

LAMOILLE NORTH SUPERVISORY UNION  
BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2016  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

Board members present: Belvidere – Angie Evans; Cambridge – Bernard Barnes, Mark Stebbins; Eden – David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park – Richard Bailey, Lisa Barry; Johnson – Bobbie Moulton, Katie Orost; LUSD #18 – Jim Osborn, Sue Hamlyn-Prescott, Mark Nielsen, Eve Gagne, Beth Bailey; Waterville – Becky Penberthy, Amanda Tilton-Martin. Others: Catherine Gallagher, Deborah Clark, Michele Aumand, Charleen McFarlane, Jade Hazard, Wendy Savery, Sherry Lussier, Diane Reilly, Janet Murray, Brian Schaffer, David Manning, Jennifer Stevens

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

1. ***Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment***  
D. Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:31.

**M. Stebbins moved to approve the agenda, B. Barnes seconded and the motion was passed.**

2. ***Approval of Consent Agenda Items***

**B. Moulton moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2016 as printed, L. Barry seconded and the motion was passed.**

**K. Orost moved to approve the personnel committee minutes of October 31, 2016 as printed, B. Bailey seconded and the motion was passed.**

**R. Bailey moved to approve the clerk's report on directors' orders, and the motion was seconded and passed.**

3. ***Superintendent's Report***

C. Gallagher said at the beginning of the year she promised the board goals for herself. She handed out a chart of goals in the form of an entry plan for this year. This is similar to what she and the administrators have developed for each administrator. She wants to talk about what she is seeing in each school that is relevant to these goals. We are moving forward our notions of equity. We want all our students to get exactly what they need. For example, ECS was chosen as a pilot lab for early interventions using a multi-tiered system of supports so every student gets what they need. It serves all students. WES has a dynamic reading program. The library teacher works in concert with Kate Torrey and classroom teachers to unite passion in all students about what is interesting for them to read and help each child develop their own library. The NEASC reviewers who visited GMTCC stated that the teachers met the students where they were. At GMTCC, all differences are honored and students get what they need. At LUHS, with proficiency based graduation requirements students have multiple ways of showing learning based on how they learn best. LUMS is using personalized learning plans. JES merged its intervention room and planning room and turned them into a student support center that serves all students. At HPES the Literacy Collaborative is training teachers to teach students so when

students come to the middle school they are speaking the same literacy language. CES has already had trauma experts come back. We want to make sure all students can access education by building robust trauma informed systems in schools. CES has already created an ongoing opportunity for teachers to work on that. That work will continue throughout the SU this year.

C. Gallagher noted that her goals are not listed in order of importance. She caucused with all administrators to ask what they need from her. Things they need such as support and visibility are mentioned in Goal 4.

She plans to help with smooth implementation of Act 46. She will support high student achievement by helping schools pool resources and share curriculum. She will be an active partner with the community, ensuring transparent and clear communication. The newsletter on the new LNSU website is one way she is doing that. Another is family meetings. She has time on Fridays reserved for family meetings. She will work with teachers and boards.

Supporting administrators, teachers, and staff is her last goal. She will team with administration, celebrate student learning, give notes to teachers about walkthroughs, and report out to the board. There are opportunities for co-teaching. She did some team teaching in a classroom recently, talking about weather and snow days. She told the students about how she checks whether the roads are safe for buses. Celebrations and award ceremonies are other ways to address this goal.

She would like board members to read her goals and respond, telling her what they like and don't like and what she is missing. Progress toward the goals will be reviewed at each LNSU board meeting. She will also report out on goals in her newsletter and on the website. She hopes to have a summative report at the last board meeting of the year.

J. Osborn said all these goals are measurable. If he asked for one goal that isn't measurable, more of a vision, what would it be?

C. Gallagher said she has been talking about equity, access, and opportunity. There are many ways to measure those and some are intangible. One intangible might be how we are going to collaborate while retaining the unique spirit of each town.

C. Gallagher encouraged people to email her comments on the goals.

4. ***Ratify LNSU New Hire***

J. Stevens said the personnel committee had previously approved hiring Alison Frank as a long term substitute special educator to work until the end of the school year. She will be working at JES.

**MOTION: K. Orost moved to ratify the personnel committee's decision to hire Alison Frank as a long term substitute special educator and the motion was seconded and passed.**

5. ***Presentation of LNSU FY18 Budget and Possible Action***

D. Clark said no action on the budget will be called for tonight. The state has not provided good revenue estimates. She will go through the expenses that have been budgeted for FY18. This is the second year that transportation expense is flowing through central office. All special ed expenses except paras will be at the SU level. There will be a reallocation of resources at central office to support increased output review. There will be adjustments to benefits for employees upgrading their plans.

Because special ed is significant in the budget and we don't have good revenue numbers from the state yet, D. Clark broke out operating expenses, separated from special ed. The total proposed budget is \$3,816,752. Subtracting grants yields the assessment budget. The non-special ed assessment amount is \$3,625,354, an increase of about 1.45%. The state is reinterpreting some federal rules about special ed, rules about state-placed students in particular. We are not sure how that revenue will flow into and out of the SU. The special ed assessment budget is about \$2.1 million. The total assessment budget is \$3,570,565. The change in non-special ed assessment is an increase in \$84,051 (6.76%). That includes increases in salary, benefits, purchase/contracted services, supplies and equipment. The largest increase is in benefits.

D. Clark showed transportation costs for each town and in total, along with the state aid that is anticipated and the estimated amount to be billed back to local districts. That is not part of the assessment.

D. Clark showed the ADM number and the estimated assessment for each district compared to this current year's assessment. There will be some significant changes because all special ed revenue will be coming into the SU. In FY17, none of the special ed revenue came to the SU. Special ed expenses are increased at the SU level and so is offsetting revenue. The result is great savings at the SU level. Assessments are all down, with decreases ranging from 7.5% to 27%.

Draft audits and fund balances are available. The draft fund balance for LNSU is a surplus of about \$92K. Last year the board requested that \$79K be allocated to offset assessment costs in FY17. She is recommending requesting the same amount for FY18: \$79,713. That would leave an unassigned fund balance of \$202,024.

D. Clark has worked with M. Aumand to generate a list for all boards of when budgets should be approved. They propose that the LNSU and LNMUUSD boards approve their budgets on December 19.

R. Bailey asked if the \$3.2 million in special ed revenue is federal money. D. Clark said yes. It flows through the state. R. Bailey asked what kind of tax increase there will be if that money disappears. D. Clark said it won't all disappear. J. Stevens said it is federal law that they have to continue to reimburse us. The reimbursement rate might change.

## **6. *Negotiations Update***

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the BNCs are in active negotiations with the Teachers Association and Education Support Professionals committees. This week they will have a second session with each group, exchanging healthcare and salary proposals. The boards have

entrusted the BNC with moving toward a fair contract. As board members interact in their communities it will be important that we have one voice during negotiations. S. Hamlyn-Prescott has been nominated by the BNC to be the point person for any questions around negotiations from board members, parents, or community members. She gave out her email address and phone number.

Negotiations are in open session. Minutes can be found on the LNSU website by going to For Our Community, then School Board Info, then Agendas and Minutes.

If anyone is approached in the grocery store with questions about negotiations, that is an opportunity to turn it back to S. Hamlyn-Prescott. We don't want anything to be misconstrued or to compromise ongoing negotiations sessions. This is a big year. We are going into new healthcare plans being put out by VSBIT. The BNC will be speaking about healthcare and salaries as a comprehensive package.

D. Whitcomb asked if the Teachers Association has a single spokesperson like S. Hamlyn-Prescott. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said they have their NEA rep. D. Whitcomb asked if the NEA rep is the only one who is going to answer questions to the teachers. C. Gallagher said the teachers have a nominated spokesperson. D. Whitcomb asked if everything will be handled the same way as with the BNC. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said she can't speak to that on their side. There are open meetings and no ground rules for either teacher or support staff negotiations, with the right to go into executive session.

7. ***Other Business***

D. Whitcomb asked if everyone could be at the proposed next meeting on December 19. B. Bailey said she can't come. No one else said they would be unable to attend.

8. ***Adjourn***

**MOTION: B. Moulton moved and M. Nielsen seconded to adjourn at 7:06 and the motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LNSU Board 11-28-16:

1. *Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment*  
**M. Stebbins moved to approve the agenda, B. Barnes seconded and the motion was passed.**
2. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items*  
**B. Moulton moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2016 as printed, L. Barry seconded and the motion was passed.**  
  
**K. Orost moved to approve the personnel committee minutes of October 31, 2016 as printed, B. Bailey seconded and the motion was passed.**  
  
**R. Bailey moved to approve the clerk's report on directors' orders, and the motion was seconded and passed.**
4. *Ratify LNSU New Hire*  
**MOTION: K. Orost moved to ratify the personnel committee's decision to hire Alison Frank as a long term substitute special educator and the motion was seconded and passed.**
8. *Adjourn*  
**MOTION: B. Moulton moved and M. Nielsen seconded to adjourn at 7:06 and the motion passed.**