

MINUTES
LAMOTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT 43
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2017 4:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, LaMotte School District #43 was held on November 15, 2017 for the purpose of considering business to come before the Board of Trustees. Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Trustees Present: Amy Allen, Ken Miller, Birgen Knoff, Suzanne Ogle

Staff Present: LeeAnn Burke-Supt./Principal, Sue Becker-Business Manager, Derek Ivester-Kitchen Manager

Public Present: Rose Quinn

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

October 17, 2017 Regular Meeting

Board Discussion: Trustees reviewed the minutes. Trustee Miller noted he was not at the meeting. Clerk will correct minutes to remove Trustee Miller from Trustees Present.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on October 17, 2017 as corrected.

Motion: Trustee Knoff

Second: Trustee Allen

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Discussion & Reports

- Supt./Principal's Report

-Jerry Brunt and Tad Drake are attending 4 full day curriculum consortium workshops during this school year. The consortium is discussing new science standards that the attendees can bring back to the school to adopt as is or with school related changes. The district will shift to new science standards at some point this year. Montana Standards or next generation science standards-Board will have to decide. There is a lot of added expense to add additional strand (engineering) with next generation standards. If the District cannot adopt the next generation science standards, MT standards do have some engineering standards imbedded but not the stand alone like next generation. It will be up to the Board to adopt which standard with recommendations from Jerry Brunt and Tad Drake. The Board would like to hear from them after the 3rd or 4th consortium curriculum meeting.

There was a staff Technology meeting with Todd Lark, SWMSS. Todd Lark is working on infrastructure, e-rate and teacher input as to what technology they would like to see with their students.

Supt./Principal Burke is still meeting with the new High School committee. She will be meeting ½ day once a month through the end of the school year. The committee will be discussing schedules, graduation requirements, academic programming (one school vs. the other), etc. The full committee will break into 3 committees-Supt./Principal Burke will decide which committee she would like to be on and start research. Sandy Wilson, Bozeman Rural School Board member, would like to come to the January Board meeting to go over the new High School building and other related Bozeman School Board information. The LaMotte Board is interested in how the boundaries will be set for the two high schools.

LaMotte students will be going to a MSU basketball game on 11/29/17. 5000 area school students will be attending.

Ice rink-staff is hoping it will be frozen by next week so students can use.

January 2nd will be a PIR day-one-day buffer after long break. Supt./Principal Burke is looking at cost of ½ day workshop on getting kids to be critical thinkers. The other ½ day will be to work/prepare.

The Board needs to consider whether they would like to continue the traditional grocery gift card for staff.

Kitchen Manager Ivester-lunch discussion. Only having volunteers two days a week is working well. Challenge has been to make as many as students as happy with the program as possible. There is a happy medium between nutritional value vs. what they will eat. He has eliminated low order day menus in order to maximize sales. We are at an average of thirty lunches per day. The six-week rotation should maintain this average. First two months of the school year are usually the most expensive. Biggest cost is salary as Kitchen Manager Ivester is doing everything (shopping, cleaning, cooking). The District is not part of National School Lunch program (due to regulations) so does not receive federal lunch revenue. The Board realizes they will have to look at trends over time and would like to look at the financial report again in several months. Rose Quinn asked about nutrition ideas in the newsletter and advertising what is offered. Kitchen Manager Ivester has been putting together some marketing literature to send home (taking pictures etc.). Kitchen Manager Ivester and Supt./Principal Burke will reach out to newspapers for publicity as well as explore grant options. The District is not eligible for a lot of them as we are not part of National Food Service program.

The Board will start the policy review in January. The Clerk will send the MTSBA link out to Board. We are working with Joe Brott, MTSBA to update policies. New policies from MTSBA will be included with the next meeting agenda.

Trustee Discussion and Reports

Christmas gifts for staff- Board instructed Supt./Principal Burke to buy \$75 Town and Country gift cards for full time staff and \$50 gift cards for part time staff.

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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.
Motion: Trustee Knoff
Second: Trustee Miller
Public Comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Action/Discussion Items

1. **Full-Time Kindergarten Option**-Board Discussion: Supt./Principal Burke gave the history on the kindergarten calendar that is currently in use. Ten years ago, the State determined that full-time kindergarten was important and offered full-time funding. When the Board decided to go with full-time five days a week, the class was a combined K/1 which continued for five years. Based on the five-year history, Supt./Principal Burke and the Board considered full-time was too much for the kindergarteners as well as not giving 1st graders what they needed. With the current calendar, 834 hours are offered at LaMotte; 720 hours are required per State law. The staggered start begins kindergarteners out slow while at the same time giving 1st graders time that they need. Success rates are good. It is a real transition for those students that have not been to school before. Research is mixed on whether full-day or half-day is best. Rose Quinn is advocating full-time kindergarten and presented research supporting the pros of full-time kindergarten. She would like a policy that benefits all students, not just those that have not been in preschool prior to starting kindergarten. Board discussion points included: talk with staff and other county schools for input; talk with former K/1 teacher for input; look at paraprofessional utilization in K/1 classroom; consider working parent dilemma with current schedule; consider future kindergarten enrollment numbers. Board directed Supt./Principal Burke to research these areas and to add this as an agenda item at the February meeting. They thanked Rose Quinn for her presentation.
2. **Adoption Agreement For the 403(b) Plan Document for Public Education Organizations**-Board Discussion: Business Manager Becker explained she has been working with Roxy Watson with VALIC to set up the 403(b) (tax sheltered annuity) option for the LaMotte employees. The first step is to adopt a plan document. Due to the small number of potential employees participating, the district will administer the plan instead of hiring a third party administrator (will monitor-if the number of participants grows in the future we may have to hire a third-party administrator). At this point, VALIC will be the only vendor LaMotte is working with (again, will monitor-if there is interest in other vendors, we can add at a later date).
Motion to approve the Agreement for the 403(b) Plan Document for Public Education Organizations.
Motion: Trustee Knoff
Second: Trustee Allen
Public Comment: None
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Updated 2017-2018 Substitute List

Board Discussion: None.

Motion to approve the additions to the Substitute List.

Motion: Trustee Knoff

Second: Trustee Allen

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 5:59 p.m.

Motion: Trustee Knoff

Second: Trustee Allen

Public Comment: None

Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is January 17, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.



Amy Allen, Board Chair



Sue Becker, Business Manager