

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

Board members present: David Whitcomb, Laura Miller, Jeff Hunsberger, Angie Evans, Bill Sander, Katie Orost, Angela Lamell, Bobbie Moulton, Patti Hayford, Andrew Beaupre, James Osborn, Mark Nielsen, Chasity Fagnant, Lisa Barry

Others present: Catherine Gallagher, Deborah Clark, Michele Aumand, Dana Jewett, Dylan Laflam, Melinda Mascolino, Kate Torrey, Janet Murray, Wendy Savery, Diane Reilly, Brian Schaffer, Brian Pena, Marilyn Frederick, Deb Baker, Jan Sander

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. Call to Order, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Comment**

D. Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:02.

**It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda and the motion was passed.**

B. Schaffer invited board members to check out some of the events happening at the school this evening – sports games, band concert, etc.

**2. Routine Business**

**A. Consent Agenda Items (Minutes of the January 16, 2017 Meeting)**

**It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda and the motion was passed.**

**B. Superintendent Updates**

C. Gallagher said Waterville recently held the information meeting for the vote that will be held tomorrow on whether to join LNMUUSD. She thinks it was fairly well attended. Cambridge's information meeting will be March 1, as part of their budget information session. They will vote on joining LNMUUSD on town meeting day. Fifty-nine towns will be voting on mergers on town meeting day.

C. Gallagher thanked D. Whitcomb for exploring options for housing Hyde Park students. He found an option provided by Howard Manosh. Next year Hyde Park K-5 students will be in the former Plaza Hotel and former courthouse in Morrisville. H. Manosh offered to fence in a green area for students. Sixth grade will be at the tech center.

Rebecca Holcombe recently informed D. Reilly that HPES achieved PBIS Exemplar School status. To become an Exemplar School a school must implement PBIS with fidelity, use behavior data in a problem-solving framework, complete an annual self-assessment survey, and show evidence that sustained implementation of PBIS has had a positive impact on educational outcomes.

C. Gallagher said orientation is planned for LNMUUSD board members. It will include tours in all our schools, meetings with central office staff, meetings with students, meetings with parents, lunch at Vincent's, a tour of the tech center, and training in roles

and responsibilities. It may be close to a week's worth of training. It will be planned around people's schedules.

Tomorrow Education Quality Review teams from Grand Isle and Washington Central will visit all our schools and central office. The only campus they are not visiting is the tech center, which recently had a similar review by NEASC. The teams will talk to B. Schaffer and W. Savery about proficiency. They will talk to elementary schools about the common report card and common curriculum. They will talk to Janet Murray about the early ed program and they will talk to all principals to get a sense of where we think we are in moving our system forward.

We have 4 administrators whose contracts are up for renewal. C. Gallagher is getting input from local boards and doing formal evaluations for those people. She will bring the results to the board in March. She is also looking at an administrator growth and evaluation tool. She is trying to align our administrator evaluations with what we are asking our students to do and what principals are asking teachers to do. The tool looks at 5 aspects of leadership: visionary leadership, instructional leadership, organizational leadership, interpersonal leadership, and ethical leadership. She will be asking administrators to provide a piece of evidence for each area. It is an opportunity for principals to showcase evidence they consider important. In some ways it is like having a PLP for administrators.

We are also beginning to look at restorative practices across our SU. Middle school, high school and tech center leadership teams are going to be working together on that. A school-based clinician who offers trainings to faculty in restorative practices has been asked to come and provide training. There will be student voice as well.

This board will look at a strategic plan. C. Gallagher has thoughts based on conversations with board members about what we need to measure. We need to look at our systems, our educational successes, our communities, and how we can better partner with communities. (*Melinda Mascolino, Bill Sander and Jan Sander arrived at 6:14.*)

### **3. Subcommittees Meet**

D. Whitcomb said he would like board members to think about having committees report out at the next meeting rather than the same night. It is difficult to report out the same night.

#### **Finance Committee**

*Present: D. Clark, L. Miller, C. Fagnant, M. Nielsen*

D. Clark reported to the finance committee that we have an EIN. We are an official entity with the IRS. Sheila Jourdan is applying for a SAM number so we can apply for grant funding and for a DUNS number. We have a "doing business as" name of Lamoille North School District. We will open up checking accounts as soon as we can. D. Clark is not sure how that will work, since we don't have cash until July 1. She will talk to her counterparts in districts that have merged.

LNSU will continue to exist as the parent of LNMUUD, Cambridge and Waterville. Eventually it will go away and we will just become a unified district. LNMUUSD will be in effect as of July 1, but the other boards will have until December 31 to wrap up business.

C. Fagnant asked, if Cambridge and Waterville decide to join, do we have to change our name again? D. Clark said we don't have to change our EIN. We may have to lose the "Modified" part of the name. By April 7 (30 days after the Cambridge merger vote) we will know whether Waterville and/or Cambridge are joining the MUUSD. If we have to change budgets we will do that and go back to the voters. Then we can start the tax anticipation note process for the entities that remain.

### **Operations/Facilities and Technology Committee**

*Present: D. Laflam, B. Pena, M. Frederick, A. Evans, L. Barry, A. Beaupre, B. Sander, D. Reilly*

D. Laflam said Hyde Park bids go out this Friday. The last preconstruction meeting was this Wednesday. There will be a walkthrough on March 1 that is required for contractors who want to continue bidding. Six companies have been prequalified. Everything looks to be on schedule. Bids will be opened at the end of March at a school board meeting. Colin Lindberg is the architect. They are also doing some other projects for us.

C. Gallagher signed a contract with Howard Manosh last week to use the old Plaza Hotel in Morrisville to house HPES students next year. Kindergarten and first grade will be on the first floor and grades 2-5 will be on the second floor. Fire alarms and sprinklers were redone when the building was being used for the courthouse.

D. Reilly said students will enter the building from the rear, not from the front where Hoagies is. She is starting an FAQ that will be on the website. D. Laflam said the lease gives us exclusive use of the back parking lot and unlimited parking in front. Staff will park in front and students will enter and exit in the rear. The green space is in the back parking lot area. The back parking lot will be coned off during recess.

D. Laflam said there are plans to build a new sugarhouse for the GMTCC forestry program. The current sugarhouse is not to code and is in need of replacement. Hazen would like to move it as it is distracting in its current location. A final design is almost ready. Then we will need an Act 250 permit. We have an ag exemption from the town but we are not exempt from Act 250 requirements.

Big upcoming projects on this campus are the VOIP phone system, paging system and gym. So far the engineered cost estimate for the complete rehab of the gym is about \$380K. This whole facility has been redone except for the cafeteria, gym and auditorium. They have never been renovated and are now 50 years old. We cannot sand the gym floor again.

GMTCC has a new sustainable ag academy at Robtoy Farm. It is a collaboration between multiple parties, including the Vermont Land Trust, the Brewster Land Trust and us. The land is leased to GMTCC. We are planning renovations to the farmhouse to make it usable

and up to code. D. Reilly said HPES will be working with S. Lussier do a summer ag program at Robtoy Farm for HPES kids.

D. Laflam said Joyce Cleveland, food service director for Lamoille Union, is retiring this year. We are going to hire a new food service director for all LNMUUSD schools. C. McFarlane is creating a new job description. We got a 1-year \$2500 Farm to School grant to drum up interest at the school. If we are successful, that opens up an opportunity for phase 2 of the grant, which is \$40K. Today was the first meeting about the grant. There has been great collaboration from the 3 schools on the campus. He is hoping the new food service director will work on this.

D. Laflam said a new roof was put on the Belvidere school building last year. Last Friday it started leaking. There are ice dams on the eaves. Due to the way the roof was originally constructed there are big holes with no insulation, allowing heat to escape and melt ice on the roof, leading to ice dams. There are a couple of options for fixing the problem. They are expensive and require a lot of work but the problem will be fixed.

Brian Pena said an RFP for the paging system project went out to 12 vendors. Three responded and they had to come on site. Bids will come in on February 24 and will be opened at central office at 3:00. The VOIP project is also progressing. We are looking at different methods to provide holdover time for the VOIP phones and for switches in the closet in the case of a power outage. Options will be presented to the board. He is also working with Jeff Limoges on a student IT support initiative which is designed to expand on the computer and technology curriculum to support IT staff here and at elementary schools.

The technology committee met today. They talked about development of a 5-year technology plan to supplement or replace the existing 5-year plan. They are working to identify how costs can be reduced with e-Rate.

#### **Communications/PR**

*Present: P. Hayford, J. Hunsberger*

#### **Policy/Legal**

*Present: K. Orost, B. Moulton*

#### **4. Subcommittees Report Out**

D. Clark reported out for the finance committee. She said we have our EIN and our “doing business as” name of Lamoille North School District. We are going forward getting SAM and DUNS numbers. We are registering with the state for grants. We will proceed with tax anticipation notes, etc. as soon as we can.

D. Laflam said he discussed a variety of IT and construction projects with the operations//facilities and technology committee. There are projects going on at pretty much every school.

J. Hunsberger said the Communications/PR committee was charged with developing a logo for LNMUUSD. Their first attempt to check in with one of the tech center staff yielded less than they were hoping for. He will reapproach that faculty member. The committee’s idea

was to have a contest for students across the SU. An alternative is paying someone locally to create a logo. Or a committee to run a contest could be created. They could advertise to students on Facebook, Front Porch Forum, etc.

K. Orost said the policy/legal committee is working through all required policies. They have lists of required and recommended policies. They are compiling lists of which schools have which policies.

5. ***Other Business***

C. Gallagher suggested that the board continue to meet on third Mondays until June 30 and after that consider moving to first and third Tuesdays. K. Orost asked if we can consider meeting on Mondays. C. Gallagher said the board doesn't have to decide now. D. Whitcomb asked board members to think about it.

6. ***Adjourn***

**B. Moulton moved to adjourn at 6:44, M. Nielsen seconded and the motion was passed.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*