

HYDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
HYDE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010

Board members present: Mark Freeman, Dan Regan, Kalee Roberts (via teleconferencing), Raven Walters.

Others: Michelle Mathias, Marilyn Frederick.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Items highlighted for follow-up are shown like this.

1. Call to Order

D. Regan called the meeting to order at 6:33.

2. Approve Consent Agenda (Minutes – May 17, 2010; Directors’ Orders, Principal’s Report, Central Office Report)

D. Regan noted that the consent agenda does not include the update on the board’s work with Dr. Lengel that D. Taylor had sent out.

R. Walters moved to approve the consent agenda, including directors’ orders in the amount of \$29,646.93, seconded by K. Roberts. K. Roberts asked M. Mathias how she felt about the new national core standards for math. M. Mathias said they are very close to NCTM and National Mathematics Advisory Panel recommendations, and to what Mahesh Sharma is saying. They are narrower, more appropriate, and deeper, and match more closely what other countries with higher math scores are doing. **The motion was passed.**

3. Approve Tax Anticipation Note

M. Frederick distributed a memo showing the TAN bids. She said the spread between the lending rate and the earning rate was greatest for Union Bank. They will collateralize, which she requires.

K. Roberts moved to award Union Bank the Tax Anticipation Note for FY11 and approve the Resolution, Non-arbitrage Certificate and Note to enable lending of \$803,977.00. R. Walters seconded. (M. Freeman arrived at 6:44.) **The motion was passed, with M. Freeman abstaining.**

4. Approve Sub-Grant Agreement

M. Frederick said each year LNSU receives federal grant money and passes it through to the districts, and we need sub-grant agreements to make this possible.

K. Roberts moved to approve the sub-grant agreement between Lamoille North Supervisory Union and the Hyde Park School District authorizing LNSU to administer sub-grant awards of federal grant funds, as authorized by Resolution of the LNSU Board of School Directors on May 24, 2010. M. Freeman seconded.

K. Roberts said she voted against this at the SU level because broad-brush acceptance of federal funds empowers the superintendent to apply for federal grants that in retrospect turn out to have strings attached – Title I funds, for example. (Though she would not have suggested not accepting Title I funds.) She is concerned about the board’s knowledge and depth of understanding of long range impacts as we pursue grants. **The motion was passed.**

5. School Improvement Grant

M. Mathias had previously provided a copy of her proposal for using SIG funds, based on work done in the HPES RtI class. Since then, she has made only one minor change. The dollar amount is the same, but she changed the adolescent literacy program to professional development for literacy and math, so we would not be locked into a specific program. (*M. Frederick left at 6:54.*)

K. Roberts asked about the impact on implementation if we only get partial funding. M. Mathias said then we won't be able to do as much as we'd like to do. None of this is supplanting. We will get at least \$50K. We do not need a third kindergarten class next year, so we will have the money budgeted for that position available. With that money and the \$50K we will definitely get, we will be able to implement about \$100K worth of what is proposed. M. Freeman said we are not required to do everything in the proposal if we don't get all the money we asked for. M. Mathias agreed. M. Freeman said we need to keep in mind that we may need some money for something else, depending on what happens with negotiations.

D. Regan asked that our portion of the LNSU SIG application be pulled out and posted on our website once it is completed. He also hopes that soon after the SIG award, we begin to think about sustaining and institutionalizing the grant-funded items that prove beneficial. M. Mathias said if we are successful in intervening earlier, that should mean less need for paras. If we improve math instruction and get better at getting intervention strategies in place, then we build capacity. One question is whether the state will continue to get federal funds at the same level as this year. Vermont is expecting \$10 million in SIG funds for the whole state this year, but VT DOE doesn't know how much it will be after this year. Her proposal was for 3 years. She doesn't think D. Taylor will ask for funds for the whole 3 years – that amount is too big when other schools need funds also. R. Walters asked, are we confident we can decide where to spend the money if we don't get it all? M. Mathias said yes.

6. Long-Term Planning – Update on Working with Dr. Lengel

D. Taylor had sent out an update on working with Dr. Lengel. D. Regan said he thinks the practical issues we need to address are our preferred dates for sessions with Dr. Lengel, and which board members will participate as members of the visioning/planning team. He said he thinks probably 1 or 2 board members would be enough. K. Robert said if there are 2 members from each of the subgroups Dr. Lengel mentions, that would be 10-12 people. R. Walters said we need to give thought to choosing who gets on. D. Regan asked, who does the choosing? M. Mathias said she thinks it will be a search for people willing to commit. K. Roberts said we need to be thinking broadly, and outside the norms of people who are typically involved. She suggested we try to keep a balance between younger people who are more involved with the school currently, and older people with a more historical perspective. M. Freeman agreed, and he said we need to decide ahead of time how we will choose people. R. Walters said we want to make it clear we are reaching out to a wide range of people. We should invite anyone interested to come learn about what we are going to do. M. Freeman said then we can discuss with them

how we will pick the committee. M. Mathias said we could ask for nominations from the community.

It was suggested that the community long-term planning meeting might be held at the end of August. M. Freeman suggested putting notices in the paper several times during the summer. R. Walters suggested putting a notice in the last Newsflash. K. Roberts suggested putting together a pamphlet and having it on the table at the ice cream social.

D. Regan said he thought it might be premature to pick board members to participate when J. Lipinski is not here. R. Walters said she is a little concerned about narrowing to a small group too early in the process. M. Freeman agreed. The board had thought the first step would be to have Dr. Lengel talk to a big group from the community to get them excited. D. Regan asked if M. Mathias and D. Taylor could clarify whether Dr. Lengel's "Step 0" could involve Dr. Lengel, the board, and a broad segment of the community in pre-vision planning. He also asked if they could clarify how many meeting dates Dr. Lengel has in mind to accomplish Steps 1-4. M. Freeman said he thinks it is important to have a broad meeting with Dr. Lengel. We want to be as transparent as possible. R. Walters said she hopes we have a good philosophical match in Dr. Lengel. He talks about educators coming up with a vision, and doesn't talk about bringing other people in until Step 2, which is not what the board has wanted to do. D. Regan said if Step 1 is educators creating a vision, that seems at odds with the composition of the vision and planning team. We need clarification about who is involved in Step 1, and we should argue that it should be all constituencies.

Regarding preferred dates, the board suggested Sept. 10, Sept. 25, and 2 dates between Sept. 27 and Oct. 1, if four dates are needed. There is still the question of holding a broad community meeting before that. M. Freeman and R. Walters said they liked the idea of providing child care for the community meeting. M. Mathias said there is some danger in that, because people may leave early to take their kids home to bed. D. Regan asked M. Mathias to send the board answers its questions once she has them.

7. Culture Improvement – Update from Public Communication Committee

R. Walters said she and D. Regan had discussed an extensive list of ideas around improving communication and the perception of communication between home and school, to enhance the school's reputation in the community. She said the most significant item discussed was a more concerted, planned, and aggressive use of media to communicate school successes. The school could be in the paper more. D. Regan had suggested doing radio interviews. Smaller ideas included information for parents in the evening (on subjects such as Mahesh's ideas, RtI, AIMSweb, or gifted and talented education) and open houses, teas, or open office hours.

D. Regan said we need to think of strategies to improve communication with the HPES community and also with the Hyde Park community. M. Freeman asked, can

we contact the newspaper and radio station and ask for a column or series? It doesn't have to be weekly. K. Roberts suggested we could leave the Newsflash at post offices, the library, and the town clerk's office, to expand readership beyond the parent group. She also strongly suggests we tape events like concerts and put them on local TV and have CDs at the library. M. Freeman and M. Mathias discussed the idea of having live streaming on our website for parents who can't come to events. K. Roberts said we should suggest to B. Schaffer that LUHS should publish a newspaper in competition with the News & Citizen.

R. Walters said the committee had discussed the school mascot. She suggested we should make that a priority, letting kids research and vote on possible mascots. Other ideas include asking a parent group to organize a job bank for jobs teachers need to have done and continuing to develop the HPES website (adding staff photos, bios, etc.) M. Mathias said they will do more with the website. She froze the budget and was unwilling to spend more on expertise. Some teachers need more training on working with the website. D. Regan said it would be good to post examples on the website of student projects and inquiry-based learning. R. Walters and D. Regan invited the board to let them know if there are any ideas they particularly want to pursue.

8. Culture Improvement – Update on Participation in Home Days

M. Mathias said the student council – a small group of dedicated kids – is very interested in participating in Home Days. They are very interested in a dunking booth. She will put the idea out to faculty that Home Days could be an opportunity for fund raising for field trips. She can't commit to buy-in other than the student council. K. Roberts said she had not yet talked to the Community Circle. D. Regan said shifting the location to the school would be a major change. He would like to see that happen, but it might be worthwhile imagining more a modest backup plan in case a whole shift is not possible. For instance, the route for rides could include the school as a place to discharge and take on passengers. M. Freeman said we could stage different events during the day at the school to encourage people to stay around. K. Roberts said she had just sent an email to a couple of Community Circle members. She will talk with another one. M. Freeman will talk to Judy Clark. M. Mathias suggested we could start activities here at a certain time, to give time for people to visit other areas first. She also suggested a community-wide scavenger hunt.

9. Work on Guiding Principles – How Do We Know We Are Meeting GP #1?

It was agreed that the whole board is needed to work on this and suggested that maybe the work could be done at the retreat. D. Regan will send out an email about possible retreat dates.

10. Other

R. Walters asked about the E-Initiative grant. M. Mathias said we didn't get it.

M. Mathias said Tomlinson's in Morrisville is letting the student council put a bucket for recycling slips there for the entire summer. She will have kids record Alert Now reminders about this to be sent at different times during the summer.

D. Regan reminded everyone that HPES graduation is Monday, June 14, at the Hyde Park Opera House at 6:30.

M. Mathias said she broached the subject to faculty of changing the lunch and recess schedule to allow a half hour for each, and there were no big arguments. Forty minutes has been allocated for both lunch and recess, so this will allow more time for each. She will be changing the duty schedule for professional faculty. They will all share in the lunch and recess duty load. She thinks it will improve behaviors to have faculty on the playground and at lunch.

K. Roberts said the voluntary spending targets process passed in the last legislative session will move our whole budget process up. The commissioner will set a voluntary target for the supervisory union on Aug. 15, then the SU will have to divide that among schools to give each a spending target by early September. We have to have our budgets back to the commissioner by early December. D. Regan encouraged all board members to open the link to the legislative wrap-up that was sent today. A couple of other items affect us and we need to think about the implications.

It was agreed to hold a special meeting on June 14 at 5:30, so M. Mathias can present a hiring recommendation.

11. Future Agenda Items

R. Walters said she would like to learn more about policy governance.

M. Mathias asked about the question the policy committee was going to be addressing. M. Freeman said the committee drafted a policy on Friday, but it still has to be warned. The committee will vote on it July 12, then present it to the full board.

R. Walters asked if VSBA could send someone to talk about policy governance. K. Roberts said they can, and we are entitled to a free session from VSBA; we just need to call them. They have a lot of experience with policy governance. About 5 districts in Vermont are in various stages of it. But we may want to finish our visioning piece before we jump into that. R. Walters asked, would it make sense for us to go ahead and learn more? K. Roberts suggested maybe we could have someone from VSBA talk to us in October. She noted that there is usually information on policy governance at the VSBA annual meeting in Lake Morey.

12. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded to adjourn, and the motion was passed at 8:38.

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