

**October 2011
Board of Education Meeting Report**

The regularly monthly meeting of the Lebanon CUSD #9 Board of Education was held on Oct. 12, 2011 in the Lebanon Grade School Cafeteria. Minutes from the Sept. 14, 2011 regular board meeting and executive session; and the special board meeting on Sept. 29 were approved. Executive session tapes from April, 2010 were disposed of. September bills were approved.

Mrs. Jackson reported the following:

- **Thank you** to Guthrie Chevrolet for donating an ID machine for the high school.
- Discussion was held on how to deal with concerns of extremely heavy backpacks. Parents concerned about the weight of their child's backpack may contact the school office for assistance.
- Homecoming week is Oct. 24-28th. Coronation is at 7:00 in the Commons Oct. 29th.
- The Vein Drain Blood Drive will be held Oct. 27th. It is sponsored by the National Honor Society.
- Our Cahokia Conference is again sponsoring round-table discussions by teachers in each subject area. Mrs. Jackson will be hosting the math meeting at LHS on Oct. 25th.
- Junior High and High School bowling and basketball are getting started.
- Donna Wood and Amy (Baer) Venhaus will be participating in the Teaching American History Grant provided through the ROE. They will receive free classroom material and travel to Virginia this summer as part of the study associated with the grant.
- Mrs. Jackson reported on PSAT scores for the High School and ISAT scores for the Jr. High. While the High School did not make AYP we can be proud of our students' improvement over last year's scores and we compared favorably to state averages. For a complete copy of her report, please contact the High School office.

Mrs. Johnson reported the following:

- The Lebanon Kids after school tutoring program began in late Sept. Robin Smith, Amber Kalert and Melody Evans are teacher coordinators for the program. Stacie Cripe is our AmeriCorps sponsor for this year.
- Fire Prevention week was Oct. 11 –14. All grade school students attended an assembly on Tuesday. Students in 1st-3rd grades went through the Smoke House on Wednesday. PreK and Kindergarten students visited the Fire Station on Thursday.
- Students are collecting change to purchase a piece of training equipment for Tazer, the Lebanon police dog. Tazer provided a demonstration for students in Sept.
- McTeacher's Night Oct. 4th was well attended. The school will receive a portion of the evening's profit.
- One teacher at each grade level has been attending a two-day workshop on the new common core standards. Those attending will present the information to their team.
- The SIEA and the Literacy Education group from McKendree presented Mrs. Johnson a check for \$1320; the profit from the Trivia Night Sept. 30th. This will be used to improve

our Accelerated Reading program. The students and staff at Lebanon Grade School appreciate all their efforts in raising this money for our school.

- The PTO will hold a Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 28th from 6:30 – 8:00. This replaces the traditional family Halloween party.
- Mrs. Johnson reported on ISAT scores for 3rd – 5th grade students. The Grade School did not make AYP this year because two subgroups did not meet AYP standards. For a complete copy of her report, please contact the grade school office.

The Superintendent's report addressed the following:

- We repaid the \$410,000 loan from Farmers and Merchants on Sept. 5th. Hopefully we will repay the Working Cash Loan in Nov.
- Although we didn't have many people attend our Military Meet & Greet, we did get some great ideas. These include:
 - an orientation for new students on the initial teacher workday at the beginning of the year.
 - communication with the base so we know when a parent is deploying so we can provide activities and support for the students.
 - have military members volunteer in the district.
 - consider the single parent families when scheduling school events.
 - host activities for military parents to give them an opportunity to network with other military families in town.
- The auditors will give their report in Nov.
- We received a \$52,000 refund from Egisure for the insurance we cancelled July 1st. Local taxes continue to come in.
- We discovered termites in the trophy case at the top of the steps across from the HS computer labs. Tom is working with Terminex to make sure they haven't gotten into any other areas and to determine what is our best course of action.
- Our Webpage is currently hosted with Charter. We do not pay for this service, but we have been having significant issues with it being down & unavailable. Bob Montgomery recommends using Go Daddy as the host if it is compatible with our new website. The cost for this is \$59.88/1 year.
- Board members were asked to provide Karen with their feedback after a review of Construction Manager RFQs by November 1st. Those scoring the highest will be interviewed.
- The teachers' contract is signed by both the LFT representatives and the Board and extends through the 2012-2013 school year. Teachers agreed to a "hard freeze" for the 2011-2012 school year. (The only salary increases are for those teachers who moved to a different column as a result of taking additional education courses. Teachers did **not** move down the salary schedule to the next "step" as they usually do.) Administration and certified staff salaries were also frozen at the 2010-2011 level. For 2012-2013, teachers will move down to the next step of the salary schedule. Those teachers who are off the salary schedule will receive an increase of \$1300 for the 2012-2013 school year. From there we were "creative" in an effort to "share the wealth or share the

pain.” Teachers could receive additional compensation if the district receives more funding or is able to reduce spending more than anticipated. A copy of the collective bargaining agreement is in the district office and we will attempt to load it onto the new district website.

A concern discussed last month was that since we no longer have an Athletic Booster Club, the Cruthis family has paid for concession stand supplies personally and then turned in a receipt for reimbursement. This is a significant expense. We have learned that Chad can be issued a Sam’s card for the district account. Concession stand purchases can be made with this card, the receipt turned in to the district and the Athletic Fund will reimburse the district for the purchases. This did not require board action.

Under New Business the following action was taken.

- Amber Kalert was hired as student council sponsor for 2011-2012.
- Robin Smith, Amber Kalert and Melody Evans were hired to share supervision for after school tutoring program for 2011-2012.
- Mary Beil and Robin Smith were hired to be Freshman class sponsors for 2011-2012.
- The administration was given permission to hire an individual care aid with approval at the November meeting, if needed.
- The Board approved hosting our website with Go Daddy instead of Charter at a cost not to exceed \$60 per year.
- After executive session the board voted to extend the contracts of Leigh Jackson and Christie Johnson through June 30, 2014.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is November 9, 2011 at 7:30 in the Lebanon Grade School Cafeteria. The Board will meet in executive session prior to the meeting that night to finalize interview questions to be used when interviewing candidates for the superintendent’s position next year.

