

LAMOILLE NORTH MODIFIED UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Board members present: Belvidere – none; Cambridge – Bill Sander, Laura Miller, Mark Stebbins; Eden – David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park – Chasity Fagnant, Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford, Andrew Beaupre; Johnson – Katie Orost, Bobbie Moulton, Mark Nielsen, Tim Sullivan, Angela Lamell; Waterville – none. Others: Catherine Gallagher, Michele Aumand, Deborah Clark, Marilyn Frederick, Dylan Laflam, Brian Pena, Janet Murray, Kate Torrey, Melinda Mascolino, David Manning, Wendy Savery, Dana Jewett, Debbie Baker, Jan Sander, Beth Bailey, Adam Howard, Thad Tallman, Jim Osborn, Andrew Martin, Candace Vear, Kim Moulton, Mark Schilling, Rosemary Audibert, Jan Perkins, Cathy Mander Adams, and about 3 other people.

C. Gallagher asked for a moment of silence in honor of Belvidere town clerk Shirley Brown, a regular attendee at annual meetings, who recently passed away.

Tim Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Administrators and board members introduced themselves.

B. Sander moved to waive reading of the warning, B. Bailey seconded and the motion was passed.

Article I:

To review and approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting July 21, 2016.

B. Sander moved to approve the July 21, 2016 organizational meeting minutes, J. Hunsberger seconded and the motion was passed.

Article II:

To establish compensation for the duly constituted officers of said Modified Unified Union School District.

J. Sander moved to compensate the clerk \$350 per year plus mileage, B. Sander seconded and the motion was passed.

J. Sander moved to compensate the treasurer \$5500 per year, seconded by B. Sander.

D. Baker asked, the treasurer will handle all 4 towns, right?

T. Sullivan said he believes those who are not registered voters in the LNSU towns need approval to address the assembly. He asked for approval for Deb Clark and Cat Gallagher to speak.

B. Sander moved to permit all administrators to speak as appropriate and the motion was seconded and passed.

D. Clark said the treasurer will manage the single district but the volume of work will be substantial. The treasurer will be doing bank reconciliations as well as check signing. The LUSD treasurer currently makes \$5500.

D. Baker moved to amend the motion to raise the treasurer compensation to at least \$8000. She said there will be a lot more work for the LNMUUSD treasurer. The motion was not seconded.

The motion was passed with D. Baker opposed.

D. Griffiths moved that compensation be \$1600 per year for the board chair and \$1300 per year for other board members, J. Sander seconded and the motion was passed.

Article III:

To hear and act upon the reports of the Modified Unified Union School District.

D. Clark said copies of the annual report are available at this meeting and at central office and were mailed out on February 10. The treasurer's report is in the annual report. She showed the treasurer's report. It showed the balances as of June 30, 2016, compared to the balances on June 30, 2015.

D. Baker moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, B. Sander seconded and the motion was passed.

Article IV:

To receive from the Board of School Directors of said District its estimate of expenses of the Lamaille North Modified Unified Union Grade Schools for the ensuing year. This is a public information hearing regarding the budget. (See Article XIII.)

D. Clark gave a presentation on the budget. LNMUUSD provides services for 5 campuses, including GMTCC, and 1559 students in grades PreK-12. The combined elementary budget is \$11,468,866. The middle school/high school budget is \$13,483,651. The tech center budget is \$3,451,883. Combined elementary expenses decreased \$659,231 (5.44%.) One budget driver was the change in tuition the board voted on. There were increases in non special ed assessments and transportation but they were offset by savings found elsewhere.

Article V:

To receive from the Board of School Directors of said District its estimate of expenses of the Lamaille North Modified Unified Union Middle & High Schools for the ensuing year. This is a public information hearing regarding the budget. (See Article XII.)

D. Clark presented information on the middle school/high school budget. The proposed budget amount is \$13,483,651, a reduction of about 1.8% from the previous year. The reduction is due to reduced special ed expenditures. Special ed has been almost fully centralized at the SU level,

causing a change in the way net expense is assessed out to sites. That brings savings of about 11.84% at the middle school/high school. Special ed is down in general across the SU. It is not just centralization that is bringing it down. There was some savings in long term debt due to restructuring of debt the bond bank was able to do. One big initiative was moving the middle school Discovery room to contracted services with Laraway. The combined budget for Lamoille Union and the elementary schools is \$24,952,517, a 9% decrease. Combined revenues are also down, creating a 1.16% increase in education spending.

L. Miller asked about the new contracted services from Laraway. That isn't a special ed line item? W. Savery said in the past the middle school had the Discovery program, which was a combination of special ed and regular ed. It was becoming more special ed, which was not our intention. This year the middle school is piloting a new student support center. It is primarily non special ed. We can serve up to 5 students with disabilities, who often are special ed students. This year it is being done under the regular ed budget. She wanted to make sure people understood that it is there for all students and is not just a special ed program. In the future some of it may be funded under special ed to take advantage of reimbursement. The majority of students served are not special ed.

L. Miller asked, we are contracting with a Laraway provider? W. Savery said we are contracting for 2 Laraway employees – a behavior interventionist and a behavior specialist. This is a new concept being piloted for the first time in the state. We are modeling a program that can serve 40-50 students. Students can access the student support center for help on homework, help getting in a better place, or help in classrooms. It can be for students who just need a check-in or those who need something more intensive like a behavior plan.

B. Sander asked about certifications of those from Laraway. W. Savery said they are not teaching positions. The Laraway employees have degrees. They are support positions. A behavior interventionist doesn't need certification.

D. Clark reviewed factors important in building the budget. The state property yield and state income yield have gone up. The state property tax rate is \$1, the same as last year. The state non-residential property tax is up a penny. The excess spending threshold is up to \$17,386. LNMUUSD and the SU are not over the threshold. The income sensitivity factor is about 2.6%.

D. Clark showed per pupil cost for FY18 compared to FY17. The blended tax rate after incentives are applied is 1.481. She showed estimated rates for each town after CLA is applied and savings for a property of \$100K.

D. Baker asked what happens if Waterville or Cambridge votes to merge now. D. Clark said if one or both votes yes, then the budget will have to be revised and sent back out to voters.

Article VI:

To receive from the Board of School Directors of said District its estimate of expenses of the Green Mountain Technology & Career Center for the ensuing year. This is a public information hearing regarding the budget. (See Article XIV.)

D. Clark showed information on the GMTCC budget. There is a 2.82% decline in revenues but the director found some major savings. The budget is down 1.07% from FY17. There has been a decline in student numbers. Enrollments are declining statewide. D. Clark showed pupil assessment history from FY10 to FY18. The assessment for FY18 is \$7073, down a little from the previous year.

Article VII:

Shall the voters of said District hold an amount of the unassigned audited fund balance in the amount of \$45,804.26 as of June 30, 2016 to add to the already established Reserve Fund for the purpose of meeting capital needs of the Green Mountain Technology & Career Center?

B. Bailey moved to hold an amount of the unassigned audited fund balance in the amount of \$45,804.26 as of June 30, 2016 to add to the already established Reserve Fund for the purpose of meeting capital needs of the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center. The motion was seconded and passed.

Article VIII:

Shall the voters of said District hold an amount of the unassigned audited fund balance in the amount of \$75,306 as of June 30, 2016 to establish under the direction of the school directors a Reserve Fund for the purpose of meeting capital needs of the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union Middle and High School District?

B. Bailey moved to hold an amount of the unassigned audited fund balance in the amount of \$75,306 as of June 30, 2016 to establish under the direction of the school directors a Reserve Fund for the purpose of meeting the capital needs of the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union Middle and High School District. The motion was seconded and passed.

Article IX:

To see if the voters of said District with authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money to be used for payment of expenses of the District, pending receipt of taxes, by issuance of its notes or orders, payable not later than one year from the date of issuance.

Bill Sander moved to authorize the Board of Directors to borrow money to be used for payment of expenses of the District, pending receipt of taxes, by issuance of its notes or orders, payable not later than one year from the date of issuance. The motion was seconded and passed.

Article X:

Shall the voters of the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District #58 establish a reserve fund to appropriate thereto, such sums as approved in future budgets?

It was moved and seconded to establish a reserve fund to appropriate thereto such sums as approved in future budgets. D. Clark said this is to create a reserve for the new entity. FY17 unassigned fund balances will come into it but the board has to create it for that to happen. **The motion was passed.**

Article XI:

To transact any other business to properly come before the meeting.

No other business was brought up.

B. Bailey moved to recess the meeting to March 7, 2017 (Town Meeting Day) for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot at the usual polling places in the member districts. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting reconvened on March 7, 2017. Ballots were brought to the LUHS library where they were commingled and counted under the supervision of the LNMUUSD clerk. The number of ballots cast for Article XII was 630. Results of the vote for Article XII (the PreK-6th grade budget) were 403 in favor, 219 opposed, and 8 blank. **Article XII was passed.**

The number of ballots cast for Articles XIII and XIV was 1,221. Results of the vote for Article XIII (the middle school/high school budget) were 838 in favor, 367 opposed, and 16 blank. **Article XIII was passed.** Results of the vote for Article XIV (the GMTCC budget) were 910 in favor, 288 opposed, and 23 blank. **Article XIV was passed.**

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths