

Lisbon Board of Education

Lisbon, Connecticut 06351

Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Lisbon Central School

Media Center

Board Members Present: M. Krauss, J. Jencks, M. Avery, L. Baah, J. Danburg, J. Lewerk, J. Marshall, S. McCabe and D. Nowakowski

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: S. Keating (Superintendent), D. Cormier (Business Manager), B. Apperson (Principal), B. McGlew (Building and Grounds), and S. Trepanier (Director of Special Education)

Administrators Absent: None

Student Ambassadors Present: B. Nowakowski and A. Cuff

Student Ambassadors Absent: D. Jeffs

Others: Mr. Cuff, Mrs. Gosselin, Ms. Guertin, and Mr. Rickard

1. **Call to Order** – M. Krauss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Public Comment** – Mrs. Debra Gosselin expressed her concerns and disappointments regarding MobyMax and the lack of connection to the in-person classrooms for her children.

Please note: The Lisbon Board of Education welcomes comments and suggestions from citizens of the Lisbon community. Citizens who wish to speak with the Board of Education about a particular subject or concern shall be recognized during the public comment portion of the meeting. Each citizen wishing to speak at that time shall be restricted to three (3) minutes. As provided in Robert's Rules of Order, speakers shall be courteous, avoid personal attacks and refrain from the use of vulgarity. Public comment is an opportunity for citizens to bring concerns to the attention of the Board, but not an appropriate time to engage the Board in conversation. The Board may choose to direct the Superintendent to follow up on a matter as warranted.

5. **Correspondence to Board of Education** – Mrs. Melissa Krauss read two letters into record from Mr. Kruczek. Both were regarding remote learning-the lack of interaction with teachers in the classroom and integration of remote MobyMax issues.

6. **Report from Lisbon Central School Student Ambassadors** –

B. Nowakowski reported that the 8th grade students are learning the following: In Language Arts, he reported they are on their 4th book report, they are reviewing pronouns and other parts of speech. In Math, they are finding X and Y through different equations and graphing them. In Science, they are studying electricity and are experimenting with batteries and electric currents. In Social Studies, they are learning about the events after the Revolutionary War and they are learning about the constitutions. In Spanish, they are learning about spacing and how to say the names of different public buildings. Lastly, he expressed his happiness with being back in school five days a week and hopes it remains all year.

A. Cuff reported that the 6th grade students are learning the following: In Language Arts, she reported they finished reading the book "The Egypt Game". In Math, Mr. Wheeler is teaching them about prime factorization, distributive property, and PEMDAS (parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, subtraction). In Science, they are working on their circulatory system. On Thursday and Friday, they filled out a black and white picture of a small fraction of the circulatory system. In Social Studies, they continue to learn about Ancient Greece and their daily lives. Men and women were not equal then, so it is interesting to see how much our culture has changed. In Art, they are still working on their Ancient Greece portraits.

Agenda #5
Correspondence

Lisbon Board of Education

15 Newent Rd. CT.

06351

860-376-2403

Dear Lisbon School Board Members,

I am a parent whose child attends Lisbon Central School. I am writing to address the proposed go forward plan for the 2020-2021 school year. On 8/7/2020 I received the email below:

We have had questions regarding the remote option for students temporarily choosing not to participate in person at school. (This is not related to the hybrid model.) Please know there will be staff members assigned to this model twice per week to assist with your child's learning. These staff members will not be your child's regular classroom teacher(s), however, they will collaborate with them. Khan Academy (a web-based program) will be utilized as a tool for instruction in addition to Google Classroom. A plan will be sent out weekly and these staff members will be available two days a week to provide guidance and support.

I have a few concerns I wanted to address to the Board. First and foremost, it seems under the proposed plan my child would not be assigned to the specific first grade teacher the same way that she would if she were to attend in person. This fact concerns me because when/if we decide to reintegrate, my child will not feel a sense of belonging and may not be on the same page as the rest of the class. In addition, I do not feel that this is equitable education as Khan Academy is a program that she already utilizes on her device. The rigger of the work is not that of a traditional school and does not compare to the curriculum guidelines set forth by the State of Connecticut.

Secondly, I am confused as to why we are being asked to utilize Khan Academy to teach our child instead of simply acquiring the lesson plans that are being given to the rest of the class during the week. It seems to me if my child is going to reintegrate with the rest of their class it would be beneficial to be in the same place as the rest of the class, rather than just doing busy work at a lesser level. I understand that not all parents are able to give each student the time that a curricula model takes, but if a parent asks specifically for this should they not be granted it, rather than just using a generic online program or having to search online for supplemental curricula to keep their child engaged and learning. It truly feels that because we choose to keep our child home we are being punished and therefore they are receiving a lesser education, an education that is not equal to their peers that have chosen to send their children to school, and that is truly sad. I understand that in a small district it is difficult to ensure everyone's happiness, and I am sure I am the odd person out asking for more work, but I feel it is in the best interest of my child.

I appreciate the time and effort the school board puts into protecting the safety of our children. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter. If you would like to discuss this request further, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 860-836-7293.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Matthew Kruczek
23 Barber Farm Road
Lisbon, CT 06351

Jan. 18, 2021, 9:30 AM

to Sally, Melissa, jjencks

Hello Ms. Keating,

Thank you so much for your prompt response. I welcome your feedback and ask that you please provide me the links or documents to where the State has adjusted their perspective regarding COVID Response Framework, as I pulled the data provided I'm my letter directly from the state website on 1/14/21. I am aware that you have a plan that you have created in conjunction with the Connecticut State Department of Education. That plan was provided to the local Department of Public Health. I took the opportunity to call them directly and have a conversation with them regarding this matter, they advised me that they have no say in whether a school remains open or should close, and that the decision rests solely on the Superintendent and Connecticut State Department of Education. The Department of Public Health can share their concerns or ideas but at the end of the day the decision rest with the Superintendent and the Connecticut State Department of Education.

I apologize for my mistake In my previous letter stating that LCS was full remote, January 4th-January 8th. However, they were continuing the same schedule they had prior to the break, thus the need to change to MobyMax for all distant learning students appeared to be punitive.

It is true that all students K-8 attend school the same about of time when they are in person, however the tasks are varied and movement breaks are increased, especially in the younger grades.

Finally, a Google Classroom was set up for Full Remote Learners on January 4th. This Google Classroom consists of a general announcement, schedule template, reading log, and PE log, this is a far cry from what we received in the first part of the year and appears to be more of a formality than anything else. In addition, I was very surprised to find this morning that the previous Google Classroom that we had open in the first part of the year has now been retired so I can't even get at any past assignments that my child has done.

I thank you for your response and even now as the numbers in our community reach 71% per 100,000 I still do not believe you will choose to opt for more remote learning or push back the 5 day a week schedule you have laid out, and that is your decision and your burden to bear not mine. I however, as a taxpayer and parent have a right to express my opinion, especially for those who may not be confident enough to do so. As I wrote my email to the Board of Education and not you directly, I expect that my letter as well as your response and my response be read into the record as Public Comment at the next Board of Education meeting as Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 7B. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf?la=en%20>

Agenda #5
@correspondence

Have a good day and thank you in advance,

Matt Kruczek

7. Approval of Minutes

Motion: S. McCabe motioned to approve the minutes of the December 25, 2020 Regular Board of Education meeting; J. Lewerk seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

8. Administrators' / Superintendent's Report

- a) Lisbon Central School – Mr. Brian Apperson provided a report on the following: He provided the names of students for December-Student of the Month. He thanked Ms. Georgian and Mr. Gracia for taking the student photo and for hanging the photo for display in the hallway. He informed the Board that the AIMS testing has begun and thanked Mrs. Lepore for organizing this process. Lastly, he stated that SBAC testing will go forward this year. He is awaiting on the possible changes that may come regarding the posting of the results.
- b) Special Education –Mr. Scott Trepanier reported on Special Education Enrollment Numbers. He also reported on the Upper Flexible Resource Room (UFRR) and the Lower Flexible Resource Room (LFRR). He stated that the staff for both rooms were doing a fantastic job with the students who utilize these rooms.
- c) Business Office – Mrs. Diana Cormier reported on the Medicaid Report Activity. She also reported on the Quarterly Cafeteria Report.
- d) Building and Grounds –Mr. Brian McGlew reported that the company for the fire alarm system did their inspection and it went well. He also reported that A.L. Fire Sprinkler Company came in during the winter break and updated, and tested the sprinkler heads. The inspection went well.
- e) Information – Mrs. Sally Keating informed the Board that she had heard from Mr. Jay Hartling, the Superintendent of the Ledyard Public Schools. He wanted Lisbon Central School to know that they are still interested in offering Ledyard High School as an option for high school as well as the Vo-Ag school. Mrs. Keating will continue to keep communication flowing and will bring any new information back to the Board in March. Next, Mrs. Keating presented an LCS brochure template for the Board to review and comment on. She highlighted the areas that will be included. Mrs. Judy Jencks ask that our high schools be included in the Academic Section. Mrs. Keating will bring back the brochure template with more information possibly next month. Lastly, Mrs. Keating informed the Board that 87% of our students are attending in-person instruction.

9. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Motion: J.Lewerk motioned to approve monthly expenditures for December 2020, Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$1,091,460.89; L. Baah seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

- b) Financial Statement

Motion: J. Marshall motioned to approve the financial statement for December 2020, Fiscal Year 2020-2021 as presented by the Administration; L. Baah seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

10. New Business / Old Business

New Business / Old Business

- a) Discussion re: Acceptance and Approval of Employee's Letter of Retirement and Possible Action-Mrs. Rita Baldwin, our 6th/7th grade Language Arts Teacher is retiring. Mrs. Melissa Krauss read her retirement letter to the Board.

Motion: M. Avery motioned to accept and approve Mrs. Baldwin's letter of retirement with regret, and to wish her much success in the future; J. Lewerk seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

- b) Discussion re: Increased Public Access to Board of Education Meetings and Possible Action- Mrs. Sally Keating stated Board member, Mr. Scott McCabe, requested that we look into providing access for the community members to view and/or listen to the Board of Education meetings virtually, when they cannot attend in-person. An audio live recording is being performed tonight. The Board members were in agreement to continue the audio recording for future meetings at this time.
- c) Discussion and Possible Action re: Amendments to Policies-Policy Committee member Mrs. Joan Marshall summarized the new policy and the amended policy.

- Policy # 4000.1/5145.44-Personnel — Certified and Non-Certified-Title IX

Motion: J. Lewerk motioned to waive the 1st read of Policy # 4000.1/5145.44-Personnel — Certified and Non-Certified-Title IX; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Motion: J. Marshall motioned to adopt Policy # 4000.1/5145.44-Personnel — Certified and Non-Certified-Title IX; J. Jencks seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

- Policy # 5117.1-Students-Tuition Policy-Designated High School

Motion: J. Marshall motioned to waive the 1st read of Policy # 5117.1-Students-Tuition Policy-Designated High School; J. Jencks seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Motion: J. Marshall motioned to amend and adopt Policy # 5117.1-Students-Tuition Policy-Designated High School; J. Jencks seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

- d) Update re: Status of the 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget– Mrs. Diana Cormier provided an update regarding the 2020-2021 Board of Education budget. Again, we are in good standing at this point in time.
- e) Discussion re: School Medical Advisor Position and Possible Action-Dr. Galan, our School Medical Advisor, has retired. Mrs. Sally Keating is recommending to the Board that we contract an APRN to utilize her services for signing standard orders as well as consult purposes with our Nurse, Mrs. Theresa Svab.

Motion: J. Jencks motioned to contract APRN- Rachel Jadcak with LCS to fulfill responsibilities as described by Theresa Svab and Sally Keating, effective immediately; M. Avery seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

- f) Discussion re: Possible Partnership with Natchaug and Possible Action-Mrs. Sally Keating began the conversation as a reminder that approximately a year ago Natchaug approached her regarding the possibility of renting space within LCS and at that time, the plan was put on hold due to the pandemic. The discussion came up again recently because Mr. Scott Trepanier was heavily involved with Hartford Healthcare/Natchaug and the renting space in the Franklin School District. The arrangement has been working well. This topic was just for information only to possibly entertain in 1 to 2 years from now.
- g) Discussion re: Salary Agreements (Proposed Executive Session); Possible Action re: Salary Agreements – This agenda item needs to be moved to Executive Session, immediately following Agenda Item #14 – Public Comment.

Motion: J. Jencks motioned to move Agenda Item #10 (g) Discussion re: Salary Agreements (Proposed Executive Session) to Executive Session, immediately following Agenda Item #14 Public Comment; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

11. **Committee Reports** – Mrs. Melissa Krauss reported that there will be another BOE Finance Committee Meeting next Monday.

12. **Additions to the Agenda-**

Motion: J. Marshall motioned to add to the agenda a discussion re: the MobyMax remote learning issue; J. Lewerk seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Mrs. Sally Keating stated that she will have Mr. Apperson address this issue because he and Mrs. Jenkins are spearheading the distance learning but added she, as Superintendent approved this remote learning plan. Mrs. Joan Marshall began by asking if she could ask some questions:

Q: (JM)

1.) **Since MobyMax is not a new thing to our district, how are the in-person students using it, and presumably, hopefully, at some point when we all come back together, how will the in-person students and the remote learning students be able to converse about MobyMax and how it works and share their experiences?**

A: (BA)

So typically, we use MobyMax as an intervention. Right now most of our devices are lent to students outside the building. So we only have a few carts that can be used within the building. So right now, MobyMax is not being used within the building. To answer your question, when a remote student returns to in-person, the transition would work the same way when a student returns to school under different circumstance- the teacher would evaluate where they are at re: their skill levels, and standards met.

Q: (JM)

2.) **One of the statements that Mrs. Gosselin mentioned was there were some issues with MobyMax. Can parents interact with MobyMax? Another parent wanted to know if a parent could purchase this program directly from MobyMax.**

A: (BA)

Parents can purchase directly from MobyMax if they want to. Mrs. Jenkins is creating a video demonstrating how parents can manage the parent portal. In the parent portal, parents can view the child's activity the same way we do.

Q: (LB)

3.) **Mrs. Lauren Baah asked Mr. Apperson the next question. For the students that are remote learning, can parents request certain curriculum from teachers to stay connected such as spelling words, or book reports?**

A: (BA)

Yes, they are working on integrating some subjects, particularly writing.

13. **Next Agenda Planning** – New Policy re: SMA and Contracted Services for an APRN, Budget and End of Year Spending, Remote Learning Update, Discussion re: Spring Sports and Employment Agreements

14. **Public Comment** – Mr. Damian Rickard wanted to clarify with Mr. Apperson that it has been three weeks since MobyMax became. Secondly, he thanked Mrs. Marshall and other members for adding to the agenda. His biggest concern is integration when remote learning ends and in-person begins this year or next year, such as an eighth grader transitioning to high school. How will that work? Lastly, he stated his concerns with the cafeteria deficit.

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Motion: J. Lewerk motioned to enter into Executive Session and to invite Mrs. Sally Keating, Mrs. Diana Cormier and separately, each employee whose salary is being discussed re: Agenda Item 10 (g) Discussion re: Salary Agreements; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

The Board ended Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.

Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Salary Agreement for Director of Building and Grounds-Brian McGlew; J. Marshall seconded

Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Salary Agreement for Director of Special Education- Scott Trepanier; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Salary Agreement for Principal-Brian Apperson; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Salary Agreement for Assistant Principal -Megan Jenkins; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Salary Agreement for the Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager/Superintendent-Colleen McNally-Reamer; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Salary Agreement for the Nurse-Theresa Svab; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Salary Agreement for Business Manager-Diana Cormier; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

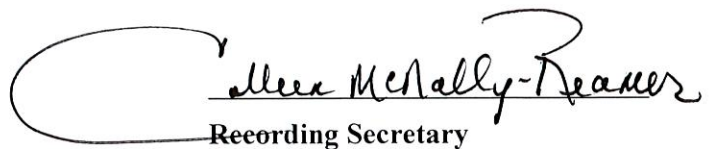
Motion: J. Lewerk moved to accept as presented the Contract for Superintendent-Sally Keating; J. Marshall seconded

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

15. **Adjournment** - 8:08 p.m. —

Approved


Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT LISBON
CT ON 01/29/2021 AT 11:55am
ATTEST. LAURIE TIROCCHI, TOWN CLERK
Mayoria Makely, Asst