

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, P. Ingvaldstad, T. O'Hear, D. Osborn, K. Roberts, D. Whitcomb. Absent: B. Penberthy, J. Eisenhardt, W. Sander. Others: B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden. C. Hindes, M. Frederick, D. White, Nick Nemeth.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Input

A. Call to Order – 6:30

B. Adopt the Agenda

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to adopt the agenda, and D. Whitcomb seconded. S. Reber suggested a couple of additions: a presentation by P. Ingvaldstad on mentoring, and a presentation by M. Frederick on budget realities. He also noted that refinancing of GMTCC construction is supposed to be an action item, though the agenda did not indicate that.

Nick Nemeth arrived at 6:32, and B. Schaffer introduced him. He is senior class president, and student representative to the board for this semester.

The motion was passed.

C. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves to N. Nemeth.

2. Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the October 6 Meeting, Acceptance of Administration Reports)

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to approve the consent agenda, and D. Whitcomb seconded. It was noted that the list of those present should be changed to show that B. Penberthy was there, and B. Bailey was not. **The motion to accept the consent agenda with those corrections to the minutes was passed.**

3. Directors' Orders:

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>10/02/09</i>	<i>\$52,365.84</i>
	<i>10/09/09</i>	<i>\$91,229.55</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>10/02/09</i>	<i>\$365.00</i>

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to approve directors' orders as printed, seconded by D. Whitcomb. S. Hamlyn-Prescott noted that the Village of Hyde Park electric bill was \$18,738. **The motion was passed.**

4. Presentation on Mentoring

P. Ingvaldstad said he is coordinator for the Lamoille Valley Mentoring Partnership, which supports 17 different mentoring programs – elementary, middle school, high school, and community-based. He said most prisoners in Vermont are not high school graduates. Mentors can be positive role models and may help kids graduate and keep

them out of prison. He discussed reasons people may not want to be mentors, and why those reasons may not be valid.

K. Roberts asked what his funding requirement is. P. Ingvoldstad estimated \$50,000 per year. He said they now have about 85 adult mentors in all 17 programs. Between 200-600 kids need mentors right now. S. Reber asked how kids who need mentors are identified. P. Ingvoldstad said they are identified based on criteria such as failing classes, parents not graduating from high school, or behavior. The coordinators of the different programs develop the lists of kids who need mentors. K. Roberts asked, what is the time commitment for a mentor? P. Ingvoldstad said it is very important to follow through on the commitment. They like to see a one-year commitment. Different programs have different requirements. In many school programs, mentors often meet with students for about 45 minutes at a time. He said he often meets with his mentee every other week for a whole Saturday. D. Whitcomb suggested P. Ingvoldstad might want to talk to RCT about how their drivers could act as mentors. Currently, RCT policy calls for drivers not to talk to students they are driving.

5. ***Presentation on Budget Realities***

M. Frederick gave a presentation entitled *Current Realities 2010: Snapshot of Management & Policy Issues in Vermont Public Schools*. It was put together by VSBA, the VT Superintendents Association, and the VT Principals' Association. The presentation showed the number of districts and supervisory unions in VT, public school FTE's by category, VT public schools state rankings, numbers of 2nd graders meeting or exceeding the reading standard, expenditure per pupil and per capita income compared to other states, student:staff ratios compared to the U.S. overall, annual rates of increase in education spending, and growth in the tax rate compared to gross state product and income. Total education expenditure as a percentage of VT gross state product has stayed fairly stable. Defeated school budgets have been fairly minimal. Net school property taxes paid compared to the consumer price index has jumped.

The commissioner suggests K-12 district alignment. VSBA says we should respect local authority. There is talk about getting rid of small school grants. The presentation showed education fund revenue sources. ARRA grant money is only for a couple of years and will be going away. Slides showed projected budget deficits for the state general fund, state appropriation for the teachers' retirement system (going up in FY2010 and FY2011), and percent increase from prior year for school spending and property taxes. The base education amount is frozen. It will not increase from FY2010 to FY2011. That compounds the effect of increased per pupil spending on residential taxpayer. A slide showed inflation-adjusted changes in spending from FY1990 to FY2008. Employee benefits is the area that has gone up the most. Professional and technical services has also had a notable increase. A slide showed VEHI health insurance premium increases from the prior year. Last year, they projected a 9% increase and it ended up being zero. This year, they are projecting 6%. She showed PK-12 special ed expenditures in VT. There has been a huge increase from 1990 to 2008. She showed statewide education spending increases from the prior year. The legislature is presuming a 0% increase in education spending for FY2011. It is very odd for them to project that; they've never done it before.

The presentation showed enrollment by grade for FY09 and enrollment and birth trends. The overall trend in the state is downward, but pre-kindergarten enrollment is growing rapidly. A slide showed census population estimates for children and seniors in VT. Our population is aging. However, in M. Frederick's experience seniors do support education budgets. She showed public school staff FTE's for FY1995 to FY2008. There has been growth in specialty teachers and paras. Estimated special ed staff in VT increased from 1995 to 2008. A slide showed number of active teachers by age. There are a lot of teachers close to retirement age. There was a slide showing annual savings of \$40-50 million through "ratio readjustment" – not replacing teachers who retire. The presentation included suggestions for managing labor costs, and the VT NEA perspective. They are urging members not to re-open contracts and not to accept salary freezes or benefit reductions. They support Catamount Health and national healthcare reform. The presentation showed the 2-year change in staff FTE's at the Dept. of Ed. Their staff is decreasing. They've had to turn down grants because of not having staff to manage them. The presentation showed recommendations for savings in energy and purchasing. We already do those things.

6. *Administrative Reports and Action Items*

A. **High School**

B. Schaffer recommended hiring Valerie Roberts as an associate school nurse. He explained that a school nurse has a bachelor's degree and an associate school nurse has an associate's degree.

MOTION: P. Ingvaldstad moved to approve hiring Valerie Roberts for the position of associate school nurse, and the motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to approve the new courses recommended by administration, seconded by K. Roberts. The courses are Band (for freshmen), We the People, and AP U.S. History. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked how costs for these courses will be incorporated without increasing the bottom line for curriculum next year. B. Schaffer reviewed the cost estimates from the proposals. He thinks they can absorb the cost of the new courses. He always advocates putting money into the classroom rather than other areas. No staff is being added for these courses. **The motion was passed.**

B. **Central Office**

M. Frederick explained that the construction aid promised by the legislature has not been totally funded. We are due to get about \$968,448 this year. We don't know when the rest will come, so we need to continue to borrow. According to Paul Giuliani, we are eligible to borrow up to our anticipated grant award as documented by the state – \$3,505,708. We can borrow at an interest rate of 2.99%. We haven't lost money so far as a result of the state not paying us all we are owed. But this current year, depending on when the money comes in, we may need to start paying more than we earn.

MOTION: K. Roberts moved that the board renew the Grant Anticipation Note with TD Banknorth, and approve the resolution, non-arbitrage

certificate and note for an amount of \$3,005,708 at a rate of 2.99%. D. Baker seconded, and the motion was passed.

MOTION: S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to enter executive session on a matter of contract negotiations, with administration remaining, and the student representative not remaining, seconded by B. Bailey, at 7:51, and the motion was passed. The board consented out of session at 8:12.

C. GMTCC

It was agreed to review only the GMTCC action plan tonight and save the others for a future meeting.

J. Teegarden presented his action plan. It listed 4 objectives:

- To foster productive work skills, implement an all-center employability skills performance tool.
- Implement a multi-year career development planning process for each student.
- To foster student enrollment, implement a comprehensive marketing program.
- To gain feedback on programming effectiveness, develop a valid and reliable assessment in each technical program.

For each objective, the plan listed strategies, assessment targets, LUSD goal alignment, and LNSU goal alignment. J. Teegarden said he would report back to the board based on the percentage targets listed.

PI asked where we are now compared to the postsecondary assessment targets listed for Objective 2 (*48% 12th grade postsecondary placement rate and 40% 12th grade completers enter relevant occupations or military*). J. Teegarden said we are around that now, but we are going to start tracking it better and having more precise data.

S. Reber asked what it means to successfully complete a program at the tech center. J. Teegarden said it has changed this year. Last year, it meant you mastered 90% of the technical competencies. Now it means you pass the program assessment.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked about the connection between the 97% graduation rate that is a target for Objective 1 and the 85% program completion rate that is a target for Objective 4. J. Teegarden said some kids are given certificates and graduate, but don't complete their programs. S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked, how does it look as far as kids from other schools being able to complete all their academic credits to graduate? J. Teegarden said it is not part of the action plan, but he has taken some steps, and will be taking more next year, with the sending schools. He will be proposing that all sending schools start and end at the same time, and that all schools take advantage of our summer school program. There is now an online social studies course. He would like to see everyone taking advantage of opportunities like that.

K. Roberts said the board would be interested to see how students are progressing as shown by the TABE assessment. She wonders if there will be any data about the pace our kids are progressing at, based on the progress report tool. Maybe we could hear about it a couple of times a year. J. Teegarden said some of the information he can give in the spring will be anecdotal. In the next action plan, he may have target numbers.

S. Reber thanked J. Teegarden for including goal alignment. D. Osborn noted that the goal alignment seems to have taken into consideration a lot of the discussion that took place while the board was developing goals.

7. ***Committee Reports***

K. Roberts said that the driveway for the new Cricket Hill building, which had been discussed last time, was originally planned to be located in another spot, but the road commissioner made us move it up to align with the other driveway.

D. Osborn congratulated K. Roberts on her election as president of VSBA.

8. ***Adjourn***

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn 8:45, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 10/20/09:

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