

LNSU/LNMUUSD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019

Board members present: Belvidere – Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge – Bill Sander, Jan Sander, Laura Miller, Bernard Barnes, Sue Hamlyn-Prescott (arrived about 7:00); Eden – David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park – Lisa Barry, Tina Lowe; Johnson – Katie Orost, Bobbie Moulton, Angela Lamell; Waterville – none. Others present: Catherine Gallagher, Deborah Clark, Michele Aumand, Dylan Laflam, Wendy Savery, Charleen McFarlane, Jade Hazard, David Manning, Melinda Mascolino

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment

D. Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00.

D. Laflam said the Eden Central solar item can be removed from the agenda. He needs to talk to building administration before bringing that to the board.

B. Moulton moved to approve the agenda with the suggested change, B. Sander seconded and the motion was passed

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the June 19, 2019 Meeting and Committee Meetings: B. Sander moved to approve the board minutes of June 19, 2019 and the Finance and Capital Committee Minutes of June 3, 2019, J. Sander seconded and the motion was passed.

Board Orders: L. Miller moved to approve board orders as printed on the back of the agenda, B. Moulton seconded and the motion was passed.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy – 2nd Reading and Possible Adoption

C. Gallagher said the changes to the policy are based on new laws. We need to incorporate them to comply with the law. We have already developed an SU-wide wellness committee, which is mandated in this policy.

J. Sander moved and B. Sander seconded to adopt the LNSU/LNMUUSD Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy as presented.

J. Sander said she noticed some sections in the policy that talked about how food that comes in from the community must meet nutritional standards. At the elementary level there are bake sales and class parties. It is difficult to expect all parents to meet nutritional guidelines. We don't want to single kids out by telling them the food their family provided isn't appropriate.

C. Gallagher said she thinks we can work around that because the phrase "when feasible" is included. The other wording option we had was more restrictive and would not allow anything that did not meet the guidelines.

The motion was passed.

**JES School Clinic – Discussion & Possible Action on Use of Capital Reserve Funds up to \$27,000
Contingent Upon Receipt of Acceptable MOU by the Superintendent**

C. Gallagher said she is not sure why the reference to the MOU was included in this agenda item. She and the board chair sign MOU's regularly. People from CHSLV previously came to talk about the services they could provide. That came about due to gross misinformation in the community. David Manning worked with Carol Maloney to isolate the services to be provided at the JES clinic down to services for students only – counseling, dental and primary care services. CHSLV is pleased to deliver just those services. She sees this happening throughout all our schools in the future. Brian Schaffer, Jen Hulse and C. Gallagher have done some work with Reclaiming Futures. We just got a massive grant from the Hilton Foundation to do this and other work at the Lamoille Union campus. She is pleased that the board had people from CHSLV inform them rather than just hearing about it through administration. The request is to use capital reserve funds for the clinic. D. Clark said these funds have to be spent by 5 years from July 1, 2017. C. Gallagher said the board decides whether to spend capital reserve funds to better the health of our students, which would better their access to education.

D. Manning said the money is needed to modify a room that currently is used for speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. The plan is to relocate the occupational and physical therapists and divide the room in half, with the speech therapist and speech therapist assistant in one half and the clinic in the other half.

A. Lamell asked if the space use analysis results have come back. Should we be putting money into using the space in a different way? D. Clark said the results are close to being taken to committees. We talked about this with the people doing the space use analysis and they didn't seem to think it would interfere with any of the space analysis. Johnson has the capacity to do this.

A. Lamell said with providers leaving CHSLV she is concerned they might not be able to provide services. C. Gallagher said the MOU has an out if they are not able to, but the provider doesn't only have to be an M.D. It could be a nurse or nurse practitioner.

D. Manning said if we change the configuration of the room by adding a permanent wall and there is no health clinic or CHSLV can't provide practitioners there is still benefit to having 2 spaces. It would give more flexibility in how to use that space. There will be more privacy for speech therapy. It will not be wasted money. It wouldn't be his first choice for spending if not for the clinic but it would still be positive to have that space divided into two. It is unlikely it will be needed for a classroom again.

C. Gallagher said we have an opportunity here. We have a board subcommittee devoted to looking at better ways to serve our students. CHSLV is putting in \$5K themselves and providing all the professionals. It is a gift. If we are saying this is important to our students, community and board we need to act on that. She knows it is important to many in this room to provide more to our students.

A. Lamell asked if we know whether the clinic opening in the church will be able to serve our students. C. Gallagher said using that clinic would still mean taking kids out of school. If one child in a family has to go to an appointment the family takes them all out of school and they don't come back.

D. Manning said he has been in meetings with Johnson village manager Meredith Birkett and Johnson town administrator Brian Story. CHSLV is also working on the church project. They are well aware of both projects. Their vision involves both spaces. If the clinic were not at school we would still have to figure out how to get kids there and back. Also, CHSVL has a vision of eventually building in parenting education, health fairs, etc. – doing broader outreach than just with students. That is better done if the clinic is at the school.

B. Barnes asked if the clinic is self-sustaining after the initial investment. C. Gallagher said it will be CHSLV's investment. D. Clark said we will take care of the facility piece. D. Manning said we will take care of facility needs like any other part of the school but there will not be much cost. CHSLV will bill for each patient they see as they would in a normal office. They looked at how many Johnson residents between the ages of 4 and 12 are CHSLV patients. They will not be giving the clinic full-time staff every day. D. Laflam said the nice thing about creating a clinic inside the existing facility is that the ongoing maintenance costs are costs we have anyway, no matter how the space is used. Beside the initial investment he doesn't see much additional investment needed for upkeep.

K. Orost moved to approve use of Johnson capital reserve funds up to \$27,000 for a JES school clinic, seconded by J. Hunsberger.

K. Orost asked what the term of the MOU is. C. Gallagher said it is 2 years; however it can be amended by mutual written agreement and terminated by either party for any reason or no reason with 60 days notice.

A. Lamell asked if there will be a rental fee. K. Orost said we talked about that and they said they were open to it. C. Gallagher said yes, but at the time that was discussed they weren't contributing \$5K.

K. Orost asked if the work will have to go to bid. D. Laflam said yes. There will be a permit process.

K. Orost asked if the intent is to get it done before school starts. D. Laflam said he thinks that would not be realistic.

The motion was passed with A. Lamell opposed. Cambridge board members did not vote.

Facilities/Technology

Capital Reserve Fund, \$10,034.00, to Support EPIC Academy Room Needs

J. Sander moved to approve spending \$10,034 from capital reserve funds to support EPIC Academy room needs, seconded by A. Lamell.

D. Laflam said two rooms will be transformed into dedicated PLP space, both in the upper A wing, which is 1966 construction. A \$25K grant will cover some of the cost but \$about 35K in work needs to be done. There will be furniture upgrades and moveable whiteboards are needed.

The motion was passed.

Lamoille North School District Equipment Bid for Excavator – Discussion & Possible Action

D. Laflam said every year we rent an excavator. This year we need one for 6 or 7 man-days at ECS and for 10 to 12 days here. Every year the rental price goes up. In an average year we pay about \$5K in excavator rental fees. He got two bids for an excavator. He recommends accepting the United Rentals bid, which is a little higher. For \$8K more than a used excavator we could get a new one with a full warranty. He wants to make annual payments, with the cost split among all the schools.

L. Miller said we have already approved a budget for the year starting July 1. That budget only has \$5K for the excavator line item, correct? D. Laflam said there is no specific line item for excavator costs. It is under purchased services. L. Miller said he is asking for more than was budgeted. We just approved a tractor that lasted 3 years. How long does he think this will last? D. Laflam said he thinks it will last 20 years.

L. Miller asked, he is saying that if we spend \$5K every year anyway, this would save us money in the long run? D. Laflam said yes.

B. Barnes asked what the annual maintenance cost will be. D. Laflam said he anticipates maintenance costs of about \$1K. Currently the tech center owns a small, aging excavator we used to borrow, but now the ag program uses it in summer. We paid for its annual service.

L. Miller asked what we would do with an excavator. D. Laflam said we would use it to fluff, turn and sometimes replace the bark mulch over the septic leach field, remove stumps, replant trees, and work on stumping the egress trail.

L. Miller asked if we have someone with certification to drive it. D. Laflam said certification is not needed for a unit this size, but he has multiple operators.

M. Mascolino said every year Eden has to rent an excavator to move snow. They did that 3 times last year. D. Laflam said that is another use he had not even thought of.

B. Sander asked if D. Laflam is sure the excavator isn't too heavy to run over the leach field. D. Laflam said it isn't. Its gross weight is about 8,000 pounds.

B. Sander asked about the manufacturer. D. Laflam said the Japanese brand he is recommending we purchase has very good reviews but he is not overly familiar with excavators.

K. Orost asked if the cost will come out of capital reserve or the general fund. D. Laflam said the general fund. He will ask to do annual payments for 5 years, split out among all schools. This year he can easily take the additional cost out of the normal operating budget. Next year he would have to increase operating costs a bit.

K. Orost asked, why not take the money out of capital reserve?

D. Clark said it makes sense to make this a capital purchase. Buying it outright we will pay half the price.

D. Laflam said he reached out to maintenance directors at all sites and many said they would love to have use of an excavator for small projects. He sees it would be used pretty heavily.

L. Miller asked if we have a trailer to haul it. D. Laflam said yes.

B. Sander asked if he was thinking of financing through the dealer or borrowing from a bank. D. Clark said we could do an equipment loan bid. The board wouldn't be able to act on it until the next regular meeting in August.

B. Sander asked how difficult it would be to buy it outright. D. Clark said she wouldn't recommend paying for it out of the general fund but we have enough in capital reserve for this purchase.

B. Sander moved to authorize purchase of an excavator with capital funds at a cost not to exceed \$48,500, seconded by B. Moulton. K. Orost asked which capital reserve fund would be used. B. Sander said the high school's. The motion was passed.

Wheelchair Lift Equipped Van Bid Results – Discussion & Possible Action

B. Sander moved and B. Moulton seconded to accept administration's recommendation to accept the \$34,665 bid from Mobility Works for a Dodge Caravan with a wheelchair lift.

D. Clark said we had to go out to bid for a van equipped with a wheelchair lift. We have a student with severe mobility challenges and the IEP requires us to provide specialized transportation service. The lift we already have doesn't provide what we need. This will be a van with a permanent lift. The cost will be paid for out of special ed funds.

L. Miller asked if we already have any handicapped buses that could be used. D. Clark said no.

L. Miller asked if the student is of an age that means the lift will be of use for a while. D. Clark said she believes so.

D. Clark said our transportation coordinator recommends the Dodge Caravan rather than the Toyota Sienna for which we received a bid from the same vendor because it has a little more room and the usage on the lift is more appealing. The lowest bid was for that vehicle.

L. Miller asked if the wheelchair lift cuts down on the number of kids that can ride in the van. D. Clark said yes.

L. Miller asked if being transported in this van will single out the student. D. Clark said our special education transportation services already go to all our schools for different students at different times. This is a service we are required to provide. C. Gallagher said the greater good is providing transportation. Singling the student out is not relevant.

L. Miller asked why we would not put the student on the bus. D. Clark said LVT is not providing that capability.

B. Sander said if the Dodge is larger it makes sense to buy it, but a Toyota is a superior vehicle. A Dodge won't last as long. He will vote for the recommended vehicle but he has reservations. B. Moulton agreed that a Dodge won't hold its value as long as a Toyota. D. Clark said we may try to trade it in when it still has some value. We will address that each year.

The motion was passed with B. Moulton opposed.

Personnel

Approve HPES Music Teacher Hire

C. McFarlane recommended hiring Lesley Grant for a music teacher position at Hyde Park. K. Orost moved to approve Lesley Grant for a one-year .8 FT long term substitute position at Hyde Park Elementary School. The motion was seconded. C. McFarlane said the pay is \$32,000 for .8 FTE. The motion was passed.

Approve HPES Behavior Specialist Hire

C. McFarlane recommended hiring Camron Colston as a behavior specialist at a salary of \$46,840. K. Orost moved to approve hiring Camron Colston as a behavior consultant at a salary of \$46,840, B. Moulton seconded and the motion was passed.

Approve LUHS Driver's Education Teacher Hire

C. McFarlane recommended hiring Scott Brown as a driver education teacher at a salary of \$44,500. B. Sander moved to approve hiring Scott Brown as a driver education teacher at a salary of \$44,500, seconded by B. Moulton. L Miller asked if this is a 1.0 position. C. McFarlane said yes. C. McFarlane said he has the appropriate endorsement. C. Gallagher said Brian Schaffer had him do a performance lesson. He was engaging with the kids. L. Barry said his resume indicates he doesn't have experience teaching driver's ed. The motion was passed.

Central Office Report

D. Clark had board members sign the tax anticipation note. She said July 29 is the special meeting for warning the bond vote. The conversation about transportation continues. LVT is close to finishing the new transportation schedules. They will be posted as soon as possible. We know there will be changes.

C. Gallagher said graduation week was wonderful and busy. The high school graduation was especially poignant because the teacher speakers, the valedictorian and C. Gallagher all had the same theme (but didn't know that beforehand.) The valedictorian is going to Dartmouth and the salutatorian is going to UVM. One hundred twenty-five students walked and 124 got diplomas. The remaining student will have his diploma by the end of summer.

Reclaiming Futures has told us that the Hilton Foundation will give us a massive 30-month grant to continue restorative work. They granted to 3 districts in the nation out of hundreds of applications. The grant funds will help with drug and alcohol prevention and education and more restorative work.

C. Gallagher passed out an article on cell phone use. People are looking at cell phone use at the high school level in a different way. For the first time some students are saying they can't stay away from their phones. Phones have been used for instructional purposes but they are also getting in the way of learning. We are looking at policies other schools around us have. We are looking at following more of a middle

school model where phones are put away during class and can be out when students are finished with class. A group of teachers at the high school piloted this successfully in the past year. There is an opportunity for students and teachers to talk about pros and cons of phones and how they might not be the best thing for learning. It will be a big discussion. It was brought up in 2008 and met with a lot of resistance. Research indicates excessive phone use is not healthy. Our wellness subcommittee will start looking at policies. There will be more to come going forward.

C. Gallagher said 4 years ago each of our schools was identified as needing massive help. Currently 2 of our schools – Eden and Hyde Park – have been identified as needing extra support. Hyde Park will get \$165K a year for 3 years and Eden will get \$115K a year for 3 years. That money could go away if after the first year all the domains have been met. Each of the two schools has just one of 5 domains in which students are not meeting the target. The other schools are meeting all of the targets. One thing that is disappointing about this data is that it is from the year before. It measures the change from the year before that. So it doesn't seem all that relevant to today. But that is how we receive our federal funding.

B. Barnes said he would agree right now to get rid of cell phones unless they are for the learning part of class. C. Gallagher said it will be a discussion. The students struggling most with phone use are the 9th graders and the seniors. Ninth graders are coming out of a very structured middle school environment and have a sense of newfound freedom. It's creating anxiety.

L. Miller said she understands that students would say they use their phones for more than just texting; they use them to look things up. But they all have school-provided devices. That is what they should use those devices for, rather than using their personal phones.

C. Gallagher said Mark Stebbins brought up AirDrop, which can allow a student to send images of an exam to friends who might have the same exam later that day. She is much more concerned about cyber bullying and the fact that kids are saying phone use is a problem for them. D. Whitcomb said it is a nationwide problem.

J. Hazard said last week a group from LNMMUUSD went to Harvard University for a week-long intensive institute around the Data Wise Improvement Process, which is based on teacher collaboration and using data to improve student outcomes. J. Hazard, the early education director, W. Savery and her assistant principal, 2 middle school teachers, D. Reilly and some Hyde Park teachers, and staff from Waterville went to the institute. C. Gallagher and staff from Cambridge, Eden and Johnson will go in January and in June staff from the high school and the tech center will go, so everyone will be trained in Data Wise. C. Gallagher said it's not a program; it's a protocol. It asks you to look at what happens when things aren't working the way you want.

C. McFarlane offered her appreciation for Michele Aumand, who has a huge job preparing for board meetings. There was a round of applause for M. Aumand.

C. Gallagher said at the board retreat on August 12 board members will talk about subcommittee work for the year. We will also look at why people are sitting on a board. Sometimes we get mired in things that are not important rather than looking at the kids.

J. Sander said July 1 is next week. Some community members are wondering what is happening with the merger. C. Gallagher said nothing is happening. Two more Act 46 cases were thrown out; one was Huntington's. They have to make a decision on whether they want to challenge that decision with the Supreme Court. We had a vote so a merger won't happen. But she thinks LNMUUSD will invite Cambridge to join in time for a town meeting vote. D. Whitcomb said there will be a Supreme Court case. He has read pages a lawyer is preparing.

Principal/Director Reports

M. Mascolino said she had two children graduate on Saturday. Family who had come to the graduation from out of town commented that teachers and students really had relationships and that students respected the teachers. They were touched and moved by all the speakers and shocked that a district like ours still existed.

S. Deuso has started her retirement so only M. Mascolino and the custodians are at ECS until camp starts. Over 40 students will be attending camp. M. Mascolino went to a literacy committee today where J. Hazard talked about what the group that went to Harvard learned.

D. Manning said the JES summer program started the day after school finished. They have about 35 to 45 students a day participating. A lot is going on with the building so the summer program was all moved to one level. There is a whole crew working at the school. D. Laflam sent someone from his crew and Johnson hired people. New carpets are going in and floors are being stripped and waxed. A committee has been working on supporting students by meeting their sensory needs. The school purchased items to put in a room to allow sensory breaks and they are putting a sensory path in one of the hallways. He commended his teachers' work in helping Johnson no longer be identified.

M. Mascolino said she talked to someone from AOE today who said they aren't going to meet as an AOE team until July. On this year's SBAC, ECS 3rd graders had 80% proficiency in math. There have been gains since the data C. Gallagher was talking about from 2 years ago. She is happy for the collaboration.

W. Savery thanked her staff. She wasn't able to be in school the last week and it went off without a hitch. That speaks to the structure and teaming at the middle school. The Data Wise institute was an incredible week. To her a highlight was spending time with colleagues from the elementary level and from other states and countries. An international perspective is rejuvenating.

Other Business

K. Orst asked if there will be any meetings in July. D. Clark said just the July 29 special meeting.

Adjourn

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:12, and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths