

**MINUTES
LAMOTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT 43
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
December 15, 2021 5:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, LaMotte School District #43 was held on December 15, 2021 at LaMotte School for the purpose of considering business to come before the Board of Trustees. Board Chair Knoff called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Trustees Present: Birgen Knoff, Collin Duneman, Ken Miller, Katie Ivester, Edward Kronfuss

Staff Present: LeeAnn Burke-Superintendent, Sue Becker-District Clerk/Business Manager, Amiee Gustafson (arrived 6:15)

Public Present: Approximately 6

Pledge of Allegiance

Presiding Trustees Explanation of Procedures

The LaMotte Board of Trustees welcomes public comment on issues and concerns. Members of the community are given an opportunity to make brief comments to the board on any matter not included in the agenda. Comments on agenda items will be accepted when that item comes up during the meeting. Interested persons may also submit views in written form to the Clerk prior to the meeting, and those comments will be brought to the attention of the Board during the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

November 16, 2021 Special Meeting

Board Discussion: Trustees reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion: Trustee Ivester

Second: Vice Chair Duneman

Public Comment: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Discussion & Reports

- Superintendent's Report
 - Enrollment is currently 66.
 - Ms. Sailer continues to substitute for the counselor position.
 - Superintendent Burke is continuing the search for a custodian. Last year's custodian will be in for a deep clean during the break.
 - As of January 1, 2022 HB279 allows a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit for school donations. The maximum individual donation can be up to \$200,000 to qualify for the credit. The maximum statewide credit for all school districts is \$1,000,000 in calendar 2022. Each school is registered on a portal and donations are tracked. If a total of \$1,000,000 is donated in calendar year 2022, the maximum statewide credit will increase to \$2,000,000 in calendar year 2023. Superintendent Burke will send out information on this program. It is important to donate early as she thinks the \$1,000,000 limit will go early.
 - At the winter program, the teachers and Superintendent donated individual services to auction (instead of dessert auction), for example, lunch with the principal. The goal is to raise

\$500 minimum to match another \$500 that was donated for an art installation in the new building.

Trustee Discussion and Reports

Trustee Duneman asked about the Middle School trip. Chair Knoff will make sure it gets on the January 2022 meeting agenda.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

Jen Duneman thanked the Board for adding the Middle School trip on the next meeting agenda.

Financial Update

- Approval of Accounts payable and Payroll warrants report and ACH payments
Board Discussion: Trustees reviewed the warrants and ACH payments.
Motion to approve the accounts payable, payroll warrants and ACH payments as presented.
Motion: Trustee Ivester
Second: Vice Chair Duneman
Public Comment: None.
Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Action/Discussion Items

1. Architect-Contractor RFQ/P

Board Discussion: Scott Hedglin met with the Building Committee to evaluate the Contractor Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for Construction Manager/General Contractor (GM/GC) Services. There were two proposals: 1) Lutey Construction; and 2) R&R Taylor Construction. The Building Committee recommends awarding the contract to Lutey Construction based on: 1) This is the only large project Lutey will be working on while R&R Taylor Constructions has multiple large projects; 2) Lutey Construction is estimating a completion project date in September 2022 while R&R Taylor completion date estimate is December 2022; and 3) Lutey Construction's preconstruction service costs are more but the construction service costs are less than half of R&R Taylor Construction's proposal which indicates concentration early on in the project. Mr. Hedglin indicated the schedule is aggressive but doable. The Board will consider Superintendent Burke and Vice Chair Duneman as construction project authorized representatives at the January 2022 regular meeting.

Motion to approve Lutey Construction's Contractor RFQ/P for GM/GC Services for the new building project.

Motion: Vice Chair Duneman

Second: Trustee Ivester

Public Comment: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Building Committee Report

Board Discussion: On July 1, 2021, floodplain regulations changed and it is no longer a possibility to get a variance to build on a floodplain. Superintendent Burke has a new draft schematic (nowhere near floodplain) from Architecture 118. She explained changes to the

original schematic. The District will need several setback variances which should not be a problem.

3. **Safe Return to School Plan 2021-2022**

Board Discussion: Superintendent Burke made some adjustments to this plan: 1) students are now waiting on the steps to be picked up; 2) zones are no longer being used on the playground in the morning; and 3) K/1 students are allowed two shield breaks a day. She talked with staff regarding the mask mandate. They are concerned about the influx of visitors during the break and how that will affect the COVID numbers. They feel it would be difficult to go mask optional and then have to reinstate the mask mandate. Staff consensus is to continue masking and look at this again at the January meeting. Vice Chair Duneman is concerned that justifications can be found to keep the mask mandate through the school year. He would like to see making masks optional. Trustee Kronfuss said we are fortunate to have the COVID vaccine and would like to go to mask optional. Vice Chair Duneman is seeing the long-term masking effects on children and feels we need to find a path to more normalcy. Chair Knoff agrees she wants to get to the place where the District can go mask optional but thinks it is too soon. She feels it would create more animosity to flip between masking and mask optional. She discussed current County information and would like to wait until we see what happens with the influx of visitors. Trustee Miller discussed that even though the County transmission has been high, the LaMotte community transmission has not. He is ready to go mask optional. The question is to go mask optional now or wait until after we see what happens with the transmission rate after the break. Trustee Ivester indicated she made the motion based on the Superintendent's recommendation and Chair Knoff's expertise. Trustee Kronfuss expects the transmission rates will remain high and using the County transmission rate, we will be masking forever. The detrimental effects of masking are significant. Vice Chair Duneman said that if the decision is made to go mask optional now, this would give parents advance notice before students return in January. Superintendent Burke said the goal is to keep students in school and since the original mask mandate has been working, she asked why the Board would abandon this protocol. Staff has worked to make the school a safe environment. She also questioned the monitoring of who needs to wear a mask if masks are optional.

Motion to reassess the mask policy at the January 2022 meeting.

Motion: Trustee Ivester

Second: Chair Knoff

Public Comment:

- Morgan Potter
- Allie Leadbetter
- Jen Duneman
- Kacie Cummings
- Amiee Gustafson

Motion fails 2-3. Chair Knoff and Trustee Ivester for the motion. Vice Chair Duneman, Trustee Miller and Trustee Kronfuss against the motion.

Motion to go mask optional on January 2, 2022.

Motion: Vice Chair Duneman

Second: Trustee Kronfuss

Board Discussion: Trustee Miller noted the County has had a high transmission rate throughout the school year and LaMotte has not had to shut down. He does not anticipate this happening. Chair Knoff supports the reasoning and said all comments have a valid impact. The difference is there will be some students not wearing masks. She would like to wait a few weeks to see what the trend is after the break.

Motion carried 3-2. Vice Chair Duneman, Trustee Miller and Trustee Kronfuss for the motion. Chair Knoff and Trustee Ivester against the motion.

Further Board Discussion-The Board discussed the quarantine/isolation procedures. The Superintendent will bring procedure options to the next meeting. The Board would like the Superintendent to apply for COVID testing grants.

4. Personnel Action

a. Spanish

Board Discussion: Superintendent Burke recommended hiring Brittany Banks as a 2021-2022 school year paraprofessional (Spanish). She discussed her background and qualifications. She explained grades K-5 will have exposure to several languages.

Motion to approve Brittany Banks as a 2021-2022 school year paraprofessional at \$20.00/hour.

Motion: Vice Chair Duneman

Second: Trustee Kronfuss

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

b. County Superintendent Substitute List Updated 11-29-21

Board Discussion: The County Superintendent's office provides the substitute list and does background checks for those employees on the list. Superintendent Burke recommended approving the updated list as presented.

Motion to approve the County Superintendent 2021-2022 substitute list updated 11-29-21.

Motion: Trustee Miller

Second: Trustee Ivester

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Snow Plow Contract

Board Discussion: None.

Motion to accept the current contractor-Mountain Lawn & Home.

Motion: Trustee Ivester

Second: Vice Chair Duneman

Public Comment: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative Interlocal Agreement

Board Discussion: Superintendent Burke noted she has signed this agreement as the school's authorized representative. The Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative continues to provide special education services and there were no major changes from the prior agreement.

Motion to approve the Gallatin-Madison Special Education Cooperative Interlocal Agreement as presented.

Motion: Vice Chair Duneman

Second: Trustee Kronfuss

Public Comment: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

Policy

1135 School Board Advocacy

Second Reading

Board Discussion: The Board decided not to include this policy in the LaMotte School Policy Manual-no action taken.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

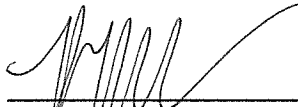
Motion: Trustee Kronfuss

Second: Vice Chair Duneman.

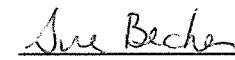
Public Comment: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.



Birgen Knoff, Board Chair



Sue Becker, District Clerk/Business Manager