

**MINUTES
LAMOTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT 43
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
MAY 23, 2012
4:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, LaMotte School District #43 was held on May 23, 2012 for the purpose of considering business to come before the Board of Trustees. Chair Amy Allen presided. Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Trustees Present: Amy Allen, Ken Miller, Karen Schmidt, Stacey Etchart, Elisa Eshbaugh

Staff Present: LeeAnn Burke, Principal; Sue Becker, Business Manager; Sally Birkelo, District Clerk

Public Present: None

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

April 18, 2012 Regular Meeting

Board Discussion: Trustees did not call for changes in the draft version of the minutes. Chair Allen thanked Sue Becker for taking the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting: April 18, 2012.

Motion: Trustee Eshbaugh

Second: Trustee Schmidt

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Election and Reorganization of the Board

Board Discussion: The annual election was a trustee election by acclamation; the school did not run a levy and no votes needed to be canvassed.

Motion to appoint Amy Allen as Board Chairperson; Elisa Eshbaugh as Vice Chairperson and Sally Birkelo as District Clerk.

Motion: Trustee Schmidt

Second: Trustee Etchart

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously

Principal's Report

In her report to the trustees Principal Burke presented to the Board:

- Principal Burke spent the day (May 23) with the middle school students on their outdoor science trip. She reported that all students were experiencing an excellent scientific program and were enjoying all the events at the Luccock camp.
- DIBELS testing has been completed and 83% of the students are at benchmark. At the beginning of the year students were at 67% at benchmark. Targeted intervention with struggling students shows results in the increase of testing percentages.

- LaMotte received an Academic Achievement Award from the Montana Office of Public Instruction for never missing annual yearly progress. The money will be used for purchases and resources for the school.
- Principal Burke is writing a grant to The Sweet Pea Festival requesting an artist in residence for a future art project. The project would create a mural on the east end of the annex that would incorporate living plants and trees as well as art.
- She thanked the Parent Group and the volunteer parents for furnishing and constructing the climbing wall. The wall was purchased with money earned from student fundraisers.
- The roof on the main school building will need replacement or repair as leaking continues. A bid estimate has been presented to the school for a new replacement roof. The current roof is thought to be original to the building built in 1968. There is a possibility that the roof could be replaced and paid with funds in the current budget and not have to ask the taxpayers for a building reserve to cover the cost of replacing the roof. Principal Burke and Business Manager Becker will identify the remaining spending authority and research the probability of paying for a new roof with this year's budget if the job is not completed by June 30, 2012 (end of fiscal year)
- In the long term absence of the Spanish teacher, a certified German teacher on staff is teaching German to the students as the foreign language class option.

Trustee Discussion and Reports

- Staff Survey:

Trustee discussed the results of the staff survey. Principal Burke is reviewing the feedback and will make improvements based on suggestions and comments from the survey. An agenda for staff meetings will be made available to staff and trustees.

Financial Update

Approval of warrant report # 1824-1835 and warrants # 17359-17397 and ACH payments

Board Discussion: Trustees requested additional information for several warrant charges.

Motion to approve warrant report # 1824-1835 and warrants # 17359-17397 and ACH payments.

Motion: Trustee Eshbaugh

Second: Trustee Schmidt

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Action Items

1. Clerk Contract

Board Discussion: Trustees discussed the proposed increase to the clerk wage.

Motion to approve the Clerk contract at \$17.85 for the 2012/2013 year.

Motion: Trustee Schmidt

Second: Trustee Eshbaugh

Public comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Lawn Maintenance Contract

Board Discussion: Principal Burke recommended Mountain Shadows for the lawn contract: mowing and lawn chemical application. Mountain Shadows cannot provide irrigation services for the lawn.

Motion to approve Mountain Shadows Landscaping for mowing and lawn chemical applications.

Motion: Trustee Eshbaugh

Second: Trustee Miller
Public comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Lawn irrigation contract

Board Discussion: Blanchford Landscaping has been servicing the school's irrigation needs for several years. Principal Burke recommended the Silver service package option.

Motion to approve Blanchford Landscaping for the lawn irrigation contract.

Motion: Trustee Miller

Second: Trustee Eshbaugh

Public comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Hot lunch contract

Board Discussion: Principal Burke presented the hot lunch proposal for the 2012/13 year from Roo's Place Catering. The caterer would have to raise the cost of lunch to \$3.50 if the program continues at three lunch days per week. If the school has five lunch days per week the program cost will stay at \$3.00 per lunch. Trustees agreed that volunteer parents would need to serve lunch five days a week in order to facilitate the week-long menu option.

Motion to approve the five day per week hot lunch menu contingent on server availability.

Motion: Trustee Etchart

Second: Trustee Miller

Public comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Disposal of records and obsolete property

Board Discussion: Trustees discussed the disposal of property and records as per Montana Law.

Motion to dispose of obsolete and unusable property and records.

Motion: Trustee Miller

Second: Trustee Eshbaugh

Public comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve class sizes and divisions

Board Discussion: Principal Burke did not propose any changes to the current configurations. Fifth and sixth grade may be combined for reading curriculum for the 2012/2013 year. No action was taken.

7. Tuition for 2012/2013 year

Board Discussion: Principal Burke recommended continuation of current tuition rates for the 2012/2013 year. No increase will be imposed. Trustees agreed that the rates will remain unchanged. No action was taken.

8. MSGIA proposed agenda

Board Discussion: MSGIA offers school districts the opportunity to apply the workers comp premium credit rebate to other areas of the program. This allows districts a certain amount of flexibility with the rebate. Business manager Becker reported that the LaMotte rebate is small and she would prefer to not make any changes to the current method of rebate application.

Motion to adopt the resolution amendment to the MSGIA.

Motion: Trustee Miller
Second: Trustee Chair Allen
Public comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

9. MT Small School Alliance Library Compliance

Board Discussion: LaMotte has a Library teaching position opening but hasn't been able to find applicants with a Library endorsement. The Montana Office of Public Instruction offers an alternative standard to assist small schools with this challenge. MT Small School Alliance will offer an endorsement and training for the LaMotte Librarian with a contracted Librarian at MSU Western. Principal Burke intends to hire a certified teacher for the Library position.

Motion to adopt the MT Small School Alliance Library Compliance alternative standard.

Motion: Trustee Miller
Second: Trustee Eshbaugh
Public comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

10. Approve hire PE .2FTE teacher for 2012/2013 year

Board Discussion: Principal Burke recommends Daniel McDonough as the .2FTE PE teacher for the 2012/13 at BA + 0 years.

Motion to approve hire of Daniel McDonough for the 2012/2013 year.

Motion: Trustee Eshbaugh
Second: Trustee Etchart
Public comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Policy

1400 Board Meetings

Motion to adopt 1400 with change of meeting time from 6:00 pm to 4:00 p.m.

Motion: Trustee Miller
Second: Trustee Etchart
Public comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The next special meeting is May 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting is June 27, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 5:41 p.m.
Motion: Trustee Eshbaugh
Second: Trustee Schmidt
Public Comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Amy Allen, Board Chair

Sally Birkelo, District Clerk