

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified School District  
Finance and Capital and Technology Committee  
November 23, 2010**

**Those in attendance:** Mark Stebbins, Bart Bezio, Sue Prescott, Katie Orost, Laura Miller, Patti Hayford, Deborah Clark, Brian Pena

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Stebbins called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. Clark asked that the agenda items be reversed so that the Next Generation Anti-Virus Bids were discussed before the budget. Miller made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Bezio. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

**Review Next Generation Anti-Virus Bids:** Clark reported more analysis was required on the Next Generation bid. However, Pena provided the Committee with information on E-rate funding. This year the District was at a 70% reimbursement rate. They had received approval and funding through the E-rate system to cover the purchase of seven Cisco switches that would support Phase 1 of the overall District-wide bid purchase. The seven switches cost \$26,530 with 70% reimbursement coming back to the District. Pena's goal was to go back to the Board to request permission to use funding from Technology Capital Reserve, which currently had \$24,796 available, to purchase the switches to support Phase 1 of the District WiFi. In response to a question, Pena stated that encouraging families to apply for the Free and Reduced program could allow for a higher reimbursement rate, as that was the basis for federal allocations.

**Preliminary Budget Review:** Clark reported that there were several initiatives she wanted to discuss with the Committee and requested an Executive Session because prior public knowledge of some of the items could put the District at a disadvantage. Orost made the motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Miller. The motion passed unanimously and the Committee moved into Executive Session at 5:23 p.m. The Committee came out of Executive Session at 5:43 p.m.

Clark then offered detail on items in the budget. There was currently an estimated \$600,000 of reserves to apply at LNSU. The main drivers at LNSU were IT. Additional funds were added for Zoom and \$89,000 was added to the LNSU budget for Next Generation anti-virus and other IT protections. \$15,000 was added for equity and anti-racism items.

Regarding personnel, in general they were looking at a 10% health, HRA, HSA increase across the board. There was a 1.5% general increase on all other non-personnel expenses. Cash in lieu of health care for support staff would go up to \$2,500 based on the state-wide negotiated plan. There was also an across the board personnel increase that included retirement, new hires, tuition coverage, FICA, and unemployment of 3.5%. At the LNSU this meant there was a net SU assessment of \$1.55 million, which was a decrease but \$600,000 of surplus funds had been applied to keep that lowered. A special education SU assessment of \$2.367 million was a 2.97% increase.

Clark then reported on the LNMUUSD budget. Combined, the District was looking at a 1.42% increase overall. \$300,000 of surplus would be applied at the Union School level and \$300,000 surplus applied at the elementary school level. There was \$697,000 of estimated reserves available at the Union School and \$369,000 available at the elementary level. The estimates were strong and were audited fund balances.

If everything stayed the same, such as the current year's yield, this year's CLA's, and this year's equalized pupils, there would be a 4 ½ cent increase to the tax rate. Two cents of that came from the loss of the Act 46 incentive, as FY21 was the last year of the incentive. Additionally, there was less debt at the secondary level even though a new bond had come on because a different bond was being

retired. There was a roughly \$58,000 increase in transportation costs, which would be shared with Cambridge. Because of COVID and after March there was no reimbursable transportation expense. FY20's expense was what FY22's reimbursement revenue was actually based on. FY21's expenses would be FY23's basis for revenue reimbursement.

Waterville had added \$40,000 into the budget for evaluations and supports. \$55,000 was added to bring Waterville and Eden a full time Tech Coordinator. Currently those two schools shared one position but it was clear that each school needed their own full time coordinator. Clark noted that Hyde Park Water and Sewer had increased their fees 13,000%, which amounted to a \$24,000 increase for the cost of having water and sewer on the town system. The District was in the process of contesting that.

Clark reported she would go back to administrators to fine tune some of the budget numbers. She hoped to come back to the next meeting with numbers from the Tax Commissioner. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business:** There was no other business.

**Adjourn:** Miller made a motion, seconded by Orost, to adjourn at 5:56 p.m.