

LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

SAU #68

DATE: December 11, 2024

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:

Jay Duguay, Chairperson
Kevin Bell
Casey Caulder
Mandi Avery

SCHOOL BOARD ABSENT:

Joe Bossie
Tamra Ham
Jasmine Weeden

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF/STUDENT PRESENT:

Dr. Mary Steady, Superintendent of Schools
Peter Stivali, Principal
Debbie O'Connor, Financial Manager
Sharon Holt, SAU#68 Administrative Assistant
Bart King, Technical Support

PUBLIC PRESENT REMOTELY:

Kristyn Fadden
Katie Parent
Julie Rand

Heather Krill
Paula Houde

The School Board meeting was held in the Elementary School Multipurpose Room.

School Board Chairperson, Jay Duguay called the School Board meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Minutes:

Kevin Bell made a motion to approve the School Board meeting minutes of November 13, 2024. Casey Caulder seconded the motion. Discussion: None **Jay Duguay called a vote to approve the motion. All Board members present were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.**

Communication:

Correspondence:

- The NCES Newsletter and School District activities calendar were included in the School Board packet.

Reports:

Business Administrator's Report:

Education Funding and Adequacy:

Debbie O'Connor provided the Board members information on State of NH Education Funding and Adequacy.

Additionally, a NH School Board Association webinar video further explaining the process was provided to the Board members.

Debbie O'Connor reported:

- NH Education Funding is based on a formula which has changed over time. This formula affects the NH tax payers through tax rate setting. The State determines the cost of an adequate education by town based on a number of factors including the State determined base adequacy aid rate; town enrollment numbers (Average Daily Membership/ADM) and free and reduced, special education, English language learners (ELL), and home education numbers. Then, to determine town adequacy aid grant (including hold harmless, and SWEPT (State Wide Education Property Tax)), the state looks at the SWEPT (currently set at \$1.12 per \$1,000) per town to determine if enough funds are raised by the town through SWEPT to cover the adequate education costs. Towns, such as Lincoln, which are property rich and have an estimated SWEPT higher than their adequate education cost are considered "Excess SWEPT" towns and do not receive adequacy aid grants. Towns, such as Woodstock, whose cost of an adequate education are higher than the amount that can be raised through SWEPT receive adequacy aid grants. The size of Woodstock's adequacy aid grant has been diminishing over the years. There are a number of Legislative bills in play that would require "Excess SWEPT" towns to return to the State the

monies raised by SWEPT that exceed the cost of an adequate education for that town basically returning to the old "Donor Town" education funding model.

- Mandi Avery inquired as to the SWEPT amount that Lincoln would need to return if this Legislation went through? Debbie O'Connor noted it would be the difference between the town's estimated SWEPT (\$2,256,065) and the total calculated cost of an adequate education for Lincoln (\$648,552.68).
- Jay Duguay inquired into the rate of reduction in the Woodstock Extraordinary Needs Grant? Debbie O'Connor noted the grant amount has been slowly diminishing but Debbie will check on actual rates. This information is included in the Board budget binders.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Steady reported:

- The 4th grade class worked with the Glowforge designing and cutting out ornaments. The students had a great time with this project. The ornaments were presented to the School Board members as a thank you for all the work they do for the School District.
- The new School District website is due to launch on July 1st. A committee has been established to work on this project. The initial design call/meeting with the Finals site team will be scheduled after the start of the new year and website migration will begin after that time. Kevin Bell will be invited to participate in design meetings.
- The District has been awarded a \$50,000 literacy grant to continue the Elementary School's work on a cohesive literacy program.
- The District also received a grant for a hydroponic tower. The tower is set up in an Elementary school classroom and the District is just waiting for the modules to arrive from the State.
- The Middle/High School teachers are continuing their vocabulary work with Dr. Tolman.
- White Mountain Science, Inc. (WMSI) will be assisting the District with a K-12 STEM program.
- The School Board members were provided a copy of the curriculum review timeline. The District is reviewing the English Language Arts (ELA) and Science curriculum this year and will review Social Studies and Math next year.
- 2Revolutions will begin Strategic Plan work on 1/8/25. 2Revolutions representatives will be meeting with students and staff members during the day and will meet with the Board that evening. 45 minutes will be needed with the Board. The agenda for the 1/8/25 Board meeting will be reviewed to see if the strategic plan work session can be worked into the Board meeting or if additional time will need to be set-aside.
 - Jay Duguay asked how the literacy grant monies would be allocated? Dr. Steady mentioned the grant will be used to further the Elementary School's work on making literacy instruction consistent from K-5 with focuses on phonics, decoding, and comprehension. As a precursor to the receipt of this grant, each Elementary School teacher was required to commit to completing the two-year LETRs training program. The grant will cover items such as salaries for teachers to complete the LETRs training program, etc.

Principal's Report:

Peter Stivali reported:

- On 11/12, Officer Scrafford set up a parent presentation on ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children). Her guest presenters were Lt. Combs and Lt. James, who are currently of the Lincoln Police Department, formerly the Grafton County Sheriff's Department; on November 18, both individuals returned to present ICAC to students in grades 9-12. It went well, and a presentation may be scheduled for parents and students in grades 6-8 in the future.
- Primex provided van training to use the Lincoln town vans for student transport to field trips, activities, and athletic events. The vans will be used if our regular transportation provider cannot provide us with their service and will make the winter activities transportation easier as multiple trips will not be necessary. Appreciation was expressed to the Town of Lincoln.
- American Education Week was 11/18-11/22. The American Education week food drive was successful but could have been better. The Administration and staff are working on other ways to gather food donations for the local food pantry.
- Scholastic Book Fair was held 11/11-11/15 at the Elementary school. The book fair was a success, raising over \$4800. Some of the money goes back to Scholastic, and the rest is split between the PTA for their scholarship and the Library for books and supplies.

- On 11/15, Matt Manning took six students to NHTI to learn about the need and opportunities in the trades fields.
- On 11/15, Jen Whitcher took 18 students to White Mountain Community College to explore career paths. Each student was able to choose three career paths to explore. Some career paths included veterinary science, nursing, diesel mechanics, welding, culinary arts, and business. Students attended 45-minute sessions on each path they chose. They learned about what classes they needed and the costs involved.
- On 11/15, K-12 staff held their annual kickball game. The staff kickball game has been an annual tradition for 15 years or so with participation varying over the years. A fun time was had by all that participated.
- During American Education Week, on 11/19, the MHS Band and Chorus held their fall concert under the direction of Thom Untersee and Kristen Bushway.
- On 11/20, Matt Manning held a virtual Financial Aid 101 presentation.
- On 11/22, YLTA held a pajama movie night for grades 5-12, and it was well attended.
- On 11/26, grades 9-12 participated in the Rotary speech competition. Students gave speeches to the Rotarians, MHS staff, and students at Lin-Wood. Kai Mansharamani, Maisie Anderson, Maha Awan, and Dalton Lylk were selected to move on to present their speech on November 26 to the Lincoln-Woodstock Rotary Club. Dalton Lylk received a \$200 award and will be moving on to the regional finals in Plymouth. Maisie Anderson is the first alternate.
- On 12/ 4, Officer Scrafford conducted a hazard drill (Clear Hallways) at both schools. The drill went well and a follow-up drill will take place on Friday. Members of the Lincoln Police Department are assisting with the drills.
- The LWEA's annual ornament workshop was scheduled for Wednesday, 12/11 but has been postponed due to bad weather and will take place after school on Tuesday, 12/17 at the Elementary School.

Committees:

Committee Reports:

- The Facilities Committee meeting minutes were included in the School Board packet. This Facilities Committee meeting had been discussed at the prior School Board meeting.

Policies for Second Reading:

- Mary Steady mentioned the majority of the policies for approval are those that had been previously approved on an emergency basis and relate to the changes in Title IX law.
- Jay Duguay mentioned the remaining policies required minor updates including the change in the holiday names referenced in policy GDB-R.

Kevin Bell made a motion to approve policies AC, ACA, ACAC, ACE, ACN, AC-R2, GBAM, GCI, GDB-R, IKF, IHBCA, and JLDDB as updated. Casey Caulder seconded the motion. Discussion: None Jay Duguay called a vote to approve the motion. All Board members present were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Casey Caulder made a motion to withdraw policy IKF-R. Kevin Bell seconded the motion. Discussion: None Jay Duguay called a vote to approve the motion. All Board members present were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Business Requiring Board Action:

Staff Nominations, Recommendations, and Resignations:

- Mary Steady mentioned a resignation was received from Meg Haase (part-time payroll and accounting clerk position). This position will not be posted at this time. The SAU will try restructuring the position with Sharon Holt covering these duties. No Board action is needed.

New Business:

Basketball:

- The Board discussed the charging of fees for basketball games. Most Districts charge these fees and Lin-Wood has charged fees for basketball games in the past. In the past basketball game fees raised approximately \$1500 with the money going back to support the Lin-Wood athletic program and student athletes. Kevin Bell mentioned that fees are not charged for other Lin-Wood sporting events so, charging fees for basketball games would not be equitable. Jay Duguay mentioned that the District does not want to discourage people from coming to games by charging fees. The consensus of the Board is to not charge fees for basketball games. Administration will review

necessary policies and will speak with the Athletic Director, Matt Manning and the Booster Club to see if there are any other ideas for raising funds.

Continuing Business:

2025-2026 Budget:

- Debbie O'Connor mentioned the next School Board budget work session is Wednesday, December 18, 2024 and asked if there were any current question from the Board on the Budget?
 - Jay Duguay noted he had no questions at this time as he was waiting for the remainder of the budget presentation at the next budget work session.

Recognition of Visitors/Public Participation:

Student: None.

Staff: None.

Community: None.

Kevin Bell made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Casey Caulder seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Jay Duguay called a vote to approve the motion. All Board members present were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Holt, SAU#68 Administrative Assistant