

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

LITCHFIELD SCHOOL BOARD - SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 27

Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052

APPROVED MINUTES

June 24, 2009

(approved as amended 7-15-09)

Present:

Mr. Dennis Miller, Chair
Mr. Ralph Boehm, Vice Chair
Mrs. Cindy Couture, Board Member
Mrs. Pat Jewett, Board Member
Mr. Jason Guerrette, Board Member
Dr. Elaine Cutler, Superintendent
Mr. Steve Martin, Business Administrator
Ms. Amanda Lecaroz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Robert Manseau, Principal, CHS
Mr. Tom Lecklider, Principal, LMS
Mr. Martin Schlichter, Principal, GMS
Mrs. Michele E. Flynn, Administrative Assistant

1) Public Session – Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance **6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2) Review and Revision of Agenda

Revisions to the agenda included: under Recommended Action, the addition of a resignation.

3) Summary of Non-Public Actions

Mr. Miller read the non-public actions from the June 17, 2009 Board meeting.

June 17, 2009:

Mrs. Couture made a motion to accept the nomination of Jesse Haarlander as Physical Education teacher at GMS at a salary of \$33,290 for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Boehm seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1, with Mr. Guerrette abstaining.

Mrs. Couture made a motion to accept the nomination of Lisa Dunn as a one year temporary Social Studies teacher at CHS at a salary of \$36,684 for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Boehm seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1, with Mr. Guerrette abstaining.

Mr. Guerrette made a motion to amend the vote from the April 8 Non-Public session motion to approve the recommended administrative team salaries as presented. Mr. Miller seconded. The motion failed 1-2-2, with Mr. Boehm and Mrs. Couture voting in the negative, and Mr. Miller and Mrs. Jewett abstaining.

4) School Board Members' Comments

There were no School Board member comments.

5) Community Input

Mr. Miller read a statement welcoming the community members to the meeting. He indicated that community input is always welcomed and encouraged by the Board. He noted that the meeting was a Board meeting in public, not a public meeting with the Board. He outlined the appropriate protocol for public input indicating that all speakers will be able to present comments that should be directed to the Board Chair and not the audience. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes to comment. Mr. Miller then opened the floor to the public.

Andrew Prolman, 31 Chase Brook Circle, commented that upon reading the draft Board minutes from June 17, 2009, he noted that comments were made about English materials taught at CHS. He queried about comments made that there would be an investigation and action/decisions made by the Board

Mr. Miller indicated that there would be a discussion by the Board regarding the topic, the Board's decision, and any action(s) taken after community input.

Mr. Prolman expressed his strong concern with an article in the Nashua Telegraph regarding this topic and the comments made in the draft minutes of June 17, 2009. Mr. Prolman commented that one of his sons graduated from CHS and the other is in grade 10. He voiced his strong support of the teachers, administration, and staff at CHS and noted that there was unwarranted criticism of the teachers involved in the English course in question. Mr. Prolman indicated that he is duly impressed with the quality of education students receive at CHS. He urged the Board to consider the strong support for the professional staff as educators and that the Board should trust the judgment of their teachers. He indicated that it is a false choice to think that a parent cannot do their job at home and a teacher cannot do their job at school. He encouraged the Board to support the teachers.

Debra Bilodeau-Cushman, 32 Century Lane, expressed her support for the teachers in the Litchfield community. She commented that both her children graduated from CHS. She mentioned that she is a teacher in Merrimack and that Merrimack faced the same problem some years earlier with the Christian Coalition movement. Although the movement disrupted the school district and made national headlines, the teachers persevered. Ms. Bilodeau-Cushman indicated that Litchfield needs to have a strong, united front to support the educators and administration. She commented that the Christian Coalition is here to challenge faculty, staff, and curriculum, and that the movement would have a destructive impact on education. She cautioned Board members to be mindful of their decisions and urged the Board to trust the judgment of the teachers.

Richard Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, commented that in light of the curriculum challenge, he reviewed the Selection of Instructional Resources policy (IJL) and the Instructional Resources Selection & Adoption procedures (IJL-R). He expressed his concern with the Board's decision in comparison with the aforementioned policy and procedures. Mr. Rafferty indicated that the media's report of the topic made a conclusion of whether policy/procedures were followed difficult to determine. He commented that the Board's position that there was an error in judgment by the teachers was a mistake. Mr. Rafferty expressed his support for the District's educators and the high quality of teaching. He indicated that his daughter read the materials in question and he had no objection. He believes that censorship is wrong, especially from outside groups. He added that he was confident the Board would act appropriately.

Ken Dugal, 11 Mallard Court, commented that he was a teacher for 35 years and a resident of Litchfield for 30 years. His children graduated from CHS. He was concerned that of those trying to weigh in on the topic, many are outsiders. Mr. Dugal stated to the Board that as elected officials Board members should concern themselves with only Litchfield parents, staff, administrators, and teachers. He commented that his children's success in college is due to their education at CHS. Mr. Dugal noted that the teachers are caring, devoted, and hard working, and have impacted the lives of hundreds of students. In return for their dedication they deserve our support.

Emilia DiCola, 5 Riverview Circle, expressed her concern for the recent events. She commented that the teachers at CHS are excellent and should not be criticized. Ms. DiCola indicated that the books in question deal with everyday life and expose students to the ramifications of making bad decisions. She also commented that people who choose alternative lifestyles are not bad people. She believed that students should not be sheltered from what goes on in the real world and cited some examples of the everyday issues teens face involving drugs and sex. She added that many that attended the meeting last week were not Litchfield residents. Ms. DiCola commented that censoring this material is wrong.

Sue Ann Johnson, 35 Locke Mill Drive, commented that she is not associated with the Christian Coalition and was offended by those stating the movement is destructive. She indicated that this country was founded on Christianity and all those who spoke at the June 17 meeting were Litchfield residents. Mrs. Johnson expressed her concern over the direction the curriculum is taking. She indicated that she reviewed the

materials that were selected for the English course her son participated in and noted that all the stories were dark. She mentioned that the four stories in question focused on homosexuality, murder, sex, and cannibalism. She commented that we don't need stories about these subjects to know that they exist in our society. Mrs. Johnson believes that we are desensitizing our children to violence, sex, and drug use. She was concerned that there is a liberal agenda in the schools. She declared that it is the parents' responsibility to teach their children values.

Matt Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, a CHS student, expressed his concern over the removal of the stories from the curriculum. He believed that removing the material is censorship. He indicated that these books are not written for acceptance of the ideas, but to learn to avoid the situations presented. He added that removing the materials does not make the issues go away.

Ken Johnson, 35 Locke Mill Drive, commented that this issue isn't censorship. The language in the books in question cannot be read on television and is not the language children should learn. Mr. Johnson indicated that the principals and Superintendent agreed the stories were inappropriate. He noted that the teachers responded that the stories were selected for their tone. He believes there are plenty of other books that have the proper tone as children are impressionable. Mr. Johnson commented that he has lived in Litchfield for 15 years and agrees that the school system is excellent. He noted that although he has never had a problem with any teacher, they can make mistakes. It was his opinion that this was an error in judgment and people should be held accountable for their actions.

David Scofield, 9 Amsterdam Circle, expressed support for the teaching staff at CHS despite difficulties he had during his attendance. He commented that the teachers are excellent. With regard to the content of the stories in question, Mr. Scofield indicated that the content in some of the stories written by William Shakespeare is no different. He commented that these subjects will always exist and that if children are not informed they could make these mistakes.

Laura Gandia, 3 Chamberlain Drive, noted that there were numerous discussions at the last Board meeting regarding the stories in question. She indicated that the Board reviewed the material and made a prompt decision. She commented on the opposing views being expressed this evening. Ms. Gandia stated that this is not about censorship, but that it is about what is taught in the schools. This is not about a ban of books as children can still read books of their choice at the public library. She commented that it is about what is appropriate in the school setting. Ms. Gandia noted that the next issue is to review the policy and accountability, determine the selection of the stories and who is responsible, and act accordingly.

Michael Clark, 130 Pinecrest Road, indicated that he heard about the events that took place on the news and in print. He commented that he has learned not to trust what is in the media, but to find the facts. Talking to people and reviewing the policies makes it clear. Mr. Clark indicated that according to the Instructional Resources Selection & Adoption policy and procedures the complaint process was not followed as prescribed. To his knowledge, no one completed and filed the form to reconsider materials. He believes that if the Board policies in place should be followed. Mr. Clark indicated that censorship, as well as removing books, is dangerous. He expressed his concern with statements made last week. He added that the Board should use the policy mentioned as a method to review the content in question.

Dan Marquis, 8 Nesenkeag Drive, indicated that he is a 2008 CHS graduate and that these stories are what inspired him to attend college to become an English teacher. He commented that banning these stories is a mistake and would invalidate his diploma. Mr. Marquis commented that he was raised as a Christian, but believes the education received at CHS went further than what he was raised to believe. He indicated that we are not being taught to accept the ideals in the stories, but to be informed about them.

Kiara Lynch, 1 Rotterdam Drive, indicated that she graduated from CHS in 2004 and had wonderful teachers who made a great impact on her. She commented that these [drug use, sex, etc.] are concerns students could face entering college. She expressed that she was fortunate to be raised and taught to be a free thinker. She noted that being exposed to these topics made her more aware. Ms. Lynch was proud of the education she received at CHS. She added that it would be sad if teachers are not allowed to provide that same education to other students.

Sue Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, heard that there was a meeting with Mrs. Johnson and the principal. She was concerned about censorship in this situation. She believes that it would be wrong to change what is taught at CHS. Mrs. Rafferty commented that teachers should be allowed to make the decision on what is taught in the classroom. She suggested that teachers provide a syllabus either in writing or online for parents to make it easier to decide to opt out on behalf of their children. She believes that it was wrong for the teachers to be told that they made an error in judgment presenting these stories to students.

A community member who resides at 126 Pinecrest Road, commented that it was nice to see the students and former students of CHS speak proudly about their teachers. He expressed his satisfaction with the Board's reaction the input at last week's meeting. He commented that this was not an outcry for Christianity and there are many in attendance this evening that were not in attendance at the June 17 meeting. He believed that Mrs. Johnson was courageous to come forward with her concerns over the stories. He indicated that this is not about censorship; rather it is about parents' ability to be involved and have control over what their children are being taught. He mentioned that the majority of last week's discussion was that parents have the right to be included in the decisions regarding curriculum. He thanked the Board for their decision.

Kim Schaffer, 82 Hillcrest Road, commented that, as a teacher, she was shocked when she read the content of the stories in question. She believes that everything that is taught in school should come from a curriculum committee. She noted that this is not about censorship or asserting blame. She queried about the curriculum itself and indicated that people should work together toward a resolution.

Emily Schaffer, 12 Evergreen Circle, a recent CHS graduate, reminded the community about the purpose of literature. She noted that there is an underlying theme and concept in each piece of literature, as well as the tone, reflection, and critical thinking. Literature has no right or wrong answer. These stories do not tell students how to act or live, but help them develop and question their own direction. She commented that CHS students are taught about courage, character, respect, and responsibility. She added that when current subjects are repressed children cannot become informed adults.

Laura Cautela, 10 Naumkeag Court, commented that no one is being forced to accept an alternative lifestyle, but to respect one's differences. She indicated that teenagers should be given credit for being open-minded. Mrs. Canela indicated while some of the stories were not as objectionable, the Crack Cocaine Diet story was questionable. She commented that these topics will not go away and it makes sense to educate teens more prepared for real life. She added that sheltering our children does not work.

Andrew Cialek, 2 Hildreth Drive, participated in the English course and commented that the stories are not inappropriate. He indicated that what is discussed in class is more important than the content of the stories. He noted that these stories helped him learn about issues he would face in life.

Pam Boutselis, 14 Shirley Way, commented that it comes down to confidence in your children, the values you instill in them, and their education. She noted that children will make mistakes, but we should have trust and confidence in our children and their teachers. Mrs. Boutselis believes the teachers were maligned. She indicated that children should be allowed to grow up and face things.

A community member commented that these issues are seen every day. Students have the right to read alternate materials if they are uncomfortable. Teachers are willing to accommodate the students. He noted that children face many issues at college and to continue to shelter them will lead to problems.

Jared Davis, 7 Nesmith Court, a 2008 CHS graduate, noted that he did not take the class and has no knowledge of the stories. However, the teachers did not bring political ideology into the class. He believes these stories are being used as political propaganda. Mr. Davis believes that significant oversight in the curriculum is necessary at CHS.

Gordon Wade, 11 Bear Run Drive, indicated that he is a recent CHS graduate and most students do not complain about the stories they read. He commented that the students are mature enough to handle the

content. Mr. Wade noted that there are many other books to read that are considered classics and they revolve around racism, cannibalism, and child abuse. He believes that removing the material is censorship.

Emma Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, indicated that she read these stories at CHS and agreed that the exposure was beneficial. She recounted the experience of her college roommate who was sheltered by her parents. Ms. Rafferty noted that because her roommate was not exposed to these controversial subjects she adopted a wild lifestyle [drinking, sex] to the point of losing her scholarship. She believes that it is better to learn about these things in school and not on the streets. Ms. Rafferty added that removing these stories will make matters worse.

Alex Prolman, 31 Chase Brook Circle, suggested posting story titles in the program of studies so parents can be informed of what is being studied. He noted that David Sedaris' story was listed in the approved curriculum for AP classes.

Wenda Schultz, 21 Meadowbrook Lane, commented that many students who read these stories were offended and knew their parents would not approve of the content. There is much student discussion over the material, teachers, and principals. She added that she received a great education in school and was involved with her teachers, but never knew their background.

Ashley Clark, 27 Naticook Avenue, believes that this is about censorship. She indicated that there is a protocol to follow to have curriculum reconsidered. She commented that people need to trust the professionals. Ms. Clark indicated that students who were in the AP class were intrigued by the content of the stories and learned a lot from controversial topics. She noted that she made her decisions based on what she learned from the stories, which would not entice her to make bad choices.

Alison Stapleton, 1 Standish Circle, indicated that she is a senior at CHS. She agreed that this is about censorship and that these stories deal with everyday life issues. She urged the Board to take into consideration that students are making informed decisions before making a decision about the curriculum.

Bobby Cautela, 10 Naumkeag Court, indicated that he worked closely with English teachers at CHS and does not know the backgrounds of the teachers. He mentioned that he graduated recently from CHS, winning the English award. He commented that the authors of these stories portrayed a message in a different way. Mr. Cantela believes that it is important to have different viewpoints from different authors. He added that the content may be questionable, but the meaning is discussed in class and the teachers do not press their opinions on the students.

Mr. Miller asked if there was more input. Hearing none, he closed community input.

6) New Business

a) Curriculum Discussion

Dr. Cutler indicated that she met with parents and reviewed the material in question. She explained that this was not about censorship, but about parental notice and appropriateness. Dr. Cutler explained further that policy IJL will be reviewed and compared to policies from other districts. A challenge materials committee will be identified and can be assembled quickly upon the occurrence of an incident. Materials in the short story class will be reviewed for development, appropriateness, and controversial topics. Parental notification and perhaps the option to opt in or out will be offered to parents. Parents will continue to be expected to sign off on the program of studies for student participation.

Mr. Manseau explained that the curriculum facilitator selects materials from a variety of anthologies for the course. The teachers make selections from these authors. These stories were selected for tone, style, and efficacy for achieving the outcomes of the course. The stories vividly demonstrate the consequences for bad choices. Teachers met with the parents who were concerned and offered to review the materials for the course over the summer. Mr. Manseau offered to resolve the issue last week by removing the material so it could be reviewed. Controversy is inherent in the short story genre and parents will be given an opportunity to opt for their students' participation.

Ms. Lecaroz presented an overview of the current curriculum and who is responsible at each level. She indicated that at the District level, the Curriculum Director and Curriculum Committee sets expectations for K-12, identifies and acquires primary instructional resources. At the School level, the Principal and Curriculum Facilitator develop and implement a structure for effective instruction in curriculum expectations, evaluate instructional effectiveness, and identify additional resources. At the Classroom level, the Grade Level Team or Classroom Teacher teaches the curriculum with resources, and identifies supplemental instructional resources.

Ms. Lecaroz also presented proposed interventions to ensure quality curriculum and resources are used in all classrooms in the District. She indicated that at the District level, the Curriculum Director and Curriculum Committee will create a Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) to evaluate all curriculum and resources proposed and recommend to the Board for approval. Written rationales will be provided for instructional resources. At the School level, the Curriculum Director, Principal, and Curriculum Facilitators will provide professional development for all educators on Board policies IJL/IJL-R and writing rationales for instructional resources. They will review any potentially controversial resources prior to use within the classrooms. Written rationales will be provided for instructional resources. At the Classroom level, the Curriculum Director and Classroom Teachers will provide professional development for all educators on Board policies IJL/IJL-R and writing rationales for instructional resources. They will submit any potentially controversial resources to the Principal for review prior to use within the classrooms. Written rationales will be provided for instructional resources.

Mr. Boehm indicated that the Board is not trying to censor any subjects, but to communicate the same message with different material.

Mr. Guerrette queried about alternative offerings. Mr. Manseau indicated that the administration will publish an addendum of short stories in the fall. Parents and students will be given an opportunity to select a different course in the fall if they so wish.

Mr. Guerrette asked if the short story course will be included in the curriculum. Ms. Lecaroz indicated that it would be available, but students and parents will be expected to sign off on the course with the knowledge that there may be controversial topics, or the student and/or parent can opt to read an alternative selection.

Dr. Cutler indicated that a curriculum review committee will be set up in the summer made up of teachers and parents, and perhaps students if interested. The process is to make a determination on stories to be considered for the class. The decision to remove these stories was essentially made because parents were not notified of the controversial topics in advance. Dr. Cutler explained that there is a rich bank of electives should a parent feel that their child should not take the short story class. This curriculum will be vetted over the summer.

Mr. Guerrette disagreed that the choice of offering both sides belongs in public school. Dr. Cutler explained that AP courses are national courses and the stories are taken from approved selections. Parents want their children to take AP classes in order for students to be ready for critical thinking. The committee will review the materials and follow the policy as it is written.

Mrs. Couture commented that she read the stories and the real issue is the rights of the families to be responsible for their own children. She believes the focus should be on the rights of those parents to opt out of the class, but to continue to offer the opportunity for other parents of students who allow their children to take those classes. She indicated that it is not right to restrict choice. Mrs. Couture indicated that parents will be expected to give permission for their children's participation in those classes.

Mr. Miller commented that when the guidance curriculum was discussed, he was fairly vocal on teaching tolerance, but letting parents teach their children values. He noted that the administration did good job clarifying that teachers can talk to topic, but not instill values in the students. Mr. Miller indicated that we hire professionals and allow them to do their job with Board oversight, but we must trust in the administration we hire. He added that values change over time and we need to educate our children for the real world. This plan will allow the administration to review the topics.

Ms. Lecaroz indicated that all curriculum will go through PERC and be submitted to the Board for approval. The short story curriculum is being expedited over the summer.

Mrs. Couture made a motion to approve the intervention plan as presented. Mr. Boehm seconded. The motion carried 3-1-1, with Mr. Guerrette voting in the negative and Mrs. Jewett abstaining.

b) Annual Graduation Report

Mr. Manseau presented the 2009 CHS Graduation Report to the Board. There were 119 graduates out of a class of 123. 62% are going to a 4 year college, 19% are going to a two year college, 3% are going to a one year program, 11% are employed, and 3% are going into the military. Four students are slated to graduate in August.

Mrs. Couture was impressed with the aspirations of the graduates as reflected in the report.

7) **Principals' Reports**

a) **GMS**

Mr. Schlichter reported that the end of the year was excellent. At GMS Field Day is a tradition, but some activities were canceled due to the weather. He reported that kindergarten orientation was held where curriculum was presented, tours given, and transportation discussed. Mr. Schlichter announced that GMS will be used in a doctoral study as one of four schools in New Hampshire that showed the most improvement in NECAP scores.

Mr. Boehm was concerned with the safety of the children getting out of the buses at GMS. Mr. Schlichter assured him that the children's safety is held in high regard at GMS. Mr. Boehm believed that students should exit the buses when they arrive at school to help move the traffic more quickly.

b) **LMS**

Mr. Lecklider reported that the boys baseball, softball, and track teams won their respective championships. The girls track team came in third place. The Terry Fox Walk was successful and their goal was achieved. Funds raised from this event will go to the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Mr. Lecklider reported that a Transition Day was held at LMS to allow the students moving up a grade to meet their teachers for next year and see their classrooms. Students that participated in Project Safeguard had a great experience and there was excellent feedback from the parents. Mr. Lecklider announced that LMS received a donation of 12 laptop computers and 4 printers from a local family. These laptops will be used for students requiring differentiated instruction.

Mrs. Couture made a motion to accept the donation of 12 laptop computers and 4 printers to be used at LMS. Mr. Boehm seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Guerrette queried if these computers were part of the technology plan. Mr. Martin indicated that the computers and the identified need was not included in the technology plan.

Mr. Miller congratulated Mr. Lecklider on a successful 8th grade promotion ceremony.

c) **CHS**

Mr. Manseau reported that in the month of May several events were held: Senior Exhibition Night, where 30 outstanding senior projects were chosen and displayed to juniors; a Spring Concert; Student Council/Staff Appreciation Day; and a Project Safeguard presentation at St. Anselm's College. During the month of June, events included: a Leadership Conference; Senior trip; Varsity Awards & Dinner; Motivational speaker for seniors; Senior Class Awards; a NH Scholars Meet & Greet; and Graduation. He announced that 43 CHS students received scholarships. He thanked Mr. McDonough and Mr. Mower for the decorations in the gym. Mr. Manseau reported that today was the last day of school and grades are being tallied. Summer school will run July 6-31.

Mr. Manseau presented the Board with the CHS Library Report. He noted that this year's circulation total of 3,515 more than doubled last year's total. He also noted that this year's total of visiting classes (179) increased dramatically over last year's total.

1) Skateboard, Rollerblades, & Scooters (JHFF)

Mr. Manseau previously requested a revision to the policy by prohibiting the use of skateboards, rollerblades and scooters on school grounds. Mr. Martin reported that the District's insurance company was queried regarding the policy. The response from Primex is one of district liability. If someone is hurt on school grounds under the current policy, the District may be liable. He commented that the insurance company's position is not to allow the activities on school grounds. Mr. Martin indicated that Mr. Bennett, Grounds Coordinator, research surrounding districts and most rely on the decision of their administrators.

Mrs. Jewett indicated that the town cannot afford the liability. Mr. Miller reported that at the Selectmen's meeting a parent requested permission to solicit for a skate park.

Mr. Manseau indicated that when students comply with the policy [which states no skateboards, rollerblades, or scooters permitted within 50 feet of the building or on walkways], they end up in the parking lot. It is a safety concern.

Board members discussed the liability of the District if skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters continued to be allowed on school grounds. Mr. Miller commented that the policy needs revision. He suggested removing the wording that states no skateboards, rollerblades, or scooters permitted within 50 feet of the building or on walkways be removed from the policy. The policy will go to a 1st Reading on July 15.

Mrs. Jewett made a motion to revise the policy and prohibit skateboarding, rollerblading, and scooters on school property. Mr. Guerrette seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

8) **Curriculum Report**

a) June Curriculum Report

Ms. Lecaroz reported that the kindergarten curriculum was finalized and curriculum guides were prepared that will be given to parents and posted on web. She also reported that the District was awarded the Title IV redistribution grant to use for suicide prevention and response training for district and community personnel.

Mr. Guerrette queried about schools completing the curriculum at the end of the year and what is done when curriculum is completed. Ms. Lecaroz indicated that curriculum is rarely completed before the end of the year. Mr. Guerrette was concerned with activities held on the last three days of school.

9) **Recommended Action**

a) **Business Affairs**

1) Draft School Board Minutes:

a) Public Minutes of June 17, 2009

Mrs. Couture requested an addition to the minutes under the Acoustic Shell item. The addition is as follows: Mrs. Couture reminded the Board that this had been budgeted for approximately five years and had been cut out of the budget by the Board every year. A \$5,000 donation and \$1,000 cost reduction by the vendor meant that the District dollars invested would result in a much larger return on that investment.

Mr. Guerrette disagreed with Mrs. Couture's amendment to the minutes. He believed that an error was made to the vote of a non-public motion made in April and the motion to reconsider was not supported by the Board.

Mr. Boehm made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mrs. Couture seconded. The motion carried 4-1-0, with Mr. Guerrette voting in the negative.

2) Job Descriptions:

a) Library/Media Monitor

Dr. Cutler presented the Library/Media Monitor job description for approval .

Mrs. Couture made a motion to approve the job description as presented. Mrs. Jewett seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

b) IT Support Technician

Dr. Cutler presented the IT Support Technician job description for approval. She mentioned that the only changes are position title and two additional responsibilities.

Mrs. Couture made a motion to approve the job description as presented. Mr. Boehm seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

c) Summer Co-Curricular Positions

Dr. Cutler presented summer co-curricular positions, which are federally funded and will only be filled if the District receives federal funding in the future.

Mrs. Couture made a motion to approve job descriptions as presented. Mrs. Jewett seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

3) Update on Associated Costs for Generator

Mr. Martin updated the Board on the associated costs for the town generator to be installed at CHS. Jolt Electric offered to prepare formal specifications with which Kevin Lynch agreed. Mr. Martin indicated that although no formal quotes have been received, the vendor was comfortable that \$25,000 - \$30,000 was a reasonable estimate for installation. Jolt Electric was comfortable that the cost would be in that range. This is not a quote, but a budgetary number to encumber.

Mr. Boehm made a motion to approve the encumbrance of \$25,000 for the generator hook up at CHS. Mrs. Jewett seconded.

Mr. Guerrette believed that this item should be included in a warrant article.

The motion carried 4-1-0, with Mr. Guerrette voting in the negative.

4) Acceptance of Donation (CHS FOM)

Dr. Cutler asked the Board to accept a \$5,000 donation from the CHS Friends of Music for the purchase of the acoustic shell.

Mrs. Couture made a motion to accept the donation of \$5,000 from the CHS Friends of Music toward the purchase of an acoustic shell. Mr. Boehm seconded. The motion carried 4-1-0, with Mr. Guerrette voting in the negative.

5) Resignation

Dr. Cutler presented resignations to the Board.

Mrs. Couture made a motion to accept the resignation of John McGarry and release him from his contract. Mr. Boehm seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Guerrette made a motion to accept the resignation of Kathleen Reilly and release her from her contract. Mrs. Jewett seconded. The motion carried 4-1-0, with Mrs. Couture voting in the negative.

6) Manifest

The manifest was circulated and signed by the Board.

10) **Superintendent's Report**

1) Superintendent's Report – June

Dr. Cutler indicated that the June 2009 Superintendent's Report was included in the Board's packet for review.

2) Enrollment – May & June 2009

Dr. Cutler reported that the year end enrollment reflected 438 students at GMS; 554 students at LMS; 546 students at CHS; District total 1,538, plus 44 students in GMS PreK-Kindergarten. 1st Grade Registrations are at 103, and Kindergarten registrations are at 65.

3) Field Trips Report

Dr. Cutler indicated that the Board previously requested an annual report of field trips in each school. Mr. Guerrette queried about different groups at LMS that go on different field trips during the year. Dr. Cutler offered to research the information.

4) 2009-2010 School Board Calendar

Dr. Cutler reviewed the draft School Board Calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. Board members approved dates in question and suggested some changes. The calendar will be revised and return for approval on July 15.

11) **Committee Reports**

1) Selectmen

Mrs. Jewett reported that complaints were received about a culvert malfunctioning on Albuquerque, but that legally the town cannot repair it.

2) Legislative

Mr. Boehm reported that the legislature completed their session today. The State Budget was approved as presented, however, the town will lose revenue sharing. The percentage of retirement funds increased, and school building aid was bonded.

12) **Community Input**

Emma Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, expressed her strong support for Mrs. Reilly and her displeasure at her resignation.

Dick Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, indicated that it is a tragedy to lose a teacher like Mrs. Reilly. Comments made about her error of judgment should not have been made in public. He commented that she is the best teacher at CHS and something should be done.

Emilia DiCola, 5 Riverview Circle, commented her displeasure with the Board's reaction to the resignation of Mrs. Reilly and the short story incident. She indicated that it is fine for an 18 year old to go off to war, but not to read the controversial content of one of the aforementioned short stories. She stated that she is ashamed at the events that have unfolded.

Matt Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, expressed his strong displeasure at the resignation of Kathleen Reilly. He commented that he is ashamed of the school and of the town. He believed that the people quoting excerpts from the short stories did so to shock others into a decision. Mr. Rafferty commented that the events should not have happened.

Sean Curran expressed disappointment at the resignation of Mrs. Reilly.

Sue Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, disagreed that the policy (IJL) was followed and resulted in the Board's decision to remove the short story curriculum. Mr. Miler indicated that a plan has been proposed and no material has been removed. There will be a decision on what will be included in the course over the summer.

Mrs. Rafferty indicated that the reconsideration of material procedure was not followed and statements made led to someone's resignation.

Emma Rafferty, 33 Century Lane, expressed extreme displeasure at the resignation of Kathleen Reilly.

Dan Marquis expressed disappointment with the Board's decision and the resignation of Kathleen Reilly.

13) Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A: 3II (a-c)

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

Mrs. Couture made a motion to go into non-public session at 10:05 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. Boehm seconded. The motion carried by roll call: Mr. Miller, yes; Mrs. Couture, yes; Mr. Boehm, yes; Mrs. Jewett, yes, Mr. Guerrette, no.

14) Return to Public Session

Mr. Boehm made a motion to return to public session at 10:20 p.m. Mrs. Couture seconded. The motion carried by roll call: Mr. Miller, yes; Mrs. Couture, yes; Mr. Boehm, yes; Mrs. Jewett, yes; Mr. Guerrette, yes.

15) Adjourn

Mrs. Jewett made a motion to adjourn at 10:21 p.m. Mr. Guerrette seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

16) Upcoming Meetings

> >Litchfield School Board: July 15, 29, 2009 - CHS Media Room - 6:30 PM
August 12, 26, 2009 – CHS Media Room – 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michele E. Flynn
School Board Administrative Assistant