

FINAL

**LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CITY OF LEBANON
JOINT PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE
MONDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2019
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: City Councilor Bruce Bronner, Adam Nemeroff (School Board Chair), Wendy Hall (School Board Member), Assistant Mayor Tim McNamara, City Councilor Karen Liot Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joanne Roberts (SAU 88 Superintendent), Tammy Begin (School Board Member)

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Shaun Mulholland

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by City Manager Shaun Mulholland.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 3, 2018

*Wendy Hall MOVED to approve the December 3, 2018 minutes. Seconded by Adam Nemeroff.
The MOTION passed 4-0. Councilor Hill was not present for this vote.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Update: Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Superintendent Joanne Roberts provided a written update because she was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Mulholland read into record the updates that she submitted.

-On January 15, I, (Joanne) attended a City meeting to provide input about SRTS. At our school district monthly Emergency Operations Planning meeting I asked Principals about SRTS issues.

-Eloise stated that MLS is in good shape. It was noted the change in the bus loop if the renovation project passes will help with traffic flow.

-At LMS, John D., stated that unless a student lives up the hill/behind LMS, walking to school is challenging. Route 4 is a highway, lack of place to cross Route 4, safety concerns with students walking on the rail trail, lack of place to walk safely along the road, etc.

-At HSS Jack talked about keeping sidewalks plowed and salted; a lot of heavy traffic on Evans, Heater, and Hanover Street. Additional lighting would be welcome. Note: If the renovation project passes, the HSS/LHS parking lot will have a different traffic flow and additional campus lighting.

-At LHS, Ian talked about lighting by Bixby parking lot. Students crossing over Heater Road. If the renovation project passes, our school buses will park in the Bixby lot and there will be additional high school campus parking spaces and lighting.

I, (Joanne) received a map of street light updates from the City and reviewed it with Dana. We appreciate having this information. Please continue to keep us in the loop and let us know if we can assist in any way.

Mr. Mulholland said the City is looking at several issues. They are working on a conversion of street lights to LED that should be completed by the end of the year. This does not include any additional street lights and may involve eliminating some street lights where they are not needed. They are looking at the dangerous crosswalks that are not adequately illuminated, but the improvements are not part of the City's street light project. They are looking at the high-risk crossings and some of them may be addressed in

the near term from the operating funds. If there are too many needs, it may become a Capital Needs Project. They are still determining if some of the street lights that are in the school parking lots are being paid from the City budget. He suggested the Schools may want to partner with the City to install street lights. If they do the work at the same time as the City project, they may get a better price for the school district. He reported that City staff discussed the use of painted footsteps to mark the safe crossings and pathways that students should follow. The Police Chief and DPW will be reviewing these concerns in the next few weeks.

B. City and School District Warrant Articles: Use of Tallies

Wendy Hall discussed the District's historical use of tallies on warrant articles. When the Middle School was being approved, they did not use tallies. The following year, 2012, after the approval of the Middle School, tallies appeared on their warrants. The Board discussed taking the tallies off future warrants and using the language, "The Board Recommends." After discussing transparency and impacts of tallies, the Board voted to add Article 10 to the next Warrant, to ask the public if they want tallies on the ballots. Mr. McNamara said that without the dissenting opinion, it is difficult to understand the tallies. If Article 10 passes and the Community votes to include tallies, the Board would be obligated to include them going forward.

C. City Solar Projects

City Manager Mulholland read the Superintendents update:

-I just wanted to remind folks that the school district will have solar panels on several of our school buildings as part of our Trane Energy Performance project. The snow is impacting progress, but solar was part of the scope that was approved by voters last March. When the City talks about using solar, please mention our school district too.

Mr. Mulholland said the City is going over the RFPs. They have not selected a vendor yet. Most likely they will have a Purchase Power Agreement (PPA). There are 13 primary sites (high pay off) that would be implemented first and there are another 13 sites that would be done on the second round.

They discussed the methane projects that are still being considered. There are ten different options. It will be several years before the methane project can be developed.

Because the solar projects will be PPAs, the City is dependent on the availability of the Investment Tax Credit (ITC). Without the ITC it is not economically viable. The ITCs will be expiring, which makes it important to move forward this year. There have been some initial discussions with the City, Solar contractors and a large power company.

D. Concept of a Joint School—City Diversity Committee

Mr. Mulholland said he had a phone conversation with the Superintendent today. They agreed to hold off having this discussion until she is present. There are a number of issues that should be discussed before they start working.

E. Future Meeting with Legislative Delegation re: Gaining Knowledge and Support for City and School District Projects

Mr. Mulholland read the statement from the Superintendent:

-I have been in contact with our legislators in an effort to garner support for building aid. I'd definitely like to pursue this idea. Working on this together, would be great.

Councilor Hill will be testifying at the Legislature regarding issues this week. Both the School Board and the City are anxious to work together because both have issues that impact the tax payer. SAU 88 has issued letters of support and letters to the Commissioner. The City is trying to be present at the Legislature to have the voice of the City and community heard. SAU 88 has made presentations to look for building construction aid. The Superintendent has reached out to the delegation to explain why the projects are important to the Schools of Lebanon.

Mr. Mulholland explained the process of working with the Legislature and the timeline for requesting funds. He emphasized that it is important to get opinions in while the budget is being developed. HB1 is the budget the Representatives are developing at this time. The Governor's budget is the only budget that will be initially available to the public. After the Governor's draft budget is developed, the budget hearings are brought to communities. The City and the School Board will look at common communications between the City Boards and the School Board, to keep the communications aligned that are being addressed with the Legislature. Mr. Mulholland said he will ask the State Representatives to be looking out for education.

Some of the Board members thought the building aid was tied to leftover funds. This needs clarification if it is overlapping or part of the actual budget process. There is a quiet discussion about building funds that may be coming. Lebanon is in a good position because they asked early and the list of districts requesting funds is short this year. Mr. Mulholland said he will communicate with the members of this group all pertinent communication from the Representatives. Time is significant in these issues and therefore communication is essential.

Councilor Hill, who arrived late and missed the previous discussion, asked for information about the March election and the warrant articles. Ms. Hall said the deliberative session was quiet. They did not get a good sense about the community member's opinions. There seemed to be less participation than past years. Before the March election, all residents will receive a flyer describing the building improvements and the costs. A few things related to the Middle School were taken out of the original renovation plans. The biggest difference is adding a new music wing for the Performing Arts. It is incorporated in the main proposal and there is a second proposal for a new auditorium. They require 3/5 approval to pass. The auditorium proposal cannot move forward unless the main proposal is approved.

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The City and the School Board will share their plans for the upcoming year at the June meeting. This will help them determine if there is any overlap between the City and School strategic plans.

There was a strong push last year to put Keno on the ballot and it has been brought back again this year. The State uses the Keno funds to provide funding to schools to implement full day kindergarten.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 1, 2019

VI. ADJOURNMENT

*Tim McNamara MOVED to adjourn at 6:49. Seconded by Adam Nemeroff.
The MOTION passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary