

Lisbon School Committee Minutes
August 9, 2021

Minutes of the Lisbon School Committee Special Meeting held on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. (Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the School Committee. Such action, to either approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the September 13, 2021 meeting.)

Members Present: Traci Austin, Ross Cunningham, Kim Labbe-Poisson, Kelly Rogers and Richard A. Green, Superintendent of Schools

Members Excused: Kathi Yergin

Administrators Present:

Administrators Excused:

Called to Order:

Chair Austin called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Participants wishing to make public comments are asked to email them to Lisbon School Committee Chair Austin at taustin@lisbonschoolsme.org prior to the Public Comment section of the agenda.

4. Workshop (Lisbon School Committee Retreat):

- A. Welcome/Year in Review (Goals Report) – Superintendent Green reviewed the Goals and Objectives from last year. Discussions were held and the School Committee will update them for the 2021-2022 school year as needed. *Member Rogers would like to receive updated reports on enrollment to keep an eye on class sizes.*

Director Colello-Nichols reported on the Summer Explorer Program and explained to the board what the programs consisted of as well as provided examples of what students were learning about. The program was a big hit with both staff and students. *Member Cunningham asked if there was anything that she would add to the program next year.* Director Colello-Nichols stated that she would like to get more feedback from teachers to see if there was anything we could add to the program. Director Colello-Nichols stated that one of the huge goals for her was for the program to be a front loading program. This year, because of the teachers that signed up, we could only have the teachers who had already had these students be assigned to them. Next year the intention is that for the students that do attend, the criteria will be set for teachers to really specifically pick out those students that need additional learning. Director Colello-Nichols also stated that she would like the students to be assigned to the teacher they will be having that following year so they can start building relationships. Next, Director Colello-Nichols shared that next year she would also like to layer in a Jump Start Program for students entering Kindergarten that did not attend Pre-K. The intention there is that they would get a 3 week jump start and teachers would not have a mixture of kids where some already know things such as where the bathroom is or where the cafeteria is. *Member Cunningham asked if she planned on staying in the same age group or did she have any plans of expanding.* Director Colello-Nichols shared that both the middle school and high school would like to offer (with some of our ESSERF III

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Funds) to build a credit recovery at the high school for both February and April break as well as the end of June and into July. The middle school would like to build a continuing education program like the elementary school did this summer but it will be more academic based. *Member Cunningham asked if this is all core functions being taught or will you be adding any Art, Music, Drama, Sports etc...* Director Colello-Nichols stated that at its best structure there should be that component. There is a local artist that has done this program before, she is a current educator and can take any science theme a teacher is doing and build in the most incredible art activities. With more planning the goal is to add in these components. *Member Rogers asked if there were parameters around the money meaning can the money only be used for students who are not meeting the targets or might there be opportunity for extension offerings for some kiddos who need to be pushed a little more.* Director Colello-Nichols stated that her understating is that it is for COVID impact so it had to have some sort of negative impact on their learning. It does not necessarily state for students who have lost learning due to COVID, for example, if Gifted and Talented were not able to meet due to COVID, they would have been impacted. *Member Rogers stated that this is a great program and she would like to keep within our goals of improving academic achievement to ensure success for all students; so we need to look across the spectrum to include all students.*

Director Colello-Nichols next reported on the Teachers Learning Institute Workshop Program. In the aftermath of 2 years with limited professional development opportunities for teachers due to COVID, Lisbon is proud to offer the learning sessions for teachers and grow the offerings within it. Attendance will be taken by the session leader, and participants are expected to attend a full session to receive recertification credit and PD pay. We currently have 67 educators signed up for sessions. We are able to run this through our ESSERF funds. Sessions run Monday – Friday, some are morning sessions and others are afternoon sessions allowing for teachers to sign up for multiple training opportunities. There will also follow-up throughout the year.

5. Superintendents Report:

- Staff Openings:
 - Support Staff
 - Custodian/Bus Driver
 - Ed-Tech's
- Budget Update
 - 2021-2022 Budget Forecast
 - \$374,912 State Subsidy (Regular Instruction Reserve Account Transfer)
- Curriculum
 - Julie Colello-Nichols (Director Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment)
 - Student/Staff Handbooks
- Facilities
 - Paving Projects (Spring 2022)
 - COVID-19 Projects (CRF Funds)
 - Doors (LHS and PWS)

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- Gartley Street School (Steam to HW)
- High Performance Lighting
- Proposals
 - Reopening of Schools
 - Pooled Testing (Julie)
 - Community Numbers
 - Vaccination
 - HVAC, O2 Prime, Air Quality, Thermal Cameras (Existing)
 - DOE is for 100% in-person instruction
- Other
 - Student Enrollment
 - Pre-K Transportation
 - Co-Curricular Eligibility
 - LHS
 - Workshop Topics (Draft)
 - LESP, LEA and LAA (Negotiations)
 - New Teacher Induction Luncheon (August 17th @ 12PM)
 - Expiring Terms (Poisson, Yergin)

Lastly, Superintendent Green discussed the reopening plan. The Department of Education's goal is for full in-person instruction. Lisbon has been operating on that model for the past year. In our district we have had a mask recommended for the entire summer, we have had the Rec. Dept. as well as summer school in our buildings and we have had zero issues. The main question from all Superintendents is why the DOE will not mandate something. The reason is, there is no Governor's Mandate so the DOE is unable to mandate, they can only "strongly suggest". We have signed up for Pool Testing and we have been doing it all summer. We are being told that any of the students that participate in pool testing will not have to quarantine or social distance if there is a positive case. Our community numbers are low for COVID Positive Cases. The Department of Human Services is requiring school districts to report how many of our staff have been vaccinated. We were not able to do this in the past however there is language that under certain emergencies, DHHS is allowed to require school districts to report this. We need to report this every month. *Chair Austin asked if it was mandatory that staff answer this question if they choose not to.* Superintendent Green said there is no penalty that he is aware of and that it will be an anonymous server done through possibly Survey Monkey. Director Colello-Nichols shared that we also need to report on contracted services for example if the heating company were to come in, we need to ask if they are vaccinated. Superintendent Green stated all the existing things that were in place last year are still in effect. (O2 sensors, updated HVAC, Ventilation, Temperature scanning etc.) Superintendent Green shared that he will not be making a recommendation tonight, as the DOE is supposed to be updating their Standard Operation Procedures within the next 48 hours. Several districts have announced their decisions for the startup of school and most of them are recommending masks at this point. Superintendent Green stated that in about two weeks after meeting with administrators and seeing if any new guidance has been released a recommendation will be made. *Member Rogers asked if there have been any districts that have considered plans such as if a child is in the age bracket where vaccinations are not yet available they have to be masked but if you're in an age bracket that vaccinations are available, that is where it becomes recommended?* Superintendent

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Green replied that what he has seen from the Superintendents that have released a decision is that the masks are "highly recommend" for all grades. Director Colello-Nichols then gave a description of what Pool Testing consisted of for the board. Parents need to first sign their child up for testing. The children are taught how to swab their nose and nurses from this organization do the rest of the work. None of this is completed by our staff. Within less than 48 hours we are able to see the results. If a positive test comes back, they do know which grade level it was in and they will then come back and do a rapid test on the students in that tested positive in the pool testing. This is all kept confidential and only the family of that student will know. So if the positive student was in a class of 20 and 12 of them were participating in pool testing and their rapid test came back negative and they were asymptomatic they do not need to quarantine; however the remaining 8 students would need to quarantine for the full 10 days even if they go outside of school and get a negative test they still need to quarantine the full 10 days. Vaccinated students will not need to quarantine if they are a close contact. *Member Rogers stated that a very important clarification to make is that the test is not a deep nasal swab, it is just right at the tip of the inside of the nose. Member Cunningham asked if there was a required percentage of a grade that is required to participate in the Pool Testing.* Director Colello-Nichols stated that currently the SOP's state that 30% of your school needs to be participating for the 3 feet rule to not apply to eating and to not be put in outbreak status should your school wind up in an outbreak. This percentage will be changing as might the restrictions guidelines for those participating in pool testing.

6. Public Comment:

A. None.

7. Adjournment:

VOTED (1) to adjourn. (Labbe-Poisson - Cunningham) (4-0) (6:30 PM)



Richard A. Green Ed.D.
Secretary, Lisbon School Committee