

MINUTES OF THE LISBON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE LISBON TOWN OFFICE MEETING ROOM. (NOTE: These Minutes are not official until approved by the School Committee. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the October 14, 2008 meeting.)

Members Present: Prudence Grant, Traci Austin, Deborah Danuski, Fay Ingersoll; Shannon L. Welsh, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Janice Comber (excused)

Administrators Present: James Churchill, Technology Director; Jim Damsgaard, School Nutrition Director; Sara Flowers, Adult Education Director; Warren Galway, Assistant Principal; Richard Green, Principal; Kenneth Healey, Principal; Carlene Iverson, Principal; Susan Matthews, Special Education Director; Catherine Messmer, Business Manager; Darrell Orr, Interim Director of Facilities Maintenance and Pupil Transportation Kate Race, Assistant Principal; and Jeff Ramich, Co-Curricular Director

Administrators Absent:

Others Present: Several members of the staff and the public.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. .

4. MINUTES:

A. **VOTED: (1)** To receive and approve the Minutes of August 25, 2008 meeting of the School Committee. (Danuski – Austin) (4 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Move 11.B. to follow 6.B.

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

A. Patricia Mendelson reported on the 3 year grant for Computer Models in EcoScience Works and how being a pilot school has benefited science at middle school level. Ms. Mendelson explained that this type of program

would increase the understanding and interest of Maine students in the inner workings of computer programs and the general logic of simulation models of ecosystems.

- B. Barbara Thompson reported on some of the benefits of grant writing. She has written and received several grants which have benefited the students. LCS has received a telescope and GI units along with many textbooks.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:** (Agenda Adjustment)

- B. **VOTED: (2)** To appoint Michelle Swatsworth-Turmelle as a member and Mary Callahan as an alternate to the Lisbon Ethics Committee.
(Danuski – Austin) (4 – 0)

Comments from public: Suggestion was that the School Committee help drive the ethics board to be more than just an advisory role but to have more authority.

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS/EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION:

- A. Susan Matthews – Special Education Review: Director Matthews reported on the Department of Education’s review of our school unit’s special education program scheduled to begin this current year. She explained that along with the review for compliance, the school unit’s data from the State's Performance Plan report card and parent survey results will also be examined. She explained that this year is anticipated to be the first of a three year cycle. In her final comments Ms. Matthews noted that she had been contacted by a State employee earlier in the day and was informed that a shortage in staffing at DOE may delay the start of the review process by six months to a year.
- B. Jeffrey Ramich – Summer Update: Director Ramich thanked Ralph Morse and Jim Gurney for the great job they did on the fields this summer. He discussed the participation numbers for fall sports. Mr. Ramich reported on the success of the new eligibility policy that was implemented in 2007-2008. Last year there were 10-15 student athletes that were ineligible and this year there were only 4 students. He stated the goal is to have 100% participation.
- C. Darrell Orr- Summer Update: Mr. Orr gave an overview of the new hires for this year and the projects completed this summer by the maintenance staff and custodians. He reported that they were able to eliminate one bus by reorganizing the bus runs and that they replaced 3 old VCR units with digital cameras. He thanked his staff, the help received from the Androscoggin County Sheriff’s Department, and all the volunteers that worked on the improvements around the district this summer.

A visual on the new football practice field was presented to the Committee followed by some discussion.

- D. Jim Damsgaard – Summer Update: Director Damsgaard reported that whole wheat bread has replaced white bread along with other healthier food changes. He explained his handout on the High School Meals and how the changes have had a positive financial impact on the budget.
- E. James Churchill – Summer Update: Director Churchill stated that his update would be incomplete because he spent the summer on conservation efforts for saving energy dollars that would be ongoing. He concentrated on simple things, like changing old CRT monitors at LCS with State Surplus 15” flat panel monitors that are far more energy efficient. He reported that he would be exchanging equipment from one area to another to save on energy consumption as well.
- F. Sara Flowers – Summer Update: Director Flowers reported that between June 2 and August 20 the Summer Session had 66 students which is lower than other summers. She was able to get the catalog out 1 week earlier than normal and would like to get the brochure out earlier next year to coincide with the other area adult education classes.

Ms. Flowers explained her plans and ideas for the coming year, focusing on new curriculum, involving volunteer teachers for electives and student participation.

- G. Cathy Messmer – Leased Space Procedures: Business Manager Messmer reporting on the cost analysis that had been done on leasing space at the central office. Her recommendation was \$9.00 per square foot. She reported that although they had an inquiry on a room and outside space, there was no item on the agenda for the committee’s approval.

8. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

- A. Opening of School: Dr. Welsh reported that in analyzing the opening enrollment with one year ago we are down by 40 students which is in line with statewide enrollment figures. We are still well above the Planning Decisions predictions with a projected enrollment of 1,151 and an actual of 1,349 students. Superintendent Welsh stated that budgeting was based on this reduction. The State uses October 1st as the official count which is what the subsidy is based on.

Dr. Welsh affirmed the decision by the town to keep classroom sizes down; their investment has paid off, evidenced by the jump in the MEA scores. She reported that grades K-5 are at about 16-18 students with the sixth grade being above this at 24 plus.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Several issues were discussed in length which included:

- a) compliments received on the GPS/computer work being done;
- b) concerns about communication and planning regarding the cutting of the trees at PWS;
- c) the proposed new practice field caused concern that the project might not get finished and concerns about the need to make improvements on the track;
- d) questions on school policies and why they cannot be available on the Union #30 web site; and
- e) lights for the football field.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **VOTED: (3)** To approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2008-2009. (Danuski – Austin) (4 – 0)

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. Lisbon High School – None
- B. Philip W. Sugg Middle School – July 31, 2008
- C. Lisbon Community School – August 31, 2008
- D. Lisbon School Department – As of September 04, 2008

13. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda):

- A. Photos of New Staff
- B. Disposition of Surplus Vehicle
- C. School Handbooks:
 - 1. Lisbon Community School
 - 2. Phillip W Sugg Middle School
 - 3. Lisbon High School

14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Member Austin welcomed all the new people.

Member Ingersoll commented on the quality of the new staff photos.

15. PERSONNEL:

None

16. POLICY REVIEW:

- A. Policies 09 Packet #1 was distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on October 14, 2008 and Final Adoption on November 10, 2008.
- B. **VOTED: (4)** To delete Policy JJE-R. (Danuski – Austin) (4 – 0)
- C. **VOTED: (5)** To delete Policy JJF-E1 and JJF-E2.
(Danuski – Ingersoll) (4 – 0)
- D. **VOTED: (6)** To delete Policy JLF-E. (Danuski – Austin) (4 – 0)

17. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (7) To adjourn. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0) (9:18 p.m.)

Shannon L. Welsh
Secretary, Lisbon School Committee

SLW:sjc