

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
JUNE 13, 2017 REGULAR SESSION – 7:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Albert Vertefeuille, Chairman
 James Mello, Vice Chairman
 Sandra Tremblay, Secretary
 Stephen Nelson
 Mary Ellen Wieczorek

Nicole McGillicuddy
Jason Nowosad
Keith Wentworth

ABSENT: Bert Bosse, Christine Lugli

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Robert Angeli, James Apicelli, LMHS, Principal, Robert Laskarzewski, LMS Principal, Andrew Gonzalez, LES Principal, Ann Birell, Assistant Principal, LMHS, Kathleen Mozak-Pezza, Director of Curriculum, Cheryl Biekert, Director Pupil Services, Robert Sirpenski, Business Manager, Jacques Dulac, Director of Information Technology, John Cote, teacher, Kathleen Smith, teacher, Silas Olsen, student, Lea Vichas, student.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Albert Vertefeuille called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CELEBRATION OF EXCELENCE

1. Essay contest finalist – Principal Laskarzewski read a letter from the State Board of Education recognizing Bennett Murphy who won an essay contest. The essay recognized teacher Nic Magliocco. Principal Laskarzewski has already presented certificates to them.
2. Poster contest winner – Superintendent Angeli displayed a winning poster created by Landon Paradis a kindergarten student. He was presented an award on June 2nd at an awards ceremony in Hartford.

Motion made by J. Mello and seconded by J. Nowosad to move item IX, 1. – Introduction of new Lebanon Elementary School Principal up on the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

Superintendent introduced new Lebanon Elementary School Principal Rita Quiles-Glover. She was formerly at Griswold Elementary School. Mrs. Quiles-Glover introduced her family and thanked the Selection Committee and the Superintendent for her appointment. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

III. COMMUNICATION

1. Thank you notes – A. Vertefeuille read thank you notes from Lynette Braunhardt and Gwen Cross for the flowers they had received for their retirement.

2. Letters of resignation – Superintendent Angeli read letters of resignation from World Language teacher Michelle Wozniak and Science teacher Nic Magliocco.

A. Vertefeuille noted a petition that had been received from the class of 2018 regarding limiting students to one study hall per year.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – BYLAWS OF THE BOARD #9324

Public participation – 30 minutes; Individual speaker – 2 minutes

Student and Junior Class President Silas Olsen discussed having two study halls in senior year. The students are not against this decision, but would like to have a conversation about how it is implemented.

Teacher Kathleen Smith supports the class of 2018 and feels they should be grandfathered in. Several students have AP courses and need the additional study hall. She urges the Board to support the students. Superintendent Angeli noted the petition was received today and if there is an educational benefit to having two study halls for senior student this would be explored.

Motion made by J. Nowosad and seconded by K. Wentworth to add to the agenda under New Business item XI, 2 Discussion of student petition regarding students taking seven credits to stay enrolled and limiting each student to one study hall per year. Motion passed unanimously.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. Physical Plant Facilities Subcommittee – 5/9/17
2. Regular Meeting 5/9/17
3. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – 6/1/17

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

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – J. Nowosad reported they had met last week and discussed the budget for this year and for next year. He noted that no budget has been approved for next year.
2. Communication Subcommittee - M. Wiczorek reported that they had met last evening and reviewed the information on Apptegy. Superintendent Angeli had presented a mock web site. A custom website is not being pursued. A five year contract was approved which will realize a 60% savings.
3. Curriculum Subcommittee – N. McGillicuddy reported they had also met last evening and discussed and reviewed a new textbook for 6th grade. It is being recommended that 70 electronic copies be purchased and ten hard copies. This textbook will be aligned with standards. The cost will be a little over \$5,000.00.
4. Transportation/Residency Subcommittee – No report.
5. Goals/Strategic Planning Subcommittee – No report
6. Negotiations Subcommittee – S. Tremblay reported that they still have two contracts to negotiate. They are waiting for a new union representative for both of the unions. They will be negotiated over the summer.
7. Board Policy Subcommittee – No report

8. Physical Plant/Facilities Subcommittee – J. Mello reported they had met last evening and are recommending a contractor for painting at the high school. The PPAs with Green Bank for the solar project are also on the agenda for approval tonight. J. Mello inquired about the status of the cell phone tower. Superintendent Angeli reported that a public hearing was held by the Board of Selectmen on June 6th. There will be a Special Town Meeting in July. It is not expected to have a shovel in the ground for this project for a year. N. McGillicuddy inquired if it is known how much money the cell tower will generate. It is estimated at \$3,000.00 but J. Nowosad noted this is not fully negotiated as of yet.
9. Superintendent’s Evaluation Subcommittee – S. Nelson reported that the chairman and vice chairman of the Board met with the Superintendent and a new three year contract is on the agenda for tonight which represents a 2.5% increase in base salary and a one year extension. A Vertefeuille reported that the superintendent received an overall exemplary rating.
10. VOAG Liaison Subcommittee – No report.

VII. ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS

Principal Gonzalez thanked the Board members who attended the moving up ceremony this evening at the elementary school. S. Tremblay noted the monthly reports that Principal Gonzalez had provided and noted the achievements he had achieved over the past five years.

Superintendent Angeli reported that J. Dulac has been rectifying some issues of 1 to 1 computing. A server had to be replaced. The new Wifi devices were not able to accept the amount of broadband that the district has and new broadband may have to be purchased this year.

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Principal Apicelli noted that C. Lugli was absent due to participating in a concert this evening. He introduced Silas Olsen who will be the student representative next school year. Silas is a Governor’s Scholar, one of 28 in the State. He will be participating in the CIAC Steeple Chase and is the Senior Class President. A. Vertefeuille welcomed Silas.

IX. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. Enrollment – Superintendent Angeli reported that there has been a gain of two students from last month. There are 1,035 total students. A total of 21 students were gained over the school year. It is hoped that PreK and Kindergarten enrollments go up over the summer. K. Wentworth noted the loss of a total of 46 students from this time last year. N. McGillicuddy noted the low point of student population. Superintendent Angeli noted this is a state wide trend. K. Wentworth noted this should be looked at and the Board should be spending less money. A. Vertefeuille noted that enrollment and staffing should be monitored. N. McGillicuddy inquired if the teachers that are retiring will be replaced. Superintendent Angeli noted that the Computer Applications teacher will not be replaced as well as the .8 World Language teacher. K. Wentworth noted that the Board should be more involved with staffing and have input. S. Nelson supports the superintendent and noted that the Board is not the decision maker in staffing decisions. J. Nowosad noted that the Finance/Budget Subcommittee knows how much is available to hire staff, and what programs to be cut or bolster, not decisions on individuals. J. Mello noted that that the subcommittee and administration bring a package to the Board.

2. Food Service Update – Superintendent Angeli noted there is a deficit in Food Service but that Chartwells will honor the contract. R. Sirpenski noted that the new contract will have a surplus of \$100.00. He also noted that since the new food manager has been hired food sales have been the highest. The proposed amendment to the contract has to be into the State by July 1st.
3. 2016-2017 Budget – the update is in the Board packet. Superintendent Angeli noted that one month’s health insurance premium will be given back to the Town. The additional surplus is estimated to be \$175,000.00 - \$200,000.00. This will also be returned to the Town. The Town Board of Finance is open to having surplus go into the non-lapsing account. Most of the variance is due to special education costs. The Excess cost Grant payment that was just received was \$80,000.00 higher than received.
4. 2017-2018 Budget – Superintendent Angeli reported that the initial budget had an increase of 2.19% increase. The Town Board of Finance made a \$200,000.00 reduction for an increase of 1.14%. This budget was defeated at Town Meeting. We are now in a holding pattern until a budget from the State and the Town is enacted. Due to the \$200,000.00 cut from the Town Board of Finance the Field Maintenance position and a teacher position will not be filled. We will have to operate on a continuing budget which is a 0% increase. Line items are being identified that will have a hard or soft freeze. K. Wentworth noted that the budget could be less than 0% increase. Superintendent Angeli noted this could be a possibility. R. Sirpenski gave the background of the budget and the information he has received from legislators. The line items to be soft or hard frozen are; unemployment, workers compensation, professional development for teachers and administrators, postage, custodial supplies, repair and maintenance, textbooks, library books, capital outlay building, capital outlay grounds, marketing. These line items total approximately \$291,000.00 in additional cuts. An Instructional Assistant is retiring and hiring for that position may be held off. This will be decided over the summer.
5. Update on solar projects – Superintendent Angeli noted that Attorney Matt Ranelli of Shipman & Goodwin has been working on the contract for the project. CIRMA also weighed in on the contract. There is now an agreement. The risk of the roofs at the elementary and middle schools was discussed. The roofs are still under warranty. Roof failure and roof replacement were discussed. J. Mello noted that the solar panels may shelter the roofs from the elements. K. Wentworth discussed tax credits and his opposition to the solar project.

X. ACTION ITEMS

1. Award bid for painting at Lyman Memorial High School
K. French reported that the project had been rebid. Four bids were received the second time. References were checked. Scholar Painting is the recommended vendor.

Motion made by J. Mello and seconded by K. Wentworth to award the bid for painting at Lyman Memorial High School to Scholar Painting in the amount of \$42,320.00. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approve Superintendent’s Contract

Motion made by S. Nelson and seconded by J. Mello to approve the Superintendent’s contract for three years July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020 with a 2.5% increase in base salary and \$5,000.00 to be put into a tax sheltered annuity. The base salary will be \$170,644.00. N. McGillicuddy asked about Board input on the Superintendent’s evaluation. S. Nelson noted that the responses were tabulated. A.

Vertefeuille and J. Mello met with the Superintendent to review his evaluation. The total score was 3.5 out of 4. Comments were included. Most comments were positive. There was one comment asking about the K – 12 vocational agricultural curriculum. K. Wentworth inquired that negative comments were not counted. S. Nelson responded that all comments were included. The current contract expires in 2019. K. Wentworth discussed salary and holding the Board to a higher accord. J. Nowosad noted that progress is being made and need to keep moving forward. **Motion passed with K. Wentworth opposed.**

3. Approve PPA with Greenback for solar projects

Motion made by J. Nowosad and seconded by J. Mello to approve the PPA's with Green Bank for solar projects at the elementary and middle schools. Superintendent Angeli read the resolution that was passed by the Board of Selectmen. The Town has given authorization for the project. Motion passed with K. Wentworth and M. Wieczorek opposed.

4. Approve Chartwells renewal for 2017-2018

Motion made by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by J. Mello to approve the Chartwells renewal for 2017-2018. J. Nowosad noted that the Board should be looking at this contract earlier in the year. The feedback has been mixed. Superintendent Angeli noted the program had a deficit the previous year, this year there is a projected surplus. R. Sirpenski noted that another vendor and a joint venture with another district was looked at but was abandoned. Silas Olsen noted the quality and variety of food has regressed over the school year. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Approve request by administrator for payment of unused vacation time

Motion made by J. Nowosad and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to approve the request by administrator for payment of unused vacation time. Superintendent Angeli noted that this is for Principal Gonzalez to transition the new principal. K. Wentworth stated that he is opposed for payment of unused vacation time under any circumstance. J. Nowosad spoke in support of the request. N. McGillicuddy noted the elementary school is in very good shape. S. Nelson noted this is in the contract. **Motion passed with K. Wentworth abstaining.**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading of new Grade 6 Social Studies textbook
K. Mozak-Pezza displayed her recommended text. It will be displayed at the Town Library for one month.
2. Discussion of student petition regarding students taking seven credits to stay enrolled and limiting each student to one study hall per year
J. Nowosad discussed his schedule when he was a senior. J. Mello noted that this petition was received today and inquired if the proper channels were gone through prior to presenting this petition. Silas Olsen responded that administration was informed the students would be coming to this meeting and that the Board would decide this issue. S. Tremblay noted that there are two sides to this issue. It is not necessary to decide tonight. A. Vertefeuille noted that this is a start of a conversation. A decision can be made in July. Superintendent Angeli noted that he is not sure this would be a Board decision. A committee made a recommendation to the Board. Senior Freedom was discussed. The

superintendent discussed educational research done on this issue. Principal Apicelli discussed the high school schedule and core time during the school day. S. Nelson noted the process should be used to evaluate the change not the Board. A. Vertefeuille asked the students to discuss with the principal. S. Tremblay noted this issue should flow through the system for issues or concerns, and that there was a committee that made this decision which included teachers who researched the issue. K. Wentworth commended the students for coming forward to the Board tonight and presenting the issue. Lea Vichas reported that this had been discussed with teachers, and a guidance counselor. The student body was informed about the change less than two weeks ago. Lea Vichas will meet with the principal and students. A. Vertefeuille suggested that a Board member should also sit in on this meeting. N. McGillicuddy can sit in on the meeting after June 16th.

XII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by J. Nowosad and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to adjourn the meeting.. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kathleen E. Chapman

Board Clerk