

MINUTES OF THE LISBON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 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 10, 2006 meeting.)

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

Members Absent:

Administrators Present: Jana Boody, Curriculum Director; James Churchill, Technology Director; Jim Damsgaard, School Nutrition; Richard Green, Principal; Kenneth Healey, Principal; Carlene Iverson, Principal; Susan Matthews, Special Education Director; Catherine Messmer, Business Manager; Jeff Ramich, Co-Curricular Director and Alene Staley, Adult Education Director

Administrators Absent:

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. She announced that the September 24th School Committee meeting would be an Executive Session Workshop for the purpose of compiling the Superintendent's evaluation and would be held at the Central Office Conference Room. This meeting will not be broadcast.

4. MINUTES:

A. **VOTED: (1)** To receive and approve the Minutes of August 07, 2007 and August 13, 2007 meeting of the School Committee. (Danuski – Reed) (5 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

None

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS/EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION:

- A. Rick Green – Summer Update: Principal Green recognized the custodial staff and said that the new “foreign language wing” looks awesome. He gave special thanks to Darrel, Dan, Kiwi, Debbie, Curt and Steve and noted that he heard positive comments from everyone. This year there are a lot of new faces. The culture is going to be changing but in a positive way. The MEA scores have been returned and early results indicate the 8th grade showed significant improvement. The first day of school went great except for a couple of issues with buses.
- B. Susan Matthews – Summer Update: Special Education Director Matthews reported that new regulations involving Special Education are in effect as of August 3, 2007. There are significant changes from the prior rules. Over the next year they will work as a department to become familiar with the new regulations. Mrs. Matthews reported that after each meeting they must determine if the child needs special education by using the following three rules: 1. Does the student have a disability; 2. Does the student’s disability adversely effect he/she from learning; and 3. Does the student need specialized instruction. Mrs. Matthews also stated that there have been an increased number of students with autism which has resulted in many new hires. One school committed member asked if the state changes would reduce the number of children in the program. Director Matthews did not have an answer at this time.
- C. Jana Boody – New Teacher Induction: Ms Boody reported that the 2007 summer induction included 16 participants: 6 from LCS; 7 from PWS; and 3 from LHS. Six days were dedicated to K-5 and four days dedicated to 6-8 ELA curriculums. Nine elementary and 4 middle level teachers worked to re-write Lisbon’s literacy curriculum. Many topics were discussed. Teachers were given the opportunity at the end of these sessions to give feedback on how they felt this program helped them with 91% agreeing that the trainings would be useful. Curriculum Director, Boody pointed out that the teachers will continue to meet during the school year to learn and support one another.
- D. Jeffrey Ramich – Summer Update: Mr. Ramich was pleased to report that the new eligibility change only affected five students from last fall with a grade 75 or below, emails will go out to the parents and coaches. He was pleased to report that the only sport with less participation this year is football. All the schedules are available on www.highschoolsports.net.
- E. Jim Damsgaard –Update on Ala Carte to basics. Mr. Damsgaard reported that the new menu is a work in progress. The objective is to have a

healthier balanced menu. He and his staff have had a real challenge explaining the new choices to the students but feels they are beginning to understand the concept of the new wellness program. The debit card is working great and is a real time saver. Director Damsgaard also said that he has seen a 71% increase in free lunch participants this year.

- F. James Churchill – Summer Update: There was a change in direction by the Department of Education and Governor Baldacci when they announced that the laptop initiative would be expanded into all Maine high schools during the 2007-2008 school year. This year all high school teachers will be given an iBook. We re-evaluated our use of technology funds. We replaced teacher laptops at the elementary school and computer/business lab computers at LHS. We were still able to address out of warranty repairs on the iBooks and windows laptops. Our plan is to purchase laptops to replace desktop computers at a savings of \$4000. The school committee asked about the take home policy for student laptops at the middle school. Mr. Churchill confirmed that parents do have to sign off and make a deposit before the computers can go home with the student.

- G. Alene Staley – Summer Update: Ms Staley reported that the summer session is now complete with 108 enrolled. She reported that 47 are academic and the remaining are enrolled in vocational and enrichment classes. Classes will begin at Lisbon Elementary School this fall. The summer sessions ran from June 25 – August 15, 2007.

8. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

- A. Opening of School: Dr. Welsh heard positive feedback regarding opening day. She thanked the staff for a great start of the school year. A slight reduction in enrollment of approximately 26 students was reported. Dr. Welsh noted that Planning Decisions predictions were not very accurate with a projected enrollment of 1,257 and an actual of 1,390 students.

- B. Superintendent's Report Out: Dr. Welsh reported to the School Committee the various aspects of her position as Superintendent of Schools for Durham and Lisbon. She also indicated that she has had to spend more time at Durham due to the Durham Elementary School Building Project.

- C. Consolidation Update: Dr. Welsh spoke a little about State requirements related to consolidation, the process for the referendum votes, and the time necessary to accomplish the work. Voters will be given the opportunity to vote on a reorganization plan that provides specifics related to governance, finance, and a transition plan. This is an opportunity for five towns to come together to create a new organization. Representatives from each of the towns will create the reorganization plan. The Lisbon Town Council selected Charlie Smith and Gina Mason to share the position representing

the municipality. Chair Grant will represent the School Committee. The School Committee will appoint a community representative later in this meeting. Superintendent Welsh also noted we will need to conduct a budget referendum vote as part of the new law.

School committee member Reed asked that even if we don't consolidate this year, do we still have to go to referendum – yes. Chair Grant commented that she was pleased that a report by the 'Forecaster' was sensitive in reporting that Lisbon was sensitive to the need to protect their individuality.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **VOTED: (2)** To accept the fuel bid from Downeast Energy for the Lisbon School Department for the period of September 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Reed – Austin) (5 – 0)
- B. **VOTED: (3)** To approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2007-2008. (Danuski – Comber) (5 – 0)
- C. **VOTED: (4)** To appoint Martha Poliquin as the community representative to the Reorganization Planning Committee. (Danuski – Reed) (5 – 0)
- D. **VOTED: (5)** To approve an Overnight Field Trip to Camp Susan Curtis (CSC) for the fifth-grade students on September 25-27. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0)

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. Lisbon High School – None
- B. Philip W. Sugg Middle School – None
- C. Ala Carte – None
- D. Lisbon School Department – As of September 6, 2006

13. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda):

- A. Revised Lisbon/Union #30 School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2006-2007

14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Member Comber thanked Monica Millhime for the new staff photos. She mentioned that her nephew is a 6th grader this year and felt very welcomed by staff at the middle school. This helped give him a positive start to the new school year.

Member Danuski commented on the football team's record of 2-0. Chair Grant was very impressed with the new menu and Jim Damgaard's work on it.

Member Reed commented on the school year and how he felt it got off to a good start.

Member Austin said all went well on the first day as she brought her boys to school.

15. PERSONNEL:

- A. New Hires:

- 1) **VOTED: (6)** To employ Victoria Worden as Educational Technician III at the Lisbon Community School effective September 11, 2007. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0)
- 2) **VOTED: (7)** To employ Dorothy Carsley as Educational Technician II at the Lisbon Community School effective September 11, 2007. (Danuski – Reed) (5 – 0)
- 3) **VOTED: (8)** To employ Melinda McThompson as Special Educational Technician II at the Lisbon Community School effective September 11, 2007. (Comber – Reed) (5 – 0)
- 4) **VOTED: (9)** To employ Teri Huntington as Educational Technician II at the Lisbon Community School effective September 11, 2007. (Reed – Comber) (5 – 0)
- 5) **VOTED: (10)** To employ Geoffrey A. Godo as Educational Technician II at the Lisbon Community School effective September 11, 2007. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0)
- 6) **VOTED: (11)** To employ Jeanine May as Accounts Payable Coordinator at the Central Office effective September 11, 2007. (Danuski – Reed) (5 – 0)

- 7) **VOTED: (12)** To employ Rick Gamache as Boy's Soccer Coach at the P.W. Sugg Middle School for the 2007-2008 school year. (Comber – Danuski) (5 – 0)
- 8) **VOTED: (13)** To employ Paul Thibodeau as 2nd Shift Busdriver/Custodian at the P.W. Sugg Middle School and Lisbon High School effective September 11, 2007. (Danuski – Reed) (5 – 0)
- 9) **VOTED: (14)** To employ Pauline Mathieu as Girl's Soccer Coach at the P.W. Sugg Middle Library for the 2007-2008 school year. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0)
- 10) **VOTED: (15)** To employ Ed Regan as Sophomore Class Advisor at the Lisbon High School for the 2007-2008 school year. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0)

B. Resignations:

None

16. POLICY REVIEW:

. None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

18. GENERAL SESSION:

19. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (16) To adjourn. (Danuski – Austin) (5 – 0) (9:00 p.m.)

Shannon L. Welsh
Secretary, Lisbon School Committee

SLW:sjc