LISBON BOARD OF EDUCATION APRIL 13, 2016

LISBON REGIONAL SCHOOL 6:30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Bob Adams, Arthur Boutin, Rochelle Cacio, Scott Champagne, Jane King, Steve Sherry, Jim Trudell, Principal Jackie Daniels, Superintendent Pierre Couture, Business Administrator Tina Peabody

Superintendent Couture called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and asked for a reorganization of the Board.

MOTION BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE, SECONDED BY ROCHELLE CACIO TO NOMINATE BOB ADAMS AS THE BOARD CHAIRMAN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY ROCHELLE CACIO, SECONDED BY STEVE SHERRY TO NOMINATE SCOTT CHAMPAGNE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Junior students Emily, Jacob, and Joshua McCormick have been accepted to the Advanced Studies Summer Program at Saint Paul’s School. They will be taking Data Drive – Applied Mathematics, Entrepreneurship – Introduction to Business Ownership, The Quest – Humanities.

They asked the Board for financial support for the five week program that costs $3850.00 each.

Junior Sydney Lambert has been accepted to Harvard’s Secondary School Program. The program is seven weeks and the cost is $11,300.00. Sydney will study Principal of Techniques and Electro Biology. Sydney also asked the Board for financial assistance. The Board congratulated the four students and said Mrs. Daniels will get back to them with their decision.

Mike Davey from EEI spoke to the Board about the energy upgrade. They have applied for the $94,000.00 rebate. The rebate will be made in two payments (August and January) of the next financial year. Tax payers approved up to $650,000.00 for the project at the annual town meeting. Bidding for the project came in at $488,000.00. The lease amount will be $375,000.00. For the size of the project, the finance company prefers Lisbon go with a 12 year lease. To make the project cash flow, the district would need to pay $55,000.00 up front. The terms they propose is a $35,000.00 lease payment in year one with 3% escalation per year. The Board discussed payment options.

MOTION BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE, SECONDED BY STEVE SHERRY TO ALLOW THE BOARD CHAIRMAN TO NEGOTIATE WITH MUNICIPAL LEASING CONSULTANTS FOR A 12 YEAR LEASE AND AUTHORIZE UP TO $10,000.00 FROM CURRENT BUDGET SURPLUS FOR THE FIRST YEAR PAYMENT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The Board directed Mike to contact Principal Daniels, Superintendent Couture, Chris Leavitt and the Building Committee with questions regarding the project.

MOTION BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE, SECONDED BY JANE KING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2016 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL:

Bills were circulated for approval.

Tina reported on the lunch program and said there was not much change since last month. Within a month, she will have a lunch contract proposal for next year.

The Deficit/Surplus statement was distributed. Increase in expenditures since last month total $75,542.00. The estimated year-end balance is $198,630.00.

Tina gave new Board members a budget printout.

Board members received copies of Vachon, Clukay and Company’s report on internal controls based on an audit of our basic financial statements. This report will be on file in the school office and at the SAU.

BUDGET:  
No report

POLICY HANDBOOK:  
No report

EXECUTIVE BOARD:  
No report

NEGOTIATIONS (PROFESSIONAL STAFF):

No report

NEGOTIATIONS (SUPPORT STAFF):

No report

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Steve said the Committee met on Monday. They are working on vision and mission statements and exit outcomes.

The proposed vision statement is “The vision of Lisbon Regional School is to empower students to become productive members of the local and global community”.

The proposed mission statement is “The mission of Lisbon Regional School is to prepare students to become lifelong learners who strive for excellence, respect themselves and others, contribute to their community, and appreciate the beauty and diversity of our changing world. Inherent in this educational program is the concern for the physical, social, and emotional well-being of every student which is supported by a strong home, community, and school partnership.

TRANSPORTATION:

No report

TECHNOLOGY:

No report

BROWN FUND:

No report

LISBON EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

The LEF approved $4820.00 for seven grants at their April meeting.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Jackie said the staff and Grading Committee have been meeting to propose and make modifications to our grading system. The proposed grading system looks more traditional: 100 - 96, 95 - 85, 84 -80, I-50, and no attempt/no progress – 0.

The proposed changes will now go to the full staff for review. National Honor Society students will also be asked to review the changes.

The rubric will be changed so that formatives count for 10% of the grade.

When asked about staff concerns, Jackie said they are concerned students must be able to perform all of the competencies and have an 80% average in the class to pass.

She said this is still a work in progress but they are getting more feedback from a wider range of people.

Parents were asked to complete an assessment survey and responses came from 4 – grade 3/4 parents, 9 – grade 5/6 parents, 18 middle school parents, 33 high school parents.

Some of the questions and answers were:

To what extent do you understand how the current system works? The answers were equal across the board from 1 to 4.

Almost half of the responses came back as understanding the difference between formative and summative assessments.

31% of the respondents said they don’t understand the “N” list. Jackie said some of the respondents may have been elementary school parents. This question doesn’t apply to their children.

81% of parents said their children did homework.

Concerns from parents were: lack of communication when the change was instituted, students are not motivated, grades were subjective.

The staff feels it is important to continue grading on the habits of learning. The Committee and staff have not worked on revisions or changes to this component yet.

Mr. Deem said that students need to know what they got correct and what they didn’t get right. He said the only homework his son had this semester was one night this week. Mr. Deem asked why the school thought they had to reinvent the wheel. It has made a lot of confusion.

Mrs. Bronson said her son has no motivation. She can’t figure out why we are still talking about the new system after we are two years into it. She thinks the system is de-motivating good students and this is bigger than a communication breakdown.

Pierre told parents in attendance that Mrs. Daniels is taking their concerns seriously. He said we can’t change the system immediately but expect to have changed in place for the start of the new school year.

Jackie informed the Board, classes will be travelling for field trips to Billings Farm in Woodstock, VT and King Arthur Flour in Norwich, VT.

The senior class does not want to hold a Baccalaureate night and instead would like to have a Senior Night on Thursday prior to graduation. Scott would like to hear from the senior class on why they want to make this change. Jackie will ask the class officers to come to the next meeting to explain.

Jackie presented changes from Les Poore for violations to the code of conduct:

First offense: suspension of 5 NHIAA sanctioned events, student continues to go to practices.

Second offense: suspension of 10 NHIAA sanctioned events or remainder of current sports season, whichever is greater. Student continues to go to practices.

Third offense: Eligibility is lost.

The code of conduct is only listed in the student handbook. The Board discussed making it a Board policy. The Policy Committee will consider this and bring it back to the Board.

MOTION BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE, SECONDED BY JIM TRUDELL TO APPROVAL THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Pierre asked the Board to accept two professional staff resignations.

MOTION BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE, SECONDED BY JIM TRUDELL TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PARAPROFESSIONAL ANDREA HOUGHTON EFFECTIVE 4/15. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY STEVE SHERRY, SECONDED BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PART TIME ENGLISH TEACHER ASHLEY DOWSE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Pierre presented the Board with 41 professional staff nominations for 2016 – 2017.

MOTION BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE, SECONDED BY JANE KING TO ACCEPT THE 2016-2017 PROFESSIONAL STAFF NOMINATIONS AS PRESENTED BY SUPERINTEDENT COUTURE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Pierre did a first reading of job descriptions for the Head Custodian and Director of Guidance which were recently updated.

MOTION BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE, SECONDED BY STEVE SHERRY TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR HEAD CUSTODIAN AND DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The full SAU Board Meeting is scheduled for May 4 at 6:00 PM at the SAU office.

Gabby is preparing to add an additional health insurance plan for the staff that is geared toward young people who may not use the plan often. The deductible is higher but the co-pay is 20%. Health Trust will do a presentation in May.

MOTION BY JIM TRUDELL, SECONDED BY ROCHELLE CACIO TO GIVE 4 STUDENTS $1000.00 EACH FOR THEIR TUITION AT ST. PAUL’S AND HARVARD. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Jim spoke on the discussion that occurred at the Annual School Meeting and complaints about the tax rate. He said we need to look at how we educate students and keep the tax rate level. He feels we have to stop the tax rate from going up and down. Jim says we are looking at tuition as a given and if we were to lose our tuition students, it would be devastating to the tax rate. He thinks we need to look into different ways to educate kids for less money. He suggested looking at long distance learning as an entire program for high school students. Some Board members disagreed with this and said they would never send their children to a virtual high school. Pierre said that Lisbon is already stretching itself by offering many elective classes on line. Jim says we are depending on tuition students to run the school and have not put money away for capital improvements.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Scott read Owen’s notes from the last Committee meeting.

Chris Leavitt passed oil tank training.

After a Department of Labor inspection identified the need for eye wash stations, we will be installing four of them.

The kitchen was sprayed for ants on March 18th.

There will be an elevator inspection on April 19th.

Propane companies have been here to go over the plan for our energy project this summer. One boiler will be removed and replaced with a propane boil.

New carpets will not be installed until after the boiler is replaced.

Scott is down one janitor. John has been out due to illness. They are using high school students to fill in.

No plans have been made to hire summer help for the janitors. Jackie said they will figure this out once they know how EEI plans to do the energy installation.

The school received a letter from the Town Administrator. The Selectman are requesting to see and approve the contract for generator maintenance.

Bob and Board members discussed Committee reassignments.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY JIM TRUDELL, SECONDED BY SCOTT CHAMPAGNE TO ADJOURN AT 9:13 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Derosia

Clerk