

Board Minutes...

March 4, 2008 Special Board Meeting of the Lawrence Public Schools Board of Education.

Members Present: Julie Beam, Jeff Johnson, Dave Nicholas, Carol Sjoquist.

Absent: Chuck Carpp, Jim Sanborn, Carrie Rokos

Administration Present: John Overley, Sue McQueen, Bob Gendron, Phil McAndrew (left 7:55)

Student Representative Present: Jayson Bowman

The meeting was called to order by Johnson at 7:30 p.m.

Sjoquist moved and Beam supported the motion to approve the February 4, 2008 minutes as presented.

Motion carried 4-0.

Beam moved and Nicholas supported the motion to approve the bills of \$420,387.18 as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried 4-0.

There were no comments from the public.

Overley recognized Bill Lux who will join Jeff Johnson on the ballot who are running for the two open board seats in the upcoming election.

McQueen presented the elementary principal report highlighting the improvement by the lower grades on the MIBLISI tests; the field trips taken by the students and the upcoming parent teacher conferences.

Gendron presented the Jr./Sr. high school principal's report highlighting the direction of the new Michigan Merit Curriculum, the second student count day, the successful winter homecoming events and the leadership summit student exchange day at Fennville.

McAndrew presented the Athletic Director's report highlighting the Varsity basketball team's success as the SAC champions, the District Champions and the winner of the first round in the regional competition. He also stated John Underwood would be making a presentation to the coaches; there would be a parent/coach meeting this week.

Overley went over the projected proposed school aid budget update from the governor's office.

Beam moved and Nicholas supported the motion to approve the letter of resignation from Pat Garrod as high school office manager with regret. Motion carried 4-0.

Sjoquist moved and Beam supported the motion to approve the letter of resignation from Bob Fragala as an assistant varsity football coach. Motion carried 4-0.

Consideration of the administrative contracts was tabled to the next board meeting when all board members would be present.

Consideration of approving Jeff Johnson as volunteer assistant softball coach was postponed to the next board meeting in need of a quorum.

Sjoquist moved and Beam supported to approve the following spring sports coaches:

Scott Conklin, Head varsity baseball coach

Scott Whittington, Volunteer assistant baseball coach

Dale Gribler, Jr. Varsity head baseball coach

Randy Jarka, Volunteer assistant baseball coach

Jon Pobuda, Head varsity softball coach

Bill Lux, Volunteer assistant softball coach

Aaron Amthor, Head Jr. Varsity softball coach
Heather Jarka, Volunteer assistant softball coach
Troy Zimmerlee, Girls varsity track coach
Pete Alburtus, Boys varsity track coach
Val Marsh, Head junior high track coach
Jason Lenahan, Assistant junior high track coach

Motion carried 4-0.

Nicholas moved and Sjoquist supported the motion to direct Overley, in connection to the State Resolution of the National School Breakfast Week, March 3-7, 2008, to send a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Strefling and the cafeteria staff for all their efforts. Motion carried 4-0.

The board also stated a letter would be sent to Mr. Orlaske and Mrs. Curtis in recognition of their success in the Science Olympiad competition.

Johnson called the next special board meeting to be set on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00.

Overley reported the numbers on the winter student count were 742, which reflected a small drop of four students from the fall count.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15

Pat Garrod, Recording Secretary

March 12, 2008 Special meeting of the Board of Education
 Lawrence Public Schools, Van Buren County, Michigan
Members Present: Julie Beam, Chuck Carpp, Jeff Johnson, Dave
Nicholas, Jim Sanborn,
 Carol Sjoquist. Absent: Carrie Rokos
Administration Present: Sue McQueen, John Overley, Phil McAndrew,
Bob Gendron
Student Representatives Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Johnson at 7:01 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Sanborn moved and Carpp supported the motion to approve granting step 5 of the coaching salary to a prospective coach. Discussion was held. Motion carried 6-0.

A parent addressed the board to inform them that their student had complied with all the restrictions that were placed on him by the board and asked if he could be allowed to participate in spring sports. The administration reported all was going well and recommended the request be approved. Sanborn moved and Sjoquist supported the motion to allow the student to participate in spring sports. Motion carried 6-0.

The board approved the resolution to not renew the administrative contract of employment of Mr. Phil McAndrew as High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director which expires June 20, 2008, based solely on financial factors adversely affecting Lawrence Public Schools, specifically budget reductions as a result of flat or declining revenues, and not based in any on Mr. McAndrew's performance as Assistant High School Principal/Athletic Director. Resolution attached.

The board approved the resolution to not renew the administrative contract of employment of Ms. Laurel Lancaster as Junior Senior High School Social Worker which expires June 6, 2008, based solely on financial factors adversely affecting Lawrence Public Schools, specifically budget reductions as a result of flat or declining revenues, and not based in any on Ms.

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Lancaster's performance as Junior Senior High School Social Worker.
Resolution attached.

Sjoquist moved and Beam supported the motion to approve Jeff Johnson as a volunteer softball coach. Motion carried 5-0 with Johnson abstaining.

Discussion was held concerning administrator contracts being multi-year. Johnson instructed Overley to contact area and comparable sized schools as to the length of their administrative contracts.

Sanborn commented talks were being held with Pepsi and Coke, concerning beverage contracts. He stated the athletic boosters and band boosters should be bound to abide by the agreement. He also stated that if the school assumes responsibility for the inside pop sales, they would get the profit from the inside machine then the band boosters would have to follow this same arrangement.

It was also stated that the athletic boosters has withdrawn the offer of donating \$15,000 to the school and they would continue to fund requests from groups as normal. It was noted the boosters just recently approved the purchase of new scoreboards for the high school gym.

Sanborn moved and Sjoquist supported the motion to go into closed session to discuss finances.

Motion carried 6-0.

Returned to open session at 8:16 p.m. and adjourned.

John Overley

March 26-2008 Special meeting of the Board of Education
Lawrence Public Schools, Van Buren County, Michigan

Members Present: Julie Beam, Chuck Carpp, Jeff Johnson, Dave
Nicholas, Jim Sanborn, Carol Sjoquist.

Absent: Carrie Rokos

Administration Present: Sue McQueen, John Overley, Bob Gendron.

Absent: Phil McAndrew

Student Representatives Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 by President Johnson.

Comments from the public:

Holly Rayner asked if the board had looked into the possibility of converting the busses to bio-diesel as a cost savings. The board stated they had not looked in to it. Supt. Overley was directed to look into the possibility.

A parent asked why the minutes were not posted on the web page. She was told that they would make an effort to see that this was done monthly.

The elementary teachers were present to talk about the supply orders. They stated they could get much more for the money by using REMC as compared to a local vendor. It was stated that we want to keep local, if possible, but still want good value. The board directed the administration to send a comparative bid sheet to the local vendor and then make the decision as to what is best for the district.

Gene Butler presented bid options for the computer related hardware from the bond proceeds. Sanborn moved and Sjoquist supported the motion to accept bids for SMC switches from Trivalent at a cost of \$14,765.35; a supermicro computer, 4-1 gig ram memory cards, 2-seagate 500 hard drives; and 1 xeon 3050 for a cost of \$1248.00 from MA-LAB; 2 viewsonic monitors, 5 cyberpower backups and 5 cyberpower RM cards from MNJ Technologies at a cost of \$2976.32.

Supt. Overley acknowledged delivering letters addressed to the board concerning specific teacher layoffs. Concerns were expressed regarding lack of funding from the state; concerns regarding the cuts affecting special

education students; concerns as to the class sizes in the elementary. The board stated the cuts being made were being done to reduce the schools' deficit budget and to meet layoff guidelines set forth in the contract. It was stated that the administration and board hopes to recall several teachers in the next coming months. It was stated the state proposes to only fund pre K and KG students for attending a whole day of school. The state may only give 1/2 an FTE for students going 1/2 day. This would be a significant drop in funding and would affect programs.

Resolutions were presented and read on staff reductions which included Misty Balkema, Suzette Stambek, Winifred Staffen, Jonathan Pobuda, Abbi Grimes-Abbott, Emily DeLaRosa and to reduce Kay McLeese's position to 3/7 FTE. Sanborn moved and Carpp supported the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Discussion was held. Roll call vote: Carpp Y, Beam Y, Nicholas Y, Sjoquist Y, Sanborn Y, Johnson Y. Motion carried 6-0.

Sjoquist moved and Sanborn supported the motion to move the regular April meeting to April 15, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. due to spring vacation. Motion carried 6-0.

Carpp moved and Nicholas supported the motion to send a letter of recognition to Coach Salvano and the boy's basketball team for a great season. Motion carried 6-0.

Sanborn expressed a concern regarding sports uniform inventory that are done by coaches. Discussion was held. The board stated the coach's handbook addresses this concern and said the handbook should be enforced.

The meeting adjourned 8:58 p.m.

John Overley