

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District
Minutes of Meeting
October 14, 2019**

Board Members Present: Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Bill Sander, Jan Sander, Bernard Barnes, Laura Miller; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Lisa Barry, Chasity Fagnant, Patti Hayford, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Katie Orost, Bobbie Moulton, Angela Lamell, Lauren Philie, Mark Nielsen; Waterville: Bart Bezio

Board Members Absent: Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Sue Prescott; Eden: David Whitcomb

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Michele Aumand, Jennifer Hulse, Janet Murray, Brian Schaffer, Mary Anderson, Diane Reilly, Wendy Savery, Erik Remmers, Jeremy Scannell, Brian Pena, Dylan Laflam

Student Representative: Galen Reese

Others: The Langs

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following changes were made to the agenda: add a presentation from Reclaiming Futures and remove the snowplow bid. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Cynthia Tighe, a member of the Lamoille North Unified Education Association, explained to the Board that she was the union health care liaison for the LNMUUSD as well as the Northwest Vermont Health Care Action Chair. On behalf of the Association members, she requested that the settlement resulting from the statewide health plan negotiations be fair to both parties. The union was hopeful the health care benefits would be affordable and equitable and, further, that they protect and enhance, not reduce, the coverage that union members currently received. Tighe asked that the Board be mindful of the impact this health care decision was going to have on hiring. Tighe also encouraged the Board to have the VSBA Board look at how the high deductible plans would impact the employees.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the September 23, 2019, Meeting and Curriculum Committee Meeting: B. Sander made a motion, seconded by J. Sander, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: Miller made a motion to accept the Board Orders of September 20th and October 4th. The motion was seconded by B. Sanders and passed unanimously.

Reclaiming Futures Presentation: Gallagher explained that Lamoille Union High School had been one of three schools selected to participate in an incredible opportunity. Schaffer stated this program would work nicely with the restorative practices currently being used at the school. Evan Elkin, Executive Director of Reclaiming Futures, explained that they described themselves as a public health and social justice organization. They believed that the way that societies and communities, including schools, handled behavior and kept peace and safety in those environments was part and parcel to the ways that questions were asked of young people. Reclaiming Futures worked collaboratively with young people and asked them to explain why they behaved the way they did, what they needed and how they felt. Traditionally, the kinds of issues that youth had weren't talked about in the context of the way schools responded to their behavior when they misbehaved.

Reclaiming Futures thought that Lamoille Union would be a phenomenal collaborator and a partner in developing a national model with two other sites: one in Louisiana and one in Seattle. These three sites would help develop a strategy that helped them to understand the relationship between the ways that schools responded to behavior and discipline and the ways to respond to the needs of students. Elkin stated that Lamoille was selected because they already had a firm commitment to the power of the community in keeping peace. The restorative justice approach, paying attention to the climate of the

school, doing things before problems got out of hand, building relationships, providing a voice for young people to express themselves were all part of creating a supportive environment. Elkin stated there was a parallel process around mental health and substance abuse as well. If an environment was created where it was safe to come forward and report a need for support or to get treatment, where adults and peers could be trusted, it could run parallel to how Lamoille was implementing restorative justice.

The pilot would involve looking at practices in restorative circles, coupled with school-wide campaigns around behavioral and emotional health. There would be a mental health and substance abuse screening tool through which students could voluntarily communicate about their strengths, their coping strategies, their social support, as well as symptoms they might have that may indicate that they needed a referral for services. Parents would be fully informed and aware of this process. Two years would be spent on this pilot. While Elkin did not have actual data, he knew there had been concern about the elevated use of substances and increased behavioral incidents at the school but were unclear what was behind the increase. He hoped this pilot program would help engage the community in the solutions.

Jon Kidde was introduced as the national coordinator of the pilot program. Kidde stated he worked with many Vermont schools exploring and training restorative coaches, which was a core feature of this pilot. Kidde explained that they hoped that the screening, along with restorative practices, would encourage students to ask for support. The project would engage students and ask them to be part of the evaluation process. Schaffer noted there would be a meeting held the following day with a number of organizations including Healthy Lamoille Valley, Laraway Youth Services, LRC, Recovery Center, Lamoille Family Center, DCF, Lamoille County Mental Health, Senator Leahy's Office, several students and others to proactively support individuals and the community. Elkin noted Reclaiming Futures was not a project that would be pushing students to get treatment, but more a youth and family-directed process.

Appoint Authorized Representatives for both LNSU and LNMUUSD for the VEHI/VSBIT Annual Meeting: Clark explained this was an annual request from VEHI's annual meeting. Boards were required to either appoint a representative or authorize the VEHI Board to be the District's proxy vote. This year no members of the School Board would be in attendance. This was for LNSU and LNMUUSD's unemployment and health insurance, and the LNSU for the multi-line program. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Barry, to authorize Nielsen to sign the proxy documents, which authorized the VEHI Board of Directors to vote on the LNMUUSD Board's behalf at the annual meeting. Clark then read the language of the proxy vote to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Deed Modification between LNMUUSD (previously LUSD #18) and David Stevenson for the Property Located at 986 VT Rt 15, Hyde Park (Red House): Clark informed the Board that the former veterinarian's building on Rt. 15 had been for sale. In October of 1982, the high school deeded the property to David Stevenson. Paragraph 1 of the deed limited to single or double purpose use, either professional or residential occupancy, and deemed that a veterinarian office was considered a professional use. It also included the right of first refusal to the School District of any subsequent transfer. In December of 1991, the original deed was modified to allow for double or triple purpose use, for residential, professional or artistic use and it added that no activity should be detrimental to the students of Lamoille Union High School. Stevenson was now ready to sell to the Lang's, who were seeking modification to the deed, to replace professional offices with service industry type business, replacing vet's office with a hair salon, retaining the language that no activity shall be detrimental to the students of Lamoille Union High school, and waiving the right of first refusal with regards to this transaction, but retaining the right of first refusal for future transactions on this property. Clark also noted there were some typos on the deed. Therefore, Clark asked for a motion that the Board approve that Nielsen sign a corrected warranty deed allowing for the changes in the deed as she had just explained, and changing the language from the Lamoille Union High School to Lamoille Union Middle and High School and GMTCC. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the request to have Nielsen sign the corrected warranty deed.

B. Sander asked how close this property was to the septic system. Laflam stated the property line and the septic system were very close. B. Sander noted there could be significantly increasing usage of the septic system and was concerned it would affect the District's septic system. Laflam stated he didn't believe it would affect the District's septic. Laflam stated the well was drilled when the school owned the property so the District was not liable to provide them with fresh water if the well became contaminated by the District's septic. Nate Lang informed the Board the tank was in good condition. It was a 1,000-gallon capacity. The Langs were working with the State to get the correct permits. The State would be letting them know whether the septic would work for what they wanted to do. Lang thought the tank ran parallel to the District's system.

Lang asked if the wording were different in the deed, would they need the right of refusal. Clark stated the right of refusal only related to any future conveyance. The District would have 45 days to do a right of refusal if they were going to sell the property. Clark explained that if the Langs were to change the business purpose it would have to return to the District in order to modify the warranty deed. Lang stated their intent was to have an Airbnb on the second floor. He asked if the Board would have to vote on that. Nielsen stated they were working on the particular items already written in the deed. Going outside of that with a separate business piece was a different question.

Clark suggested withdrawing the first motion. The closing was scheduled for October 24th. There would be a Finance and Capital Committee meeting on the 21st. The Board could allow that committee to decide whether any material changes to the deed could be made. Orost then made a motion, seconded by B. Sander, to table the vote and give the Finance and Capital Committee authorization to decide on the warranty deed changes. The motion passed unanimously.

LUHS Renovation Bond Validation Resolution: Clark read the resolution to the Board that referred to the posting requirements associated with the bond vote that had been held on September 3rd. State statute required that warnings of a municipal bond vote be posted in five locations within the municipality. The District had only been able to post the warning in three places in each town: the town clerk's office, the school and the post office. In total, the bond warning was posted in 17 places across the entire district. Per legal counsel, this validation resolution stated it was a valid vote. Orost made a motion to validate the results of the renovation bond, seconded by B. Sander. The resolution can be found at the end of these minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

VSBA Regional Meeting on 10/22/19 at GMTCC: Gallagher informed the VSBA Regional meeting would be held at GMTCC on October 22, 2019. Each Board member was sent an invitation and a link to register was provided at the bottom of the email. Gallagher encouraged all Board members to attend.

Central Office Report: Gallagher reported that negotiators for upcoming negotiations had been chosen: Darcy Fletcher would be the chief negotiator for the support staff, with two people having been chosen to co-negotiate for the teachers: Melissa Greenwood and Patrick LeClair. That process would begin next week. Gallagher reported that Nutrition Director Karyl Kent had been named President Elect for the Vermont School Nutrition Association at the Annual School Nutrition meeting. Kent's program of providing boxed dinners for students was now providing 120 dinners every single afternoon and was making a big difference to the students. The community cupboard was up now, filled with school supplies, clothing and food. The Farm to Table dinner had been very well attended.

Gallagher then reported the independent field review had taken place. Superintendents, community and Board members, the AOE, teachers and students from three other supervisory unions reviewed the work being done at this SU. They reviewed five areas: personalization, high quality staffing, academic proficiency, safe and healthy school climate and investment priorities. The District received spectacular comments from the team. Gallagher stated the District recognized that the work being done with proficiencies was really hard, but the review team loved seeing what all the schools were doing. The review team was very impressed with the sense of community. A formal write-up would be shared when she received it.

Gallagher recently attended the New England Association for Superintendents conference on anxiety, depression, suicide rates, and restorative work being done in schools. She highlighted the work of Jeff Levin as part of the Reconnection Project. Levin, working through Dartmouth Hitchcock, went into schools to work with students who suffered from anxiety, depression and substance abuse. Levin discussed the problem of superintendents not being able to converse honestly with their boards about the problems they were seeing in schools. This was definitely not the case with the LNMUUSD. Gallagher stated there was a problem with consumption and with mental health issues within the District. These problems were not going away. When asked, students noted the following as reasons for these problems: opiates, anxiety, phone addiction, rancor and corruption, poverty, hunger, trauma, struggling families, and climate change were some of the responses. Levin stated that what schools needed to focus on were the five I's: imaginations, intestinal fortitude or grit, independence, integrity and identity. The portrait of a Lamoille North Learner that everyone had worked so hard to roll out incorporated those five I's. Gallagher stated that while they wouldn't see change overnight, the District was moving in the right direction by doing best practices. Gallagher applauded the administration for their efforts and the Board for supporting the administration's work.

Principals/Director Updates:

Cambridge: Anderson congratulated the CES spelling bee team for winning the recent competition and expressed appreciation to all those who had put so much time and energy into it. A Welcome Back to CES video was now playing on a loop in the lobby. Community service projects were up and running and two Robtoy Farm trips were planned for October.

Hyde Park: Reilly stated they were becoming more active on social media with Twitter and Instagram postings. Their Facebook page was already up and running. Data Wise meeting protocols for all meetings were in place and they were working on a project to determine the root cause of the lack of improvement in literacy scores. Reilly noted that the town had contacted her about holding future Town Meetings at the school.

Middle School: Savery noted that October was the month of the young adolescent. The Alpha Team was engaged in a variety of activities to help promote this time period. There would be a presentation on October 25th from 1:45 to 3:00 p.m. Students would be sharing their poetry, small writing assignments, chorus and band presentations, student productions, etc. Savery provided information within her written report on what took place at the middle school during the integrated field review. Savery then shared information on LUMS's first BioBlitz. A student from the middle school had a sighting of a unique species of potter wasps. It was only the 20th record of that species and only the second in New England.

High School: Galan Reese reported it was Senior Night for the varsity girls' team. Haunted High would be held this Friday and Saturday. Wednesday was the boys' soccer Senior Night. Schaffer reported there was a great deal of very positive work that was unfolding and personalized learning was starting to take root. The school would be developing a "Portrait of a Lamoille North Learner in the Content Areas" for each subject and hoped to have a draft ready by the end of this school year. Students, teachers and staff recently recognized maintenance and facility staff during a community circle.

Schaffer then let the Board know that things were rough, not only at Lamoille Union but at other area schools. Administration, support staff, teachers, and counselors reported being on edge as simple concerns could quickly escalate. He reported some recent examples of the flare-ups that had occurred. Schaffer stated they needed additional assistance in responding immediately to those students in crisis. He hoped the Board would consider adding a Student Assistance Counselor. The staff was working very hard on building a school that was more responsive to students in the moment and not being punitive. However, there was a great deal of triage that needed to take place.

Philie was in support of Schaffer's request and asked what skills he was looking for in a candidate. Schaffer noted they had several mental health clinicians on the campus. However, they were restricted only to see students on their caseload. He was looking for someone who could support the administration, counselors, support staff and teachers. Miller agreed with the need to support Schaffer in his request. She asked what had happened with the previous staff person. Schaffer stated the last person had left in

2014. The position had been advertised several times and they had never found a qualified candidate. Last year the explosion of electronic devices being used for nicotine or THC required a number of administrators being pulled in to deal with issues in the moment. Hunsberger stated there was currently discussion about bringing social workers into schools to bridge the gap between school and home. There were alternative models available and Hunsberger encouraged Schaffer to review other possibilities.

Savery concurred with Schaffer's concerns, stating that over the last two years there had been a significant increase in many of the needs that Schaffer spoke about, providing a number of examples of children impacting others through their trauma. Decreased social skills were also an impact. Savery stated it was a true crisis in middle and high school.

GMTCC: Remmers reported that artwork from the Creative Media Art and Design program was on display at an internationally recognized art museum in Mexico City. Staff from Bernie Sanders' office had visited Robtoy Farm to recognize the work that Sam Rowley and Karyl Kent had done to develop the farm to school program and to determine what they could do to support the effort. Elementary students were visiting the farm and it was great to see the GMTCC students conducting tours. The construction program had started to work with Habitat for Humanity to build a home in Morrisville. Remmers invited the Board to attend the GMTCC Open House on October 30th.

Other Business: Aumand noted there was a copy in the Board packet of the Wellness Conference brochure. The conference would be held this Friday as part of the in-service day and was for all teachers and support staff to attend. Aumand invited Board members to attend.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion, seconded by B. Sander, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

VALIDATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, notice of the September 3, 2019 special meeting of the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District (the "District") was given in part by posting the Warning thereof from July 31, 2019 through September 3, 2019 in the Town Clerk's Office in each of the Towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park and Waterville, and also in several public places in each Town, and by publishing said Warning in the News & Citizen on August 15, August 22, and August 29, 2019; and

WHEREAS, as provided e in 24 V.S.A. § 1756, the Warning for said special District meeting was to be "posted in five public places within such municipality for two weeks immediately preceding the meeting"; and

WHEREAS, the Warning for said special District meeting was posted in less than five public places within each of the above-identified Towns; and

WHEREAS, the requisites of the statute relating to the posting of the Warning containing an Article of business relating to the proposition of incurring bonded indebtedness not having been complied with because of oversight, inadvertence or mistake of law or fact, the Board of School Directors desire to avail themselves of the validation provisions of 17 V.S.A. §2662 and 24 V.S.A. §1757; and

WHEREAS, at the September 3, 2019 special District meeting the proposition of incurring bonded indebtedness for the purpose of making public school building improvements (Article I) was approved, those voting in Favor being 387 and those voting Opposed being 253.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of School Directors hereby finds that, notwithstanding the failure to comply with all of the statutory requirements incident to the call, notice and warning of said special District meeting, the required length notice of the purpose of said special District meeting has been had; accordingly,

BE IT RESOLVED that, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the Board of School Directors hereby ratify, confirm and validate all action taken by the District at the special meeting thereof held on September 3, 2019.

I hereby certify that the foregoing was approved and adopted by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board of School Directors of the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District at a regular meeting thereof held on October 14, 2019.

ATTEST:

District Clerk