

Ledyard Charter School Board of Directors

Emergency Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 | 5:15 P.M. | Meeting online via Zoom

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The authority to conduct a public meeting in this manner was granted by Governor Sununu's 12th Executive Order issued on March 23, 2020.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lucretia Penfield at 5:25 P.M.

Present: Lucretia Penfield, Wendy Kozak, Amie Bettel, Ben Beiswenger, Ivy Schweitzer, Julie McKenney, Erin Pospychala, Katie Bullock, Patrick Darley, Laura Velis

Absent: Bethany Solomon, Shelby Wittet

A quorum was present.

2. Board Officer Vote

Motion to vote in the slate of board member officers and accept the resignation of Ivy was made by Ben, seconded by Ivy.

Amie Bettel - Chair

Julie McKenney - Vice Chair

Treasurer - Ben Beiswenger

Erin Pospychala - Secretary

3. Construction Update

Wendy provided an update for the board regarding the construction.

[The PowerPoint presentation was given.](#)

There have been significant delays in the construction project extending the timeline well beyond the expected two months.

The costs have risen to \$318,000, 35% higher than estimated largely due to a lack of transparency in the cost projections.

Financial Implications

128,774 in new fundraising or new loan if there are no further issues

\$2,000 to bring machine in up to \$15,740

Techno metal post

1. Successfully insert poles \$15,740
2. Insert 3 poles 25 ft into the ground, or 4 less than 25 ft. \$15,740
3. Not 3 poles, cannot continue project
 - a. Put walls back, plumbing, & electric,
 - b. Cannot return elevator, may be able to sell
 - c. Tell community project failed
 - d. 1st floor permanently
 - e. Rent out upstairs

Discussion

Ben - can we use it without the lift as they have responsibility in the discarding of the concrete.

The lawyer said if we decide to try to sue the town, he thought it would be the structural engineer and everyone else but no one would want to continue working on the project and putting everything back together.

Push on every stakeholder involved and everyone's mistakes that happened that they were responsible for.

Put a list together of what happened and approach each person and give us a better rate

Town of Lebanon- get a permit to use the space as needed.

Lucretia's opinion - The option of continuing this building and getting a cheaper quote, get an extension, seem like good things to explore. Another option is to sell the building and find something else. The team has done an amazing job to do more with less.

Julie's opinion - The idea of going to the town to explore the idea of getting an extension is good. The goal in moving upstairs was to be able to increase the number of students and be a valuable part of the community and provide accessibility and more options.

Ben - Immediate next step would be to approach the stakeholders and spend the additional \$2,000 if the poles cannot be anchored or spend \$16,000 to complete the project. He believes the school has enough cushion to make this feasible.

Stakeholders to be held accountable:

Architect - Banwell

Trumbell Nelson

Architect Engineering Ventures - structural engineer - coding

Town of Lebanon

Katie - Appreciates the idea of discussing these issues with the contractors. She asked Wendy if she is the only one doing the fundraising and Wendy noted that she is and finding new donors will be difficult if this project does not work out. Katie said she works for a nonprofit and could help with ideas.

Amie asked if anyone else had any other input. The meeting had a hard stop and was wrapped up

Action Items

- Ben will collaborate with Amie to identify the stakeholders and develop a communication strategy regarding the construction issues.
- Amie will create an outline for a communication strategy to approach the stakeholders.
- Wendy will provide an update on the drilling results by Monday.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2025 at 5pm at LCS and via Zoom. It will be a potluck, so bring your favorite dish.