

MINUTES OF THE LISBON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. AT 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 March 10, 2008 meeting.)

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

Members Absent:

Administrators Present: James Churchill, Technology 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: Jim Damsgaard, School Nutrition Director; Alene Staley, Adult Education Director

Others Present:

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

4. WORKSHOP:

A. Technology:

A Workshop on the Lisbon Community School was presented by James Churchill.

James Churchill began the workshop showing a compilation video of commercials released by AT&T in 1993. The commercials spoke about technology that didn't exist in 1993 like distance learning via video conferencing and GPS devices. Mr. Churchill spoke about how most of the technology that was being presented in the commercials now exists for the average consumer and in many cases being used in our schools already. To demonstrate how the Lisbon School Department is using technology to help in educating our students, Mr. Churchill introduced Scott Trach.

Mr. Trach is the music teacher at the Philip W. Sugg Middle School. Mr. Trach began with by presenting the application Noteshare, which is included on the iBooks that the state issues to the 6th and 7th grade students. Noteshare allows Mr. Trach to create an organized, basic notebook that students can make digital copies of (and place those copies directly on their laptop). The students can edit their copy of the Noteshare notebook and even add notes in the master notebook that Mr. Trach designed. Mr. Trach went on to demonstrate how his students are using Garageband to create their own music. Some students are also creating podcasts that are being uploaded to sites on the web. Mr. Trach has also begun working with blogs. A blog is similar to an online diary, except that others (like our students) can contribute and add to the blog. Students are actively monitoring Mr. Trach's blog and adding content to the blog. One of the strengths of the blog is that it be access from anywhere or anytime as long as a person has an internet connection. This is another form of communication that Mr. Trach is using to help our students share there thoughts, questions and work.

To finish the workshop, Mr. Churchill showed the video "Did You Know V. 2" by Karl Fisch (<http://thefischbowl.blogspot.com/>). The video speaks about the challenges that we face in education. The video showed estimates that today's students will have held 10 to 14 jobs by the time that they reach the age of 38. It also talks about how fast technology is advancing that the amount of new information that is being created daily. The video finishes by asking what is our vision to help educate our children to be prepared to compete in the future, in a time where the amount of information will double every 72 hours. Mr. Churchill concluded his presentation with the end of the video.

Member Austin commented that she liked the way the note taking skills are set up.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.** LHS Program Ken Healey - Questions previously asked by the School Committee were addressed and answered by Mr. Healey. After further investigation, Mr. Healey reported that we were charged only \$75 and not \$83 as he previously reported.

Principal Healey stated that in regards to the academic program, it was not the intent to elevate the AP teachers over the other teachers. Our teachers are all highly qualified and certified. Mr. Healey passed out a handout for student academic programs. He reported that 70% of kids are taking college prep class.

Member Ingersoll voiced her concern with how the honor classes differ from AP. Mr. Healey explained that the teachers provide the coarse content for honors classes and AP course content is provided by the College Board.

Member Ingersoll asked how the student gets credit for the AP courses. The

student gets a grade at high school and when students pass the AP exam they are eligible for college credit, depending upon a decision by the individual college. Member Ingersoll also asked how do the teachers feel who teach the honors classes? Mr. Healey's response was that he has no example that they don't feel their honors class is not as high quality as the AP classes.

It was asked how the student gets the idea that the AP courses are more difficult and rigorous than the honor classes and the response was that the courses are tied in with lots of reading and writing and geared to a college year of only 4 courses unlike high school where the student has to take 6 classes and several activities. Society tells us the standards are higher because it is nationally approved syllabus and the same for all.

There was some discussion on whether the standards are lower for the honor courses than for the AP courses. Principal Healey explained that there are performance indicators for each class. The main difference between the two is that the AP class is faster paced, greater expectation on a project, and, for example, the student must demonstrate the proof of mathematical results.

Member Comber asked if it is mandatory that the students take the AP exam if they take the course. Mr. Healey said it is not mandatory but it's something we'd like them to do. That gives them the incentive to take other classes. The College Board does not require it but Lisbon High School does.

Chair Grant thought that the message that the kids had been given was not what the Committee had asked – they were leaving out the expertise of the other teachers who are not teaching AP courses and saying how wonderful the AP program is was not our concern but we were concerned with the cost of the tests. It was never the School Committee's intent to drop the AP courses. Ms Grant said she did not want to leave the audience with a negative impression that some of our teachers may not be as highly qualified as our AP teachers. Unfortunately representations were made unintentionally. Chair Grant also asked Mr. Healey if he planned to do anything to ensure the staff did not feel concerned. She asked that he inform the teachers that the School Committee feels they are honored as well as the AP teachers.

- B. **VOTED: (1)** To approve the Lisbon School Department budget for 2008-2009. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0)

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- VOTED: (2)** To go into executive session to discuss LAA Negotiations, pursuant to Freedom of Access Statute, 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(D). (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0) (8:43 p.m.)

7. GENERAL SESSION:

Returned to General Session at 9:15 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (1) To adjourn. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0) (9:16 p.m.)

Shannon L. Welsh
Secretary, Lisbon School Committee

SLW:sjc