

Lisbon School Committee Minutes  
November 27, 2023

Minutes of the Lisbon School Committee Meeting held on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.  
(Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the School Committee. Such action, to either approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the December 11, 2023 meeting.)

**Members Present:** Margaret Galligan-Schmoll, Kim Labbe-Poisson, Len Lednum, Kathi Yergin and Richard A. Green, Superintendent of Schools

**Members Excused:** Laura Craig

**Administrators Present:** Julie Nichols

**Administrators Excused:** All other members excused due to limited audience seating

**Called to Order:**

Chair Galligan-Schmoll called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Participants wishing to make public comments are asked to email them to Lisbon School Committee Chair Galligan-Schmoll at [mgalliganschmoll@lisbonschoolsme.org](mailto:mgalliganschmoll@lisbonschoolsme.org) prior to the Public Comment section of the agenda.

**4. Adjustment to the Agenda:**

- A. Add item 9A – Executive Session

**5. Communication:**

- A. None.

**6. Public Comment:**

- A. None.

**7. New Business:**

- A. None.

**8. Workshop:**

- A. LHS Weighted Grades: - Members of the Student Voice Committee presented a proposal to instate weighted grades. Lisbon Schools currently do not have weighted GPAs for the students that take more rigorous courses, such as honors or AP. Student Voice members state that it is their belief that changing to a weighted GPA has many benefits to not only the students of Lisbon High School, but also the school itself. Weighted grades are important as a school because they recognize students who work hard and how they push themselves in many subjects. Weighted grades would also benefit us as

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a school because when applying for colleges the schools look at GPAs and other schools in the state have weighted grades which can boost their GPAs, but not the Lisbon students. Having that difference in GPA can be crucial for students trying to get into a more competitive university. The proposal is as follows:

1. Instate in the Lisbon High School policy an addition of weighted GPA calculation to include extra points for honors or Advanced Placement courses.
  - a) The proposed weights are plus 5% to Honors and plus 10% to AP classes.

The Student Voice Committee next shared that they have collected 161 signatures in favor of weighted grades.

Superintendent Green asked if the student received a 4.0 would their grade then still be weighted for an additional 5% to 10% depending on their course work? The student voice replied yes.

Chair Galligan-Schmoll asked if the students had checked with guidance to see the impact this change would have on their department. Student voice students verified that they had. Next Chair Galligan-Schmoll asked if they had a larger source of colleges that do not take into consideration weighted grades. Colleges receive a student's profile and can see which students have weighted grades or not; and they then calculate that. So they are not comparing you necessarily to a high school that has weighted grades.

Next the Guidance Department spoke in support of weighted grades and also shared that this is something they are looking at implementing in the next school year not this year. Guidance also reported that GPAs also effect Financial Aid.

Member Lednum asked the committee, what are the negatives? Guidance reported that on paper showing a student how to figure out the GPA would be a challenge. This is something we will need to work with PowerSchool on as well as other contacts we have in schools that are currently doing weighted grades. Chair Galligan-Schmoll encouraged guidance to reach out to more colleges for their input. Chair Galligan-Schmoll shared that she works at Bates and was discussing this with a colleague and she would happy to pass her information along to get the scope of weighted versus unweighted grades to see what actual institutions feel about this, not just other high schools.

- B. Budget Goal Setting: Tabled.

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C. Assessment Update: Curriculum Director Nichols reported on the following:

Summative Assessment Update Overview:

- I. NWEA & Maine Through Year
- II. WIDA ACCESS Testing
- III. Dyslexia Screener

Detailed Notes:

I. NWEA & Maine Through Year Update

A. Timeline

1. LCS grades 2-5: 3x/year
  - a) Maine Through Year
2. LCS grades K&1
  - a) NWEA
  - b) 2023-2024 SY 2x/year
  - c) 2024-2025 SY
    - (1) Grade K: 2x year
    - (2) Grade 1: 3x year
3. PWS: 3x/year
  - a) Maine Through Year
  - b) Added language
4. LHS: 2x/year
  - a) NWEA and Maine Through Year
  - b) Added language

B. Parent Notification of Spring Scores

1. Sample student report, attached
2. Draft parent letter, attached
3. Recorded Video Explanation, coming soon
4. Parent Teacher Conferences
  - a) Dec 13th & 14th

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C. Updated Assessment Data

Grade Level	Spring 2023		Fall 2023	
	At or Above Proficiency		At or Above Proficiency	
Testing Year	Math	ELA	Math	ELA
Grade 2-3	43%	67% *	59%	67%
Grade 3-4	52%	44%	66%	69%
Grade 4-5	31%	44%	46%	61%
Grade 5-6	42%	41%	47%	65%
Grade 6-7	22%	61%	61%	64%
Grade 7-8	59%	65%	71%	80%
Grade 8-9	65%	68%	75%	71%
Grade 9-10	66%	57%	67%	60%
Grade 10-11	44%	41%	60%	56%

\*Grade 2 ELA NWEA is a “read-to” assessment used to determine comprehension and higher taxonomy skills vs the reading ability of students.

- II. WIDA ACCESS Testing
  - A. Current after school ESL Tutors
  - B. Conduct the ACCESS Testing
  - C. 4 Domains
- III. Dyslexia Screener
  - A. State of Maine Requirement
  - B. Students grades K-3
  - C. Screened anywhere from 1-3 times a year
    - 1. 20-30 minutes per screen

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Next, Director Nichols shared with the board a copy of the letter below that will be sent home to parents after testing.

Dear Lisbon School Department Families,

Attached you will find your student's scores on the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) tests from the spring of 2023. These reports are generated by the state to share how your student performed on end-of-year assessments in math and reading.

**The Maine Through-Year Assessment is an assessment:**

- of math and reading, given to 3rd-8th graders and students in their 2nd year of high school in the fall, winter (HS winter is optional), and spring each school year.
- that is computer adaptive, meaning that questions will get more difficult or easier depending on if a student answers them correctly or incorrectly.
- that considers how students did in the fall and/or winter to figure out where they should begin. It also has extra questions that focus on grade-specific standards. It reports 2 scores:
  - Achievement Level Score: This score tells how well a student is doing in reading and math compared to what is expected for their grade based on the Maine Learning Results. Scores range from 1400 to 1600 and are labeled as Well Below, Below, At, or Above State Expectations. This can be compared to other students in their school, district, and the whole state. This score is only available after the spring assessment. It is found on page 1 of the 2 page report.
  - RIT Score (3 digit number): This score helps track how much students improve in reading and math compared to other students nationally. Scores range from 100 to 350, starting lower in younger grades and increasing in higher grades. Your student's RIT scores for math and reading instructional areas can be found on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the report. This score is available to teachers after the fall, winter, and spring tests and is used to determine growth, areas of strength, areas of weakness and the need for intervention, enrichment and/or gifted and talented instruction.

For a video message about your student's report and how to find this information or read it, please click this link:

For more information about the Maine Through-Year Assessment or questions about your student's specific scores please feel free to contact me or your student's school administrator.

Respectfully,

Julie Nichols

District Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

D. Lisbon Police Department Presentation (Searches & Use of Narcan) – Tabled.

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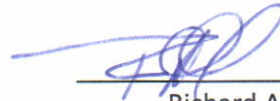
9. **Executive Session:**

- A. To enter into executive session to discuss LEA Negotiations, pursuant to Freedom of Access Statute, Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D). (Lednum – Yergin) (4-0)

Time in: 6:49 PM / Time out: 7:37 PM

10. **Adjournment:**

**VOTED (2)** to adjourn. (Labbe-Poisson - Yergin) (4-0) (7:37 PM)

 11/29/23  
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Richard A. Green Ed.D.  
Secretary, Lisbon School Committee