

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYMAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2022 - 4:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Sarah Haynes, Chair	Alexis Margerelli-Hussey, Vice-Chair
Maureen McCall, Secretary	Bruce Calef
John Konow	Nicole McGillicuddy
Danelle Person	Matthew Smith
Dawn Whitcher	

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Andrew Gonzalez, Rita Quiles-Glover, Director of Curriculum, James Apicelli, Principal, Jacques Dulac, IT Director, Samantha McCarthy, Assistant Principal, and Valerie Belles, Business Manager and many guests

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman S. Haynes called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. DISCUSSION OF MASK MANDATES

Superintendent Gonzalez presented an update on where things have been and where they stand now. On February 28th, control will be on the local level but the Health Department can override those decisions if there is a dramatic spike in Covid and trends go up. Superintendents were surveyed and of 124 responses, 112 said that they will make masks optional. That will begin at 12:01 AM on February 28th. Currently Lebanon has 1 positive at Lyman and 1 positive at the Middle School with 0 staff and 1 family quarantining and things have been at pretty much this level for a while. Patrick McCormack of Uncas Health reported that 71% of adults have been fully vaccinated, 52% of those 12 to 17 and 25% of those younger. Using CDC guidelines, we are still asking for those with positive tests to quarantine for 5 days and mask for the 6 to 10 days as they are improving. We have given up contract tracing and staff and students are encouraged to vaccinate though there is no weekly testing. Based on Federal mandates, masks are still required on buses and all other public conveyances. This runs through mid-March. Phase II Test Kit Distribution will be available next week. Sarah thanked the community for the input which has been great and respectful. Forty-seven of the fifty emails were for optional masking. Superintendent Gonzalez said that given the data and information from the Department of Public Health and the rest, he recommends that the masking mandate be removed as of February 28th. All concurred. Superintendent Gonzalez went on to remind everyone that it is a shared responsibility to keep our schools safe. As of Monday, the choice will be in the hands of the guardians and the expectation is that the children will know if they should wear a mask or not. Superintendent Gonzalez will draft a missive to all concerned.

III. DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND ACT ON 2022-2023 BUDGET

Noting that this is the third year that we have been impacted by the pandemic, Superintendent Gonzalez gave a detailed presentation of where we have been, where we would like to be and what we need to get there. Understanding that 90% of the budget is contractual fixed costs, it leaves little wiggle room for the specific programs. Things of note: - many of Lebanon's youth opt to go to tech schools. We are attempting to create opportunities here in new courses (Nursing program, Turf Management class and a drone pilot course to name a few). The offerings in classes that give college credit have placed us in the top 10 High Schools for the highest percent enrollment increase in the UCONN Early College Experience program from 2020-2021 to the 2021-2022 academic year.

Grant funding is being used for equipment and the like and the Perkins Grant is being used for the CNA course.

Enrollment - NESDEC projected that we would be at 958 students at this point in time but we are at 969. 67 students opted for Norwich or Windham Tech. 64 out of town students attend Lyman for the ASTE program. The Board subcommittee is looking to add programs, marketing using videos and revamping the website to attract students. Visits are being done in both directions and as an aside, the retaining wall is being built right now that will move the bleacher project forward and our ballfield will be a much more attractive feature. Exit interviews are being held to understand why different decisions are being made. There are also thoughts to full-day preschool. NESDEC projects that our numbers will increase in the next five years which may affect the comfortable class sizes we currently enjoy. SPED funding is increasing and will continue to do so. The cost is currently about \$75,000 for outsourcing and an additional \$22,000 for transportation. ECS funding has declined.

Motion (Nicole McGillicuddy/John Konow) to approve the presented budget as a 3.92% increase for the 2022-2023 school year. Danelle Person questioned some figures on page 23 and Business Manager, Valerie Belles took note to check that. Maureen McCall pointed out how costs for everything are going up and 3.92% is a little high and Matt Smith feels that the utilities are understated. The motion carried with Bruce Calef, Nicole McGillicuddy, Sarah Haynes, Alexis Margerelli-Hussey, John Konow, Danelle Person and Dawn Whitcher voting for and Maureen McCall and Matt Smith voting against. The final presentation to the Board of Finance will be held on March 10th on Zoom.

IV. ACT ON CABA MEMBERSHIP

Motion (John Konow/Alexis Margerelli-Hussey) to contract with CABA for a one-year membership for the cost of \$2,775. There was question as to where the funding would come from. Valerie Bells suggested Administration Dues and Fees. There were comments for and against but it was noted that we are mostly concerned with savings on attorney fees and do not need to adopt any policies or recommendations they give us. It was noted that there are other options for legal counsel savings. We can try it out for a year and vote again next year if we decide not to continue. The motion carried with Nicole McGillicuddy, Dawn Whitcher, John Konow, Alexis Margerelli-Hussey and Sarah Haynes voting for, Maureen McCall, Matt Smith and Bruce Calef voting against and Danelle Person abstaining.

V. ACT ON BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Motion (Nicole McGillicuddy/Danelle Person) to accept with regret the resignations of Catherine Crème and Cynthia Pinell. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen D. McCall, Secretary