING AYE. Donna, Skaats, James Mello, Keith Wentworth Lori Jahoda, Sandra Tremblay, Deanna Kokoszka OPPOSED: Melissa Hofmann. Motion passed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS/ ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – 1) Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyman Memorial High School Library Media Center.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by M. Hofmann and seconded by S. Tremblay to adjourn the Regular Meeting Session at 9:10 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bennett, Recording Secretary