

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE  
MAY 13, 2020 ~ SPECIAL MEETING ~ 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Robert Angeli, Kathleen Mozak-Pezza, Curriculum Director, Robert Laskarzewski, Principal, Jay Apicelli, Principal, Rita Quiles-Glover, Principal, Samantha McCarthy, Assistant Principal, Robert Sirpenski, Business Manager, Cheryl Biekert, Director of Pupil Services, Kevin French, Facilities Director, Jacques Dulac, Director of Information Technology, Jeannette Picard, Teacher, Kathleen Smith, Teacher, Jen Olsen, teacher

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

W. Meese called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. COMMUNICATION**

1. Letter of Resignation  
Superintendent Angeli read a letter of resignation from the LES math tutor, Rose Bisson.
2. Letter of Retirement  
Superintendent Angeli read a letter of retirement from Patricia Payer, I.A. at LES.
3. Letters from LEA  
Superintendent Angeli summarized the two letters from the LEA. The letter dated April 20, 2020 was regarding the thinking around the middle school schedule. The letter dated May 3, 2020 was thanking Chairman Meese, Superintendent Angeli and the Board for providing support and giving credence and understanding what the LEA had been proposing.

**III. RECOGNITION**

1. LES Invention Convention Winners  
J. Olsen presented the 4 finalist picked by the judges for the Invention Convention. J. Dulac played the videos from Reagan Merritt who invented the Earring Box; Ian Sehl with the MagneTire; Jemma Hayward with the Frog Snatcher; and Piper Walker with Fracture Fashion. May 20<sup>th</sup> is when we will find out who from CT who will be representing CT in the National Invention Convention.

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – BYLAWS OF THE BOARD #9324**

Public participation – 30 minutes; Individual speaker – 2 minutes  
There was no public participation.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of minutes
1. LBOE Regular Meeting – 04/07/2020
  2. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting – 04/23/2020
  3. Strategic Plan/Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 04/29/2020
  4. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting – 05/07/2020
  5. Budget Transfer

**Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by J. Konow to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passes unanimously.**

**VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- Governance - W. Meese said they met last week to prepare the agenda for tonight's meeting.  
Governance does have a draft for the retreat scheduled for two evenings 6-9 p.m., the last Monday

and Tuesday in June (June 29<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>). Details can be changed depending on the guidelines with COVID-19.

- Strategic Plan/Curriculum - S. Haynes reports the subcommittee met on April 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the distance learning plan which is now posted on all the websites with live links. The administrators may need to change things up as we move forward. The three schools are implementing the curriculum differently at each level but the distance learning plan is being documented as to what they are doing. It also includes a section for FAQ's and addresses grading. There were three schedules presented to the subcommittee for the middle school and the subcommittee was in agreement that there was one schedule that they would like to move forward with. The schedule that the teachers collaborated with the principal and Superintendent Angeli and will be implementing that schedule as of right now, but things might change in the fall. That schedule does include a 0.4 reduction in the middle school, but everything might need to change once the fall comes around.
- Policy - M. McCall reported Policy has not met yet.
- Superintendent's Evaluation - J. Konow reports they have not met. They will start this evening to meet and proceed with their evaluation.
- Safety/Security - A. Margerelli-Hussey reports they have not met, but they are hoping as soon as they are able to in person. They will monitor the social distancing guidelines and if it continues they will have to meet virtually.
- Enrollment/Communications/Goals - D. Whitcher reported they have not met.
- Negotiations - M. DeCaprio reported they have not met, they are holding off until they can hopefully meet in person.
- EASTCONN - They met but there is not much going on because of the shutdown. There was discussion on providing meals. They are going through difficulties negotiating contracts.
- Finance/Facilities - N. McGillicuddy reported the subcommittee met three times this month. For the 2019-20 budget we are \$200,000-\$250,000 in surplus for this year. From the M&J bus contract an additional \$90,000 in surplus could be seen from special ed transportation. Also another \$6,000 in athletics and field trips that was not used was already included in the surplus. They are currently moving forward with the ACM abatement in the three classrooms in the middle school; \$30,000 was allotted for this project but they need \$46,000 to complete the project. Some savings could be found elsewhere. The tennis court project came to about \$54,000-\$55,000. The recommendation is to finalize this project and get the tennis court a new surface. R. Sirpenski is moving forward with renewing the contract with Chartwells. The Bozrah superintendent has asked to keep the tuition flat and the subcommittee is recommending that they keep the same courtesy towards Sprague and Franklin since they come in a three town package. We are waiting for the BOF to make their decision on what their budget for us will be. Currently BOF has a 0.51% increase for BOE, which is an additional \$100,000 over current years amount. The BOF has approved us to keep the money we are saving this year and put in the non-lapsing account to use for emergency purposes, special ed and capital requests.

## **VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

AniRose reported that the distance learning has evened itself out. Students are finally accepting the work load. Recently the High School found out that they don't have to take their final exams which they are thankful for. It may be helpful to get the students input if distance learning continues into the fall.

## **VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

1. Enrollment - Enrollment is up over last months report. One additional child at LES. Three more children at LMS and LMHS stayed even at 317. A total of four students were added to the district. A couple were new to town and some were home schooled students that were enrolled. Magnet School students stayed the same at 31 students.
2. COVID-19 Update - Buildings are closed, but the distance learning continues. Superintendent Angeli is having discussions with the Admin Teams, who are having discussions with their teachers, about how to close out the school year. There will be no final exams. That time may be used to have more interaction with the high school students who are struggling. A survey went out to parents that showed feedback on grading. The State Department of Education recommends pass/fail for high school students. That decision can be made at the district level. The survey showed most parents in support of maintaining current grading schemes at each of the schools. The next most supported option was for the pass/fail. A lot of the comments were that the parents trust the teachers and

administrators and they will leave that decision up to the schools. Lebanon is going to stay with their current grading schemes for the remainder of the year, but taking into consideration that not all subject areas are easily taught in a distance learning platform, at least one that was put together quickly. The district is continuing the meal program Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, providing two meals for each of the seven days a week. The district is averaging mid to upper 200 meals and Friday is the largest day averaging 325-350 meals. The meal program will continue through the end of June. The school year comes to an end on June 17<sup>th</sup> but the waiver is good through the end of June. The district will explore more waivers to continue the meal program into the summer months. There is no guidance yet for graduation ceremonies, the Governors executive orders are still in effect at this point to no gatherings of more than five people. That may change. LMS and LES will be planning for virtual promotion ceremonies. LMHS students were surveyed and there were two meetings with senior class advisers and high school staff. The seniors want something in person, so they are willing to wait, even if it is July or August. LMHS will move forward with plans to do a virtual graduation ceremony if that becomes necessary but no decision has been finalized. There is advice and guidelines coming from the state about extended school year programming which is for special education students that have extended school year in their Individual Education Plans. Those programs cannot begin until June 29<sup>th</sup>. The guidelines right now are that the class size can be no greater than ten and program sizes cannot exceed 30. The district will explore ESY through virtual capacity in the event that Lebanon won't be able to do something in person for students. The district will wait on a decision about the summer camps to see if the guidelines get lifted or adjusted. Those camps tend to be outdoors. The discussion about reopening in the fall is still in the works, it will all depend on if there is a resurgence of illness. Lebanon is discussing many things if they were to reopen such as class size, sanitation procedures, purchasing PPE. They will be purchasing hand sanitizer and thermometers. There are thermometers on order for all three schools. We are equipped to do the lunch program but to qualify for a summer lunch program we would need 50-55% of the students to have free and reduced lunch, which we do not have. We would need an additional waiver to provide meals through summer. The end of the year calendar has not been published yet. School staff have been emptying lockers at LMS and LMHS and they are trying to come up with a plan for the students to retrieve their belongings possibly when they pick up their yearbooks. LES has cubbies and things left behind in the students desks. R. Quiles-Glover and K. French are working it out with the custodians for teachers to come into the building to facilitate this.

3. Distance Learning Plan - The learning plan is on all the websites and has live links.

## **IX. FINANCE REPORT**

1. 2019-2020 Budget

Right now there is an anticipated surplus of \$200,000-\$250,000. There is an estimated additional \$90,000 from the settlement with the bus company which would put Lebanon over the \$300,000 mark. The excess cost sharing reimbursement was \$33,000 higher than anticipated which can also be added to the surplus.

2. 2020-2021 Budget

The BOE is waiting for the decision from BOF. The public comments were favorable. The budget could be finalized next Tuesday but the BOF may need more time.

## **X. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Act on letter of resignation

**Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by S. Haynes to accept the letter of resignation. The motion passes unanimously.**

2. Act on letter of retirement

**Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. McCall to accept the letter of retirement. The motion passes unanimously.**

3. Act on re-opening VERIP

**Motion made M. McCall and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to re-open the VERIP. The motion passes unanimously.**

4. Act on M&J Contract Amendment

**Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. DeCaprio to accept the new percentages agreed upon by M&J Bus Company and Lebanon Schools regarding the Special Ed and regular transportation contract for the next school year and this school year. Motion amended by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. DeCaprio to accept the percentages from M&J regarding this**

**school year.** Discussion: There is a five year contract in place that expires in 2022-2023. The special ed transportation is a pay as you go and has not been paid yet. There is about \$90,000 surplus that effects this years budget. This years core contract was paid in September 2019 but we worked out a percentage from 3/16/20- 5/15/20 of paying M&J 55% of the cost of transportation for that time frame. From 5/18/20 - the end of the school year we would pay them 90% of the cost of transportation. That would be approximately \$88,000, which would be returned to the district next year in September by way of a discount. The contract settlements have ranged from 60% and 100% in other districts. **The motion passes unanimously.**

5. Act on request from Bozrah Superintendent

**Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. DeCaprio to accept the request from the Bozrah Superintendent for next years tuition. The motion passes unanimously.** Information: The impact is \$1,368 less than what we would normally be collecting. Tuition is not a direct impact to the BOE budget but it is counted as revenue to the town. If we were collecting the 2020-2021 tuition rate, which is a 2% increase to the current rate, we would collect \$69,912. At a tuition freeze we would collect \$68,544. This is affecting six students. **Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. DeCaprio to amend the original motion to add Franklin and Sprague to the base motion. The amendment passes.**

6. Act on increase to asbestos tile replacement at LMS, not to exceed \$48,000 total cost  
**Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by S. Haynes to increase the asbestos tile replacement at LMS no to exceed \$48,000 total all coming from the School Improvement Project. The motion passes unanimously.**

7. Act on school meal cost increase

Information: In the purposed contract with the school lunch programs there is an increase. At LES the cost would be \$2.75. At LMS the cost would be \$2.90 and \$3.15 at LMHS. LES and LMS increased cost by \$0.10. LMHS increased cost is \$0.15.

**Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded M. McCall to raise the school lunch prices to \$2.75 at LES, \$2.90 at LMS and \$3.15 at LMHS.**

Discussion: If the Board does not approve this motion then we would be out of federal compliance. The only way to correct that would be the change the meal pricing in a different way. Such as freezing the price at one school and increase the price at the other two schools. If you freeze all lunch prices, then the district would have to deposit the difference between the federal cost and our cost into the school lunch program. This is the last year of Chartwells contract. Within the contract there was the ability to do four renewals and this is the fourth renewal.

**The motion is withdrawn by N. McGillicuddy for the new meal prices.**

**Motion made by M. Smith to increase the lunches by \$0.10. The motion is not seconded. No action taken to act on the price increase of the school lunches.**

8. Act on food service contract renewal  
No action taken.

## **XI. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Chartwell's contract
2. Lunch cost increase
3. Graduation final plans for all three schools

## **XII. ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. For the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation

**Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. McCall to go into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation and to include Superintendent Angeli. The motion passes unanimously.**

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:52 p.m.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by M. McCall and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m. The motion passes unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Hashem  
Board Clerk