

Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District
Board Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2017

Members Present: Belvidere: Angie Evans; Eden: David Whitcomb (Chair), Jeffrey Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Andrew Beaupre, Patti Hayford, Chasity Fagnant, Lisa Barry; Johnson: Angela Lamell; Mark Nielsen; Cambridge: Bill Sander, Jan Sander, Laura Miller, Mark Stebbins, Sue Prescott.

Members Absent: Johnson: Katie Orost, Bobbie Moulton, Heather Rodriguez; Waterville: Amanda Tilton-Martin

Others Present: Cat Gallagher, Michele Aumand, Jan Epstein, Jade Hazard, Sherry Lussier, Melinda Mascolino, Brian Schaffer, Brian Pena, Diane Reilly, Wendy Savery, Charleen McFarlane, Deb Clark, Jen Stevens, Dylan Laflam

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Comment: Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. The agenda was revised to add a LUHS English Interventionist position and a Johnson Elementary School Paraeducator position. The GMTCC Pathways Coordinator position was removed. J. Sander made a motion to approve the revised agenda. B. Sander seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Schaffer made a public comment that in years past the Board had provided an opportunity for students to have an advisory role on the Board. Schaffer had a core group of students interested in participating at regular meetings and he asked that, as a future agenda item, the Board would move to recognize a student advisory role on the Board.

Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items:

Minutes of the July 24, 2017, Meeting and Committee Meetings: B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Fagnant, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously, with Prescott abstaining.

Ratify New Hires:

Director of School Nutrition Services: Clark reported to the Board that in June the Personnel Committee approved the creation of this position. This position was a step up from the Food Services position, was year-round, and had many more responsibilities including reporting to the State and developing a district-wide school nutrition program. Clark informed the Board that Karyl Kent, the successful candidate, was fabulous. She had nine years in the business, had several contacts in the local food movement as well as the farm to school nutrition programs around the state. She had spearheaded community food actions and had worked in classrooms with students and teachers. Clark reported that the Personnel Committee had recommended the hiring. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Fagnant, to ratify the hire. The motion passed unanimously.

LUHS Physics Teacher: Prescott informed the Board that all new hires had been discussed and approved by the Personnel Committee. Prescott stated this position was a one-year, non-renewable hire. Schaffer explained that the successful candidate was Dr. Kazuo Cottrell, a physicist. Gallagher noted that this candidate could find employment at the higher education or research level but he was choosing to teach at the high school level. Stebbins asked why the position was a one-year, non-renewable contract. Schaffer explained that as it was so late in the hiring season they wanted to have the opportunity to evaluate the teacher over the course of the year. Schaffer saw it as protection for the school in the event things didn't work out. Miller asked how many students would be in the Physics class. Schaffer explained it was becoming a more popular option with students at the freshman and sophomore grade levels, with a varying class size of between 12 and 15. Stebbins made a motion to ratify the hire, seconded by B. Sander. B. Sander stated this candidate was extremely overqualified for

the position and was a phenomenal find. Cottrell had two master's degrees and a Ph.D. B. Sander thought it was a huge plus for the district. The motion then passed unanimously.

LUHS .625 English Interventionist: Prescott explained this was a one-year non-renewable substitute position. The successful candidate was Kerry Sheldon. B. Sander made a motion to ratify the hire, seconded by Stebbins. Prescott explained this had been a full-time position but was now going to be .625. Schaffer explained that the current employee in the position had been granted a leave of absence. Schaffer disclosed that his wife had worked with Sheldon. Miller asked if Sheldon had a license and endorsements. Schaffer said she did. The motion passed unanimously.

JES Long-Term Substitute Teacher: Prescott informed the Board that the Personnel Committee approved the hire of Amberina Saras. Mark Nielsen made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to ratify the hire. Jen Stevens explained that Saras was coming from a long-term substitute kindergarten position in Hardwick and had solid recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

JES Paraeducator: Charmone Lloyd was being hired above base, at \$11.79. She had been a director at a childcare center and Manning had asked that her salary reflect her experience. Mark Nielson made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to ratify the hire. The motion passed unanimously.

GMTCC Field Trip Request: Sherry Lussier and Chris Damato outlined an opportunity the Tech Center was exploring, in which students would be able to leave the country and work in another continent. Lussier explained that Nicole Didomenico ran the International Service Learning for Norwich University. Seven years ago she started working with a crafter/carpenter guild in Tanzania who had adopted 18 orphans. Didomenico's group worked on a business plan that eventually morphed from an orphanage to a cooperative. The children growing up in this coop would be self-sustaining by 2020. Over the past several years they had been building the orphanage and kitchen. Currently, Northfield high school students and Norwich students were in Tanzania finishing their animal barn. Next year the goal was to build a studio for their craft/carpentry guild. The GMTCC had the chance to help them with next year's project.

Damato explained that the plan would be to go to Tanzania in the summer, which would be their winter. The GMTCC group would be doing masonry work on the craft/carpentry studio. Damato explained there were a number of tech students who could lend their expertise to the program ranging from agricultural specialists to auto mechanics. A national park was nearby and it was expected the group would go on a safari while they were there. The GMTCC would be working with two groups: International Service Learning at Norwich University, and Rotary International. The Rotary had been pouring resources into this project for about four years.

Lussier stated they expected six adults and eight students would participate. Students who had already been through pre-tech would be considered first. Some fundraising had been done already. Lussier noted that this project has been talked about for over a year at different boards. The trip would be two to three weeks long and cost approximately \$3,100 per person. Miller asked if the adults going would be employees and if they would be covered under worker's compensation. Lussier said they were still working on that. Clark stated that Sterling College facilitated a lot of international trips and she would check with them. Fagnant asked what would happen if more than eight students were interested in participating. Lussier stated that 12 to 15 was the optimum size for a group, so they would have to weed out the applicants. Damato explained that they would prefer someone who had gone through pre-tech and maybe a year in the program, so it would likely be juniors and seniors who would participate.

B. Sander asked how much of the funding needed to be raised by the participant. Lussier stated when students attended national competitions they were asked to contribute \$300. Students were encouraged to do letter writing campaigns to businesses. Lussier noted GMTCC received \$15,000 in scholarship money annually from the Freeman Foundation and she was looking at going back to that

source. They would also be going to Rotary Clubs in the area. They had already received \$2,500 from the Clark Family Foundation and a recent tag sale had netted \$1,000.

Gallagher expressed appreciation to Lussier and Damato for informing the Board of this opportunity, especially as this was not a Board decision. Whitcomb stated he would like to work with Lussier when she approached the Freeman Foundation for funding.

Policy Review and Adoption/Ratification:

Student Conduct and Discipline: Gallagher explained that the Board had asked school administrators to weigh in on this policy. The administrators agreed that this was a good policy but believed that language needed to be added regarding dangerous devices. This particular section had been in the policy for years at all the District schools. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by J. Sander, to adopt the policy. Prescott asked if this was a policy of the LNSU. Gallagher said it was and there would be one under the Modified Board and also one under Cambridge. The motion passed unanimously.

Travel Policy: Clark informed the Board that the policy had been changed. Mileage would now be calculated using the IRS rate. J. Sander made a motion to ratify the policy, seconded by Lamell. The motion passed unanimously.

Meal Charge Policy: Clark informed the Board that the administrative team had reviewed the policy per the Board's request. The School Nutrition Program was now noted throughout the policy in place of the principals' office or principal designee. Under Meal Charge Policy, a bullet had been updated to read: "students will always be provided a meal." Under the Meal Charge Policy, Section E had been added: Students with overdrawn accounts who were subsequently found to be eligible for free and reduced meals may have their charges retroactively corrected for them." Clark then discussed the Account Status section that stated a balance of \$15 would trigger a certified mail, return receipt, mailing. She stated she was flexible about the dollar amount and thought the steps leading up to the notification should limit the need to do that. Clark said that with a Director of School Nutrition Services in place, procedures could be written to prevent the balances getting too high. Gallagher asked how the Abbey Group would be notified and Clark said she and the School Nutrition Director would stay in touch with them.

Stebbins was concerned that a \$15 limit was too low. Cambridge often had 50 students with a negative balance. This would require a lot of letters being sent out. Cambridge was more comfortable with a higher threshold of \$30 or \$40. Clark asked if a threshold needed to be established. Committee members agreed a dollar amount should be set. Laflam noted that their software would allow them to send text messages and e-mails when the student account was out of funds. Clark suggested \$20 or \$25 this year and then reviewing how it had worked at the end of next year. Beaupre asked if this was a systematic problem. Laflam said it cost the District up to \$1,500 a year. Gallagher asked if the last bullet was necessary. Clark stated it proved that the school had done its due diligence before going to collections. Stebbins stated he agreed the Board should revisit the dollar amount next year. Gallagher stated that one Board member had suggested \$45. Fagnant thought that was a lot and suggested a threshold of \$30, which was two weeks worth of meals. Prescott asked if this would be \$30 per family or per student. Clark replied it would be per student. Stebbins made a motion to adopt the Meal Charge Policy with the change that the threshold be raised to trigger sending a certified letter to \$30. Beaupre seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Capital Asset Policy/Conflict of Interest Policy: Clark reported this was the first reading and it would be brought up at the next meeting for adoption. Gallagher asked if these were SU policies. Clark stated they were. These policies were developed as a result of the fiscal monitoring visit that occurred this spring.

Other Business: Jade Hazard distributed paperwork to the Board that outlined the planned in-service on the 21st. Gallagher informed that Board that in-service schedules for all schools were posted on the website. Hazard said new teacher training had been done in math and reader/writers workshop. In October, Hazard will share local and state data with the Board. Gallagher said that would encompass all of last year.

Adjourn: Stebbins made a motion, seconded by J. Sander, to adjourn at 6:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.