

LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
April 11, 2017 REGULAR SESSION – 7:30 P.M.
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Albert Vertefeuille, Chairman Nicole McGillicuddy
 James Mello, Vice Chairman Jason Nowosad
 Bert Bosse Keith Wentworth
 Stephen Nelson Christine Lugli, Student Representative
 Mary Ellen Wieczorek

ABSENT: Sandra Tremblay

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Robert Angeli, Andrew Gonzalez, LES Principal,
 Kathleen Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum, Robert Sirpenski, Business Manager,
 Jacques Dulac, Director of Information Technology, Pia Perry, teacher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Albert Vertefeuille called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

1. Invention Convention students
The students who had participated in the recent Invention Convention were introduced by Principal Gonzalez and teacher Mrs. Perry. Mrs. Perry explained the regional events that were held. The students are going on to the final competition that is to be held at U-Conn on April 29th. Kevin Botticello presented his invention which was comfort crutches. Justin Ladegard presented his Lego protector. Casey Gigliotti presented her invention, a baby belt. The students were congratulated by the Board. Everyone enjoyed refreshments.

III. COMMUNICATION

1. Letter of Resignation
Superintendent Angeli read a resignation letter from Principal Gonzalez effective June 30, 2017.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – BYLAWS OF THE BOARD # 9324

Public participation – 30 minutes; Individual speaker – 2 minutes

Nick Poppiti is a father of a freshman at Lyman Memorial High School. He is here to support the proposal on a cooperative football program with Coventry High School as the host school. The CIAC has a May 1st deadline for this agreement. The cost is \$165.00 per student which the parents would pay. There would be no cost for a bus as the parents will car pool. He is asking the Board to approve the program. It is an opportunity for students to excel.

Tom Hinsch is here in support of the football program. He coaches football at the college level. His daughter had a very good experience in Lebanon but chose to go to Norwich Free Academy

to play lacrosse. She is now playing for Cincinnati at the college level. There is no downside to the program. He is an advocate for the opportunity.

Dawn Thompson-Richter, who is a Lebanon resident, and is a supporter of organized sports. She has two sons. The teachers at the elementary school are amazing. Mr. Gonzalez is a role model for the students and is concerned with his resignation. She is concerned with what will happen next.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. Curriculum Subcommittee – 2/4/17
2. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – 2/14/17
3. Physical Plant/Facilities Subcommittee – 2/14/17
4. Regular Meeting – 2/14/17
5. Special Session – 3/22/17
6. Budget Transfers

Motion made by S. Nelson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by B. Bosse. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – J. Nowosad no report will update later in agenda.
2. Communications Subcommittee – no report
3. Curriculum Subcommittee – no report
4. Transportation/Residency Subcommittee – no report
5. Goals/Strategic Planning Subcommittee – no report
6. Negotiations Subcommittee – A. Vertefeuille reported that three meetings were cancelled by the union representing the instructional assistants and the secretaries. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday.
7. Board Policy Subcommittee – B. Bosse reported they had met tonight and will present to the Board the first reading of Policy #5123.2 Academic Progress, Grades 9-12 Lyman Memorial High School. Increases were made to substitute's salary in the fall. C. Lugli suggested that freshmen and sophomores not have a study hall. Superintendent Angeli noted there will be an eight period day at the high school next year and students will take seven classes. A. Vertefeuille explained the policy change process.
8. Physical Plant/Facilities Subcommittee – J. Mello reported they had met tonight to discuss the disposition of the wind turbine. The subcommittee is recommending doing nothing at this time. The superintendent will have information to share later in the meeting.
9. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee – S. Nelson reported they met tonight, and may have Executive Session to discuss the process.
10. VOAG Liaison Subcommittee – no report

VII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

No additional information. Principal Gonzalez expressed his appreciation to the Board. He is grateful for the opportunity he has had here in Lebanon.

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

C. Lugli reported that spring sports have started. The Wizard of Oz play was a success. The CAPT testing for sophomores and juniors has been completed. The Language Honor Society held

their induction ceremony. There was a spelling bee at the high school. All Senior Projects are finished. The French Club held a cabaret in March, and also had one at the Senior Center. The Chorus Concert has been held. The Band Concert will be April 25th. Tri M held a bowling fundraiser which was very successful. There have been three New York City field trips. The Language Department is going to New York City. K Wentworth commented on the Post-Graduation Committee that recently held an auction. This has been done for free by Sue and Bob Leone for 27 years. They should be recognized. N. McGillicuddy noted there is a FFA fundraiser coming up on April 18th at the 99 Restaurant in Norwich. 15% will go to FFA. A. Vertefeuille noted that a recent article in the Connecticut Mirror noted the number of students who have finished high school has increased. Lebanon has increased by 8.2% since 2012. Superintendent Angeli noted that the 2016 graduation rate was 95%.

IX. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. Enrollment

Superintendent Angeli reported that for the month enrollment has decreased by ten. Most were families leaving Lebanon. Magnet school enrollment is 38; six have left since the beginning of the year. R. Siminski noted that there may be one more for the STEM Academy but the family needs to register in Lebanon. B. Bosse would be interested of those families that left if they moved out of Connecticut.

2. Food Service Update

Superintendent Angeli noted the new newsletter. Jessica Foster will begin as a chef manager on May 1st. She has met with the Superintendent and the Business Manager. R. Sirpenski reported that the state audit has been done, and the auditor felt Lebanon was one of the top five done in the State. She was very complimentary of the staff. There is a new format for the Food Service Financial Report.

3. 2016-2017 Budget

There will be \$185,000.00 available in the Health Insurance Account to return to the Town. Preliminary numbers indicate there will be an additional \$125,000.00 to \$250,000.00 in Special Education tuition. There will be some savings in transportation and pupil services. The Excess Costs reimbursement will be lower by approximately \$250,000.00. N. McGillicuddy asked if negotiations were done with the teachers on health insurance. Superintendent Angeli noted there is a two year contract with Connecticut. J. Mello asked if the \$250,000.00 in Excess Costs Funds planned for next year. Superintendent Angeli noted that the 2017-2018 budget was based on a known estimate in January. This account is volatile.

4. 2017-2018 Budget

Superintendent Angeli reported that a second meeting was held with the Board of Finance. They have cut Operating Costs by \$200,000.00 and Capital Requests by \$50,000.00. Adjustments had to be made. The Superintendent distributed a document with potential reductions. They included a reduction of a 1.0 FTE computer position at the high school and .8 FTE World Language who is .6 at the high school and .2 at the middle school. The reduction at the middle school would result in a year's worth of language being taught in 8th grade instead of being spread out over 2 years as it is currently taught. J. Nowosad discussed the proposed cuts. He doesn't support it. Discussed cutting 7th grade language which is not a choice made for students. N. McGillicuddy agreed with Jason and other areas should be found to cut. Superintendent Angeli explained that teaching one year of a language in one year of middle school is a

common practice. B. Bosse suggested not cutting specific areas and leave it to see what happens at the Town Meeting. K. Wentworth noted that the budget cannot be increased at Town Meeting. J. Nowosad was concerned language would be offered to students of a certain academic level. Want to offer to all students. K. Mozak-Pezza explained the different levels. Superintendent Angeli explained the other potential cuts in non-certified salaries, field maintenance position, athletic fees, property insurance, student transportation, instructional supplies and dues and fees. The Town Meeting is May 1st. It was noted last year that \$70,000.00 was removed. The Public Hearing is on Monday, April 17th. J. Nowosad discussed the procedure. We don't know what we will have to cut and can we wait and not institute the cuts until we know more. A. Vertefeuille suggested to wait and it is not likely to get a change at the Public Hearing. The State has not finalized their numbers. Question if the budget is defeated at any time was discussed. Superintendent Angeli will present the current budget proposal. N. McGillicuddy asked if the swim team would be cut. Superintendent Angeli responded that students competed at the State level this year. The cuts do not eliminate any teams. R. Sirpenski noted that finding \$200,000.00 in the budget took a lot of work. Non-salaried items there were not significant savings. Superintendent Angeli noted the original proposed budget was approximately \$125,000.00 less in many line items. N. McGillicuddy inquired about the eight teacher retirements. Principal Gonzalez noted there will be some reshuffling done.

X. ACTION ITEMS

Motion made by K. Wentworth and seconded by J. Mello to suspend the rules and move Item 5 up on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 5 Approve Football Co-Op at Lyman Memorial High School

Motion made by B. Bosse and seconded by K. Wentworth to approve Football Co-Op at Lyman Memorial High School. Superintendent Angeli noted there would be no cost to the Board. Parents will pay \$165.00 per player. Practices would be at Coventry High School. Parents will arrange transportation to Coventry. It was noted that the CIAC has a May 1st deadline for the application. The agreement is for three years but the application needs to be completed every year. The host school provides equipment. The host school does the transportation to game. **B. Bosse moved the question. This was seconded by J. Mello. This was approved unanimously. Motion to approve the Football Co-Op was approved unanimously.**

1. Accept letter of resignation

Motion made by S. Nelson and seconded by J. Mello to accept with extreme regret the letter of resignation of Principal Gonzalez. Motion passed with J. Nowosad opposed.

2. Approve Graduation Date

Motion made by B. Bosse and seconded by J. Mello to approve the Lyman Memorial High School graduation date of June 16th. It was noted the other two schools will end the day before. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Approve 2017-2018 Special Education Rates for Tuition Students

Motion made by J. Nowosad and seconded by K. Wentworth to approve the 2017-2018 Special Education Rates for Tuition Students. It was noted by the Superintendent that this represents a 3% increase. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Approve Lyman Memorial High School out of state field trip

Motion made by K. Wentworth and seconded by B. Bosse to approve the Lyman Memorial High School out of state field trip. This trip is for four VOAG students to

attend the Mechanics CDE event. The Superintendent noted that the information was just received on this trip; most are approved at the beginning of the school year. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Approve disposition of wind turbine
No action taken.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading of Revised Policy #5123.2 Lyman Memorial High School Academic Progress, Grades 9-12
No discussion.

S. Nelson distributed the Superintendent job description and blank evaluation forms to all members. A. Vertefeuille instructed members to fill out and get back to Steve in two weeks. S. Nelson will send out an electronic copy to Board members. Don't send back anonymous comments. All comments will be discussed.

XII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by K. Wentworth and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kathleen E. Chapman

Board Clerk