

Pending approval.

January 12, 2009

Regular/Special Board Meeting of the Lawrence Public Schools

Board of Education.

Members Present: Julie Beam, Chuck Carpp, Jeff Johnson, Bill Lux,  
Carol Sjoquist, Jim Sanborn. Absent: Carrie Rokos,

Administration Present: Bob Gendron, John Overley. Absent: Sue  
McQueen

Athletic Director: Absent: Jeff Miller

The meeting was called to order by Johnson at 7:30 p.m.

Carpp moved and Beam supported the motion to approve the open minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Lux moved and Sanborn supported the motion to approve the closed minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Sanborn moved and Beam supported the motion to approve the bills of \$496,359.47 as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried 6-0.

Comments from the public:

Troy Zimmerlee expressed a concern regarding the cost of repairing a leak in the elementary.

Zimmerlee, wrestling coach, also stated there were 38 students in the Jr High and Varsity wrestling program and asked the board to consider hiring additional personal to help him. Discussion was held.

Sanborn moved and Lux supported the motion to direct the Athletic Committee and Overlay to meet with the Union representatives to see the possibility of coming to an

agreement to hire an assistant wrestling coach for the remainder of the 2009 wrestling season. If an agreement can be arranged, the position would be posted immediately. Motion carried 6-0.

Gendron presented the Jr./Sr. High School Principal's Report. He announced that student Jacob Gritter-Dorr had qualified for the National Merit Scholarship by scoring in the top 1% of high school students across the nation in the PSAT. He also highlighted the successful SADD holiday food drive and Leadership Summit. He stated the ISD had hired a curriculum director to assist area schools with the MMC. Candy Laufer's last day will be January 16.

Sue McQueen and Jeff Miller were not present to make their reports.

Overley stated the School Board Elections will be held May 5, 2009. Sanborn's seat and Beam's seat are up for reelection. Sanborn stated he will not be running again. Beam will seek another term. Nominating petitions are available at the Superintendent's office and must be returned by 4:00 p.m. on February 10, 2009. Overley also stated the Headlee override will be on the ballot.

Sanborn moved and Carpp supported the motion to accept Scott Conklin's resignation as varsity baseball coach. Motion carried 6-0.

Sanborn moved and Beam supported the motion to accept Jon Pobuda's resignation as varsity softball coach. Motion carried 6-0.

Carpp moved and Lux supported the motion to accept Aaron Amthor's resignation as JV softball coach. Motion carried 6-0.

Sanborn moved and Sjoquist supported the motion to approve Phil Beeching as a volunteer JV basketball coach. Motion carried 6-0.

Sanborn moved and Sjoquist supported the motion to accept the first reading of the Homeless Education Policy as follows:

#### Homeless Student Policy

In order to ensure that homeless students have equal access to the same free appropriate public education as provided to other students, the following shall apply: "Homeless Children and Youth" are defined, in accordance with the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 11434a(2)(A), as:

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or have a primary nighttime residence in a supervised, publicly or privately, operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing

temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

The definition includes:

\*Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

\*Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

\*Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

\*Unaccompanied youth – a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

## ENROLLMENT/PLACEMENT

The district will consider the best interests of the student with parental involvement in determining whether the student should be enrolled in the school of origin or the school that nonhomeless student who live in the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend. To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student's best interest, the student should continue his/her education in the school of origin, except when contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian. If the student is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, the homeless coordinator will consider the views of the student in deciding where the student

shall be educated. The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the student lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere

The school selected shall immediately enroll the homeless student, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization records, proof of residency or other documentation. However, the district may require a parent or guardian of the student to submit contact information.

The district shall provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, to the homeless student's parent/guardian, or to the homeless student if unaccompanied, if the district sends the student to a school other than the school of origin ("school of origin" is defined as the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled) or other than a school requested by the parent or guardian. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the student shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The student or parent/guardian shall be referred to the district homeless coordinator, who will carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.

## SERVICES

Each homeless student shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students, in the district including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria, such as education programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and gifted and talented students; vocational programs and technical education; school meals programs; preschool programs; before-and-after school care programs and

programs for students with limited English proficiency. Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or in a separate program within a school based on the student's status as homeless.

## TRANSPORTATION

In the event that it is in the best interest of the homeless student to attend the school of origin, transportation to and from school shall be provided at the request of the parent/guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied student, the homeless coordinator. If the student's temporary housing is outside the district of origin, the Lawrence Public School System will work with the school of origin to agree on a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for transporting the student. If an agreement cannot be reached, the costs will be shared equally.

## RECORDS

Any records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records and evaluations for special services or programs of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that appropriate services may be given the student, so that necessary referrals can be made and so that records may be transferred in a timely fashion when a homeless student enters a new school district. Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or parents in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

## COORDINATOR

The Board shall designate an appropriate individual to act as the district's homeless coordinator:

The homeless coordinator shall ensure that:

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools in the district.
3. Homeless families and students receive educational services for which such families and students are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start and preschool programs administered by the district and referrals to health care service, dental service, mental health services and other appropriate services.
4. The parents or guardians of homeless students are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where such students receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens.
6. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance to the law.
7. The parent or guardian of a homeless student and any unaccompanied youth, is full informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.
8. Unaccompanied youth will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions, their view will be considered and they will be provided notice of the right to appeal.

9. Students, who need to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, will receive assistance.

Motion carried 6-0.

Sjoquist moved and Beam supported the motion to approve participation in the Michigan School Readiness Program for the 2008-2009 school year. Motion carried 6-0.

Beam moved and Sjoquist supported the motion to approve a resolution placing an Operating Millage Renewal proposal and to fill school board seats on the May 5, 2009 school election ballot. Roll call vote: Beam Y, Carpp Y, Johnson Y, Lux Y, Sjoquist Y, Sanborn Y. Motion carried 6-0.

The personnel committee recommended the Board look at filling the vacant elementary custodial position with a part time person at approximately 30 hours/week with no benefits. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

Overley presented the statement showing the balance Linda Marshall owes the school from the embezzlement is \$53,174.50.

Sanborn moved and Lux supported the motion to retain the Thrun Law Firm to represent the Lawrence Public schools at a cost of \$1100. Motion carried 6-0.

Sanborn brought up discussion regarding possible payment sharing with the school for the upkeep and repair of the athletic fields by the Athletic Boosters and Band Boosters.

Gendron stated the Student Council will be meeting on Wednesday to see if it is possible to reschedule the Winter Formal that was cancelled because of bad weather.

Overley was directed to send a letter of recognition to Jacob Gritter-Dorr from the Board for qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship.

Carpp moved and Beam supported the motion to move into closed session for negotiations. Roll call vote: Beam Y, Carpp Y, Johnson Y, Lux Y, Sjoquist Y, Sanborn Y. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:40 p.m.

Pat Garrod, Recording Secretary

The Board returned to open session at 9:15 p.m.

Sanorn moved and Beam supported the motion to accept and approve the tentative contract agreement, ratified by the LEA, as presented. Roll call vote: Beam Y, Carpp Y, Johnson Y, Lux Y, Sjoquist Y, Sanborn Y. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.