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LITCHFIELD SCHOOL BOARD SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 27

Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052

Draft Minutes for July 26, 2017

In Attendance: Brian Bourque, Chair

Derek Barka, Vice Chair

Christina Harrison, Board Member

John York, Board Member James L. O'Neill, Superintendent Cory Izbicki, Business Administrator Michele E. Flynn, Administrative Assistant

(Agenda items may not be in the order in which they were addressed.)

I. PUBLIC SESSION

5:30 p.m.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Bourque called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Review & Revision of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

- D. Summary of Non-Public Actions from June 14, 2017:
- Mr. Barka made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of May 24, 2017. Mr. York seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
- Mr. Bourque made a motion to accept the nomination of Nancy Childress as Director of Curriculum and Instruction at a salary of \$85,000 for the 2017-2018 year. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
- Mr. Bourque made a motion to accept the nomination of Sean Conley as CHS Math teacher at a salary of \$50,688 for the 2017-2018 year. Mr. Barka seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
- Mr. York made a motion to accept the nomination of Nathan Lamy as LMS/CHS Music teacher at a salary of \$40,001 for the 2017-2018 year. Mr. Barka seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
- Mr. Bourque made a motion to approve the increase to the appropriate pay scale level for Janine Anctil. Mrs. Izbicki seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1.
- Mr. Bourque made a motion to approve the movement from the hourly pay schedule to the salary range schedule for Brendan Collins. Mrs. Izbicki seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
 - E. School Board Candidate Interviews

The Board interviewed prospective candidates for the vacant Board member position.

(The Board waited until 5:45 p.m. before proceeding to allow extra time for candidates to arrive.)

• E MacDonald

Mrs. MacDonald explained that she has lived in Litchfield for several years, has been active on the PTO at LMS and CHS, worked as a paraprofessional in the district for two years and as a substitute teacher for four years. She has her Masters degree in elementary education, a Certificate of Eligibility for Special Education, and a BS in Business

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Management. She is the parent of two children who have attended Litchfield schools. Mrs. MacDonald expressed her desire to be part of the process and to have tax dollars make the school district great. She believes it would be a fantastic opportunity to serve on the School Board even for a short period of time.

Mr. Bourque asked what she sees as strengths and weaknesses in the district and the top two priorities.

Mrs. MacDonald indicated the district has strong teachers and the community stands behind education. She believes the district is behind in technology and work is necessary in the special services department.

Mr. Bourque asked what she would like the Board to accomplish.

Mrs. MacDonald commented she would like to see 1:1 technology continue and see senior students more involved with the community.

Mr. York asked if Mrs. MacDonald was working to complete her degree in special education.

Mrs. MacDonald indicated that is correct.

Mr. York asked if she would like to go back to teaching.

Mrs. MacDonald indicated she taught elementary education before moving to Litchfield. She noted when she applied to the district she worked with high school students.

T Hershberger

Mrs. Hershberger was not in attendance.

• B Vaughn

Mrs. Vaughn was not in attendance.

Mr. Barka made a motion to nominate Elizabeth MacDonald as a School Board member. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

F. Presentations and Recognitions

• H.L. Turner Group Building Assessment Report

 Doug Proctor and William Hicks, H.L. Turner, presented recommendations from the final building conditions assessment report and feasibility of use of the 1930s building.

 They provided an explanation of their study of the 1930's building structure and feasibility of use of the building. They indicated that there is no way the lower level can be used for offices or classrooms because of the moisture problem. Mr. Proctor indicated the first level can be used for offices, but they advised against it. He noted that there would need to be significant renovations in order to make the building habitable.

Mr. Bourque asked for an estimated cost to demolish the building. Mr. Proctor indicated it could cost \$50,000 or more.

The Board discussed issues on building a separate building on a different location on the GMS site.

Mr. O'Neill cautioned that the water issues are significant on the area of the site the building is currently located.

Mr. Hicks commented they would be able to find an area to build on the site.

Mr. O'Neill asked about the storage on the lower level of the 1930s building. Mr. Hicks advised that storage on the lower level should only be short term.

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Mr. Bourque asked about the feasibility of using dehumidifiers to be able to use the lower level for long term storage.

Mr. Hicks indicated with the moisture issues, it would be an uphill battle. Mr. Proctor indicated a vapor barrier is needed before that can be done.

Mr. York commented the Board was looking for a storage solution for district records that are required to be retained by law.

Mr. Hicks indicated there are significant moisture issues and it is a lightly framed building. He commented there are concerns of storage files that are heavy and other issues could occur.

The Board had not further questions for the architects. Mr. Hicks indicated they will finalize their report and send it to the SAU office.

CHS Press Box Committee

Cara Gannon and Dave Decarolis discussed press box drawings submitted to the Board. Mrs. Gannon indicated that the drawings were prepared with the CAD program. Mr. Bourque noted the plans have not yet been approved by the Fire Department.

Mrs. Gannon commented that Dave Kidwell has spoken with the building inspector and fire department in the past. She indicated the fire department has not yet seen the CAD drawings. Mr. Bourque indicated that written approval from the fire department and building inspector is required.

Mr. Decarolis indicated that the building inspector provided verbal approval. Mr. York commented there are different rules from both of those departments, but the fire department supersedes the building department.

The discussion included the planned location of the press box and the repositioning of the entrance gate for the football field. Mrs. Gannon indicated moving the gate is part of the Press Box Committee's budget.

The Board discussed the status of fundraising with the committee. Mrs. Gannon indicated that fundraising efforts have been earnest, but results are not as expected, but fundraising will continue. She commented that they have reached out to the Concord Recreation Department regarding information on a grant and the football coach will be speaking to potential sponsors for the press box.

Mr. York commented at some point this will become school district property and the committee will have to donate it. He suggested reaching out to the insurance company about the district's responsibility. He expressed concern with the siding.

Mrs. Gannon commented that the committee focused much time to ensure the siding is maintenance free. She indicated that the plan was to get approval and start next week, but that is not going to happen. She had the following inquiries for the Board:

- Dave Kidwell wanted to know if the ditch can be dug for the underground electrical.
- For a fundraising idea, the committee plans to ask families for sponsorship (placques) or offer Cougar sponsorship for engraved bricks for a walkway permission is needed.

Conduit Question:

Mr. Decarolis indicated it will consist of a 3" conduit running from the building. There is a time constraint on the excavation and we need permission to go forward. He explained conduit will be run to support not only electrical, but phone and cable as well. He noted it can be done in a day or two.

Mr. Izbicki mentioned football and soccer will begin soon.

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164 Mr. Decarolis commented if we are not moving forward with starting the structure prior to the sports seasons, the 165 power can be run after the sports season is over in the fall.

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Mrs. Gannon asked how the committee will know when they get approval on the project.

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Mr. Bourque commented we are still waiting for approval of the plans from the fire department. He suggested coordinating with the CHS Athletic Director and once the athletics department is comfortable with the time frame, he will notify the Superintendent. He asked if a permit would be needed to run the conduit.

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Mr. Decarolis indicated they are just laying the conduit and the electrician will get the permit when he is ready to pull the wire. He noted there will be different conduit for the electrical, the cable and the phone.

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Mr. O'Neill agreed it is easier to run the conduit now.

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Brick Fundraiser:

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Mr. O'Neill indicated he would like to research the history behind the engraved bricks that mark the CHS front walkway as he is unfamiliar with its purpose and would like to know where the funds were applied.

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Mrs. Gannon commented it is the lowest tier of fundraiser, but she was confident families would like to have a brick laid in their name.

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Mr. O'Neill recapped the Athletic Director will give the blanket authorization to move forward with running the conduit. He suggested checking with grounds and the facility manager with regard to the work on the field.

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G. Correspondence

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There was no correspondence.

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H. Superintendent's Comments Non-Teaching Positions Defined

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Mr. O'Neill provided information regarding non-teaching positions defined by job description for the Board at a Board member's request. He reviewed the breakdown of positions and roles with the Board. He commented that the definitions of the individual paraprofessionals and the program paraprofessionals were interesting. He was concerned with the definition of the district-wide tutor position.

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Enrollment Report

middle school impact fees are combined and high school is separate.

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Mr. O'Neill provided the May and June 2017 enrollment reports to the Board. He mentioned that there was no significant movement in those months. He provided some information regarding the affordable housing development in process on Page Road. He indicated based on the information received, the impact on the district schools may be delayed and come in phases.

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Mr. York indicated the apartment and homes will not all be filled by the fall. He commented some will be filled and we need to monitor the students that enroll from those buildings.

Mr. O'Neill mentioned the information passed along by the town regarding these rental units seem to indicate that the impact on enrollment will not be significant. He indicated that it is believed 18 two bedroom units will be completed by September. He agreed it is important to keep track of that growth. He noted the use of impact fees collected hinges on demonstrating an increased population from new homes.

Mr. Barka asked about impact fees collected and who they are collected for. Mr. York explained elementary and

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Mr. Bourque commented our first grade will become the largest second grade. Mr. O'Neill commented what we are going to look at down the road will be very different than what we have seen and expected.

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Mr. York commented there is not a drastic change in our community and whatever decline we are seeing will change. He indicated that Londonderry has started seeing significant enrollment increases, as has Bedford.

Mr. O'Neill commented one of the things NESDEC stated in the enrollment projection analysis they provided for the district was that people tended to stay in their homes when the market dipped. He noted they are now making decisions to move out and larger families are moving into these communities.

• Full Day Kindergarten Update

Mr. O'Neill provided a brief update regarding full day Kindergarten for the Board. A more detailed presentation will be provided at the August 23 meeting. He explained the State recently passed a law for districts to implement full day kindergarten. He indicated districts will receive \$1,100 in additional funds for each student enrolled in the full day program. He noted that between kindergarten and grade 1 there is a "bump up" because most parents choose to enroll their children in a full day program in the public schools. Mr. O'Neill commented districts still have to offer half day kindergarten as well. He indicated the district will have to hire four new teachers and two tutors for the full day program, as well as an additional special education paraprofessionals. He noted that we will have to look at textbooks, technology and infrastructure. He added space will need to be analyzed, which could result in the use of a 4-plex modular building.

Mr. York suggested a team be established with GMS and the administration. He indicated that they need to get back to the Board by the end of September.

Mr. O'Neill indicated that Mrs. Flynn pulled together much historical data, Mr. Thompson pulled together kindergarten data, and Mr. Izbicki has compiled data on modular leasing. He noted that information can be provided for the Board at the August meeting to include a first look at options. He suggested to consider this from a systemic point of view, which can result in some staffing changes.

Mr. York mentioned there seems to be more favorable views on impact fees in the town.

Mr. O'Neill indicated that the district's legal counsel has provided opinion on the use of impact fees.

Mr. York commented that in the past the town's attorney has been reluctant to approve the requests of the Board for the use of school impact fees, but the new counsel is less restrictive.

Mr. O'Neill commented 75% of towns in NH offer full day kindergarten and Litchfield falls in to the 25% that do not. He indicated that full day kindergarten offers an educational advantage to children.

Mr. Bourque commented we need to look at hard numbers and consider a warrant article. He recommended scheduling a public input session. He noted we are talking about a significant amount of money to be spent.

I. Community Forum

• Superintendent Search Public Input

Community members were invited to provide input regarding the upcoming Superintendent search.

Paula Izbicki, 3 Kokokehas Circle, spoke to the Kindergarten discussion. She suggested with all the discussion and work regarding Kindergarten, the Board needs to consider a new building and go in that direction. She indicated the administration needs to take a hard look at GMS and figure out a way to get the students in the building. She noted that Concord recently built a new school under budget and Portsmouth (Little Harbor School) renovated one of its schools. Mrs. Izbicki suggested the Board consider those projects and decide a direction to follow. She commented she would not like to see \$400,000 spent on GMS and have someone come forward in five years to propose a new building.

Nate Cooper, CHS teacher, congratulated Mrs. MacDonald on her appointment to the Board.

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Paula Izbicki, 3 Kokokehas Circle, spoke to the Superintendent Search. She suggested pushing out a survey to everyone in the community. She commented Mr. O'Neill brought this district very far. She indicated the only concern going forward is if a part time Superintendent is right for our district. She believes that most people do not understand that Mr. O'Neill is very seasoned and does not need a lot of extra work to understand or know what a Superintendent needs to know. Mrs. Izbicki commented she would like to see the Board negotiate a contract or set goals for the next Superintendent. She would like to see a candidate that envisions where Litchfield schools will be in ten years; someone who a futuristic thinker in education. She noted we have come far, but have a long way to go. She indicated the Board is working on positive relations with the Budget Committee, which has an impact on who wants to come into our community.

Mr. Bourque commented the Board believes a full time Superintendent is needed. He indicated that we were fortunate to have Mr. O'Neill for the past few years. He noted Mr. O'Neill's experience was extremely helpful. He believes that more can be accomplished with a full time Superintendent.

Mr. O'Neill commented as a part time Superintendent he feels blessed by the community and staff, but he is concerned that he is not involved to the point he would like in the community and district because he is working part time. He urged the community to support a full time Superintendent to lead the district forward with a vision to become the best district.

Betty Vaughn, Stark Lane, agreed a full time Superintendent is needed. She commented that person needs to know the culture of the community. She noted the issue with the music program may not have happened if the Superintendent had been out in the community and at events.

J. School Board Comments

Mr. York mentioned that he will not be in attendance at the August 23 School Board meeting. He asked if the Board would consider moving the discussion regarding Kindergarten to a meeting date in September.

Mr. Bourque indicated the Kindergarten discussion can be moved to the September 6 meeting.

Mr. York mentioned some articles he read in the Union Leader recently.

1) Automotive classes will no longer be available in Merrimack and will be available for high school students at Manchester Community College. The article noted that students will get class experience as well as real world experience as some automakers are participating in the program and offering paid internships.

2) The State of NH passed an RSA that indicates graduating seniors are required to take and pass a Civics class. The article noted this would apply to Grade 8 students as well. Students will need to pass the "Become a Citizen" exam and if they do not pass the competency they will not graduate.

Mr. Cooper indicated that is present practice at CHS.

Mr. O'Neill commented he will talk to Dr. Childress about the status of compliance in the district with regard to the RSA. He indicated that the Board can have a discussion at the September 6 meeting. With regard to the automotive technician and auto body program, Mr. O'Neill commented he has been involved in a similar program and it is a great experience for students.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Public Minutes:June 14, 2017

 Mr. Barka made a motion to approve the amended public minutes of June 14, 2017. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

B. Budget Transfers

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Mr. Barka made a motion to approve the budget transfers for May and June 2017. Mr. Bourque seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

III. REPORTS

A. Business Administrators Report

Mr. Izbicki provided a report regarding the FY17 unassigned fund balance. He indicated that he prepared preliminary financial statements and based on what he found he can report there is an unassigned fund balance of \$474,220. He commented he will report any changes when the auditors arrive next week.

Mr. York was concerned about the negative balance in the food service account.

FY17 General Fund Unassigned Balance

Mr. Izbicki indicated there is no deficit fund balance. He explained that food service is seeing a reduction in revenues and some money was spent on necessary purchases.

Mr. York asked when the last lunch price increase occurred. He commented the district has to raise the prices by a certain amount each year until we reach the required level of compensated federal funds.

Mr. Izbicki indicated there is a state calculation of the level your meal price should be set.

Mr. Bourque commented that Mr. Markiewicz indicated that the district did not need to raise prices any further.

Mr. York commented that he was under the impression if the district did not raise the prices the federal government may determine we are not serving healthy lunches and will not reimburse the district.

Mr. O'Neill commented the district will look into it.

Mr. Bourque welcomed Mr. Izbicki to the district and the Board meeting.

School Board Audit Questionnaire

School Board members completed the audit questionnaire for the upcoming district audit 8/1/17. Board members responded to the audit questionnaire and the Board Chair signed the document.

B. 2017 Graduation Report

 Mr. O'Neill provided a report on graduation statistics for 2017 CHS seniors. He indicated that he would like to look at trend line on the number of students going on to two and four year colleges. He reviewed the colleges students are attending with the Board. He commented he would like to focus on the percentage of students going on to college and those going to prestigious colleges.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Student Handbooks

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School handbooks and changes were provided for 2017-2018 and require approval from the Board. Mr. O'Neill indicated that there were minor changes to the handbooks for GMS and LMS, and a summary of changes was included for the CHS handbook.

Mr. York commended CHS for their work on the dress code in the building.

Mrs. MacDonald indicated that it needs to be defined if the dress code is student driven or administration driven.

Mr. O'Neill offered to look into it.

Mr. York made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 GMS Student/Parent Handbook as presented. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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378 Mr. York made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 LMS Student/Parent Handbook as presented. Mrs. Harrison 379 seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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Mr. York made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 CHS Student/Parent Handbook as presented. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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Special Announcement

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Mr. O'Neill announced that Mr. Lonergan, CHS Principal, was chosen for the NHASP Executive Board.

V. **OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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A. Policies:

ECAB Building & Grounds Access & Security

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Mr. Barka asked why teachers cannot have access between schools.

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Mrs. MacDonald commented the doors are locked at CHS as soon as the students leave for the day.

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Mrs. Flynn indicated that the understanding was the doors were to be locked after the last afterschool activity ended or at 3:30 p.m.

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Mr. Izbicki indicated that the SAU can contact the security company with a list of staff that need access to the other schools.

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Mr. O'Neill commented he agrees that the high school doors should be open until 3:30 p.m. He indicated the SAU

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will look into access for teachers at other schools.

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Mr. Barka made a motion to approve policy ECAB. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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EFAA Food Services Meal Charging

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Mr. Barka made a motion to approve policy EFAA. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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KG Use of School Facilities

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Mr. Bouruge made a motion to approve policy KG. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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VI. MANIFEST

412 413 The manifest was circulated and signed by the Board.

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VII. **PUBLIC INPUT**

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A. Community Forum

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VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3II (a, c)

[Minutes of Non-Public Session are written under separate cover.]

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Upon a motion by Mrs. Harrison, the Board entered into non-public session at 7:50 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (c) Matters, which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. . Mr. Barka seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mr. Barka, yes; Mr.

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York, yes.

IX. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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Upon a motion by Mr. Barka, the Board returned to public session at 8:20 p.m. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mr. Barka, yes; Mr. York, yes.

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Mr. Barka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mr. York seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

440 Michele E. Flynn

Administrative Assistant to the School Board

