LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
SAU #68
DATE: September 23, 2026
SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC FORUM MINUTES

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:
Jay Duguay, Chairperson
Mandi Avery
Kevin Bell
Joe Bossie
Tamra Ham
Tricia Lindow
Jasmine Weeden

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF/STUDENT PRESENT:
Dr. Mary Steady, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. McKenzie Harrington, Business Administrator
Debbie O'Connor, Financial Manager

The School Board public forum was held in the Elementary School Multipurpose Room.

The public forum began at 6:30 PM and ended at 7:12 PM.

- Jay Duguay opened the forum with a brief history of the Linwood Medical Center (LWMC) and review of the deed, outlining the process of what will happen when operations in the building cease, i.e., the land and building become property of Lin-Wood Public School. Jay Duguay explained it is the intention of the board and admin to hear public opinion and suggestions on how the school could/should handle this transfer of ownership.
- Jay Duguay reports that LW Ambulance had come to the board earlier this year to inform of the pending transfer of ownership, and suggested the property be sold and proceeds be split between LW Public School and LW Ambulance.
- Jay Duguay discussed limitations of the building as far as use and costs associated with bringing it up to code, including a question of asbestos. He also highlighted concerns about selling the property, including losing control of what type of business operates at the entrance of the school. He reported that if the school decides to keep and use the property, it is the intention of the board and admin to form a committee to determine the use.
- Community member John H. states that the timing is unfortunate because of the recent move of the SAU office to the school, this could have been good use of the property. John H. also states that the property should go to the school because that is what the deed dictates.
- Community member Mike K. asked if it is confirmed there is asbestos in the building. Jay Duguay responded it has not been confirmed but LWMC reported the building is not up to code and renovations they cannot afford need to take place before another medical provider could practice there. Mike K. stated if the school keeps the property, it would be a good location for a vocational program. Mike K. also mentioned if the property is sold some proceeds should be spent putting AC in the school buildings since the new SAU wing got AC.
- Tamra Ham stated the SAU employees work year-round so AC is necessary.
- Community member Susan W. asked for clarification on the process and what we are currently waiting on and if we could start the process by looking into renovation costs. Jay Duguay explained until operations cease in the building, the school has no right to the property. He reports LWMC has stated they still have part time tenants that will likely need to be relocated before winter as they do not have the funds to bring the building up to code/maintain the building during the winter months.
- Community member and board of trustees of LWMC, Gary C., states he appreciates the relationship and cooperation from both communities over the past 50 years while LWMC has been in operation. He confirms the building is still used minimally with part time tenants that will need to be relocated though there is no firm date. Gary C. states he and the board treasurer reviewed their records from the last 20 years and identified LWMC brought in $1 million in rental income but spent $1.5 million in renovations and upkeep. Gary C. states he would like this $500k loss to be taken into consideration if the school decides to sell the property.
- Community member Jerry S. states the economics of rural healthcare are abysmal and only getting worse. He identified the need for a pharmacy in our community. Jerry S. also mentioned concern if the property is sold, an undesirable business could be at the entrance of the school.
- Tamra Ham states even if the school decides to sell to an "appropriate" business, that business could decide to sell in two years and the school would have no input on what goes in. She suggests if the school decides not to use the property, we consider renting instead of selling, to reserve control of what business operates on school grounds.

- Community member and LW staff Aaron L. asks about current value of the property. Jay Duguay and Gary C. report it has been roughly valued at approximately $950K - $1million. Aaron L. states this property is a prime opportunity to benefit the school in some way and we are very fortunate. Aaron L. suggests a committee is formed of students, staff, and community members to determine the best use and states he is optimistic that something great will come of it.
- Community member and employee of LWMC for 43 years, Ken C., states he researched town records from both Lincoln and North Woodstock from the time that LWMC was formed as a non-profit. He states the building was federally funded resulting in a lot of red tape including restrictions and requirements of use, and many reports to file over the years. Ken reports at the time of inception both towns pledged to contribute to LWMC when they could. He reiterates that LWMC lost $500k over the past 20 years to maintain the building and hopes Lin-Wood public school will consider sharing proceeds if they decide to sell the property.
- Community member Bonnie H reviewed long standing history of LWMC and states she hopes something of value for both communities will come out of the schools decision.
- Jay Duguay asks for any further input from community. Hearing none, Jay Duguay reminded everyone that we are currently in a holding pattern and nothing will move forward until all operations at LWMC cease. He states there will be more discussion at the board level and intention to discuss will be posted on the agenda. Jay Duguay invites community members to attend board meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Jasmine Weeden, School Board Secretary