

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District
Minutes of Board Meeting
October 28, 2019**

Board Members Present: Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Bernard Barnes, Laura Miller; Hyde Park: Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Katie Orost, Angela Lamell, Mark Nielsen; Waterville: Bart Bezio (arrived at 6:11 p.m.)

Board Members Absent: Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Bill Sander, Jan Sander, Sue Prescott; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger, David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Chasity Fagnant; Johnson: Bobbie Moulton, Lauren Philie

Administrators Present: Michele Aumand, Jennifer Hulse, Brian Schaffer, Mary Anderson, Diane Reilly, Erik Remmers, Brian Pena, Dylan Laflam, Charleen McFarlane, Jade Hazard, Melinda Mascolino, David Manning, Jan Epstein

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order: Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. stating that they would only address non-voting items until a quorum was reached. A Board member was expected to arrive soon.

Finance & Capital Committee Meeting Report: Stebbins reported the Committee had reviewed three major items. The first item was the space use analysis that had been completed. The Committee reviewed the analysis with the architects and the full Board would receive the information at the November 11th meeting. The track at Cricket Hill had been discussed and Laflam had provided them with a four-phase plan. The Committee decided to table action on the issue of the track until after the first of the year. The third item reviewed by the Committee was the budget. Meetings had been scheduled and the plan was to have something to bring forward to the full Board in early January.

Health and Safety Committee Meeting Report: Lowe stated minutes from the last Committee meeting were in the packet. John Kidde and Evan Elkin had made a presentation to the Committee. No goals had yet been established.

At 6:11 p.m. a quorum was reached and the formal meeting of the Board commenced.

Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Stebbins made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Barry. The motion passed unanimously. No members of the public were present.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the October 14, 2019 Board Meeting and Safety & Wellness Committee Meeting,

October 21, 2019, Finance & Capital Committee Meeting: Barnes made a motion, seconded by Lamell, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: Miller made a motion to accept the board orders, seconded by Barnes. The motion passed unanimously.

Johnson Elementary Wellness Center Renovation Bids: Laflam informed the Board a change in HVAC had increased the price. The low bid was from Nathan Felch. The base bid was \$27,400 and with the additional HVAC items the total cost had increased to \$40,100. Laflam stated this was a fairly new company they were working with. Felch had done a roof repair in both Johnson and Eden. Laflam asked the Board to approve the expenditure of \$40,100 from the capital reserve for the Johnson Elementary School Wellness Center. \$5,000 of that would be reimbursed by CHSLV, bringing the ultimate total to \$35,100. Orost made a motion, seconded by Bezio, to approve the expenditure.

In response to questions, Laflam explained that room 203, currently being used for speech and physical therapy, would be split into two rooms. There would not be an outside entrance to the health center. The contractors would be impacting every single system in the building, i.e. sprinkler, fire alarms, HVAC, which explained the higher cost. Lamell asked if CHSLV would actually be able to provide providers. She was concerned about spending money if there were no providers willing to staff the clinic. Manning stated they had met with CHSLV and they had said they had providers that were interested in working at JES. Manning had the tentative numbers of doctor hours mapped out, with mental health counseling, dental, and primary care slots. The motion then passed by a vote of 4 in favor, Hayford and Lamell opposed, and Cambridge members abstaining.

Snowplowing Bids for Belvidere & Hyde Park: Laflam informed the Board they had put this bid out twice this year. The bid initially was to contract with a company for three years. No bids were submitted either time for Belvidere. One bid was received each time for Hyde Park. They would continue to look for someone to plow at Belvidere. The District wasn't able to send one of their own trucks to plow there. J.L. Audy LLC had submitted a bid for Hyde Park plowing of \$15,000 the first year and \$15,500 the second year. He would not commit to a three-year bid as he might retire. Both of those prices were substantially above what was budgeted currently by 30%. Orost made a motion to approve J.L. Audy LLC as the vendor for Hyde Park Elementary for a two-year bid, seconded by Lamell.

There followed a discussion about additional costs related to removing snow with dump trucks. Laflam responded to a question from Barry, stating that last year the same vendor had bid \$10,000 but with the costs associated with moving so much snow, \$14,200 had actually been paid out. So while it was not above the actual costs for last year, it was 30% above the previous bid. The motion passed by a vote of 3 ayes, 2 nays and 4 abstentions.

Release of Capital Reserve Funds for Clean Up and Removal of LU Science Dept. Waste: Laflam reported that VSBIT had recently performed a safety audit. They found a plethora of stockpiled chemistry and science chemicals that were now considered hazardous waste materials. The District had ninety days to remove the material. ENPRO Services of Vermont provided a quote of \$12,142.29 for the removal and disposal of all science and chemistry materials. A new system for inventory and ordering would be put in place and the Department Head would manage the inventory. Every three years chemicals must be disposed of and the cost would be approximately \$1,500. ENPRO suggested putting \$500 a year in the budget for the next three years for the disposal of future expired chemicals. Laflam asked that the Board move to approve the expenditure of \$12,142.29 from the Lamoille Union capital reserve fund for the removal and disposal of the expired chemicals. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the expenditure. Some Board members expressed concern that this situation had been going on for decades. Laflam stated that over the past several years he had not been able to determine who would remove the material. The motion then passed unanimously.

Central Office Report: Hulse read the Superintendent's Board Report to the members. Gallagher applauded Cambridge Elementary School for winning first place in the Regional Spelling Bee and they would now be moving on to the State Championship. Gallagher had attended the Middle School Assembly and later that day watched presentations of poetry, music, writing and singing. What stood out for her was how all students were very supportive of each other. Gallagher was able to see a presentation on aerospace engineering from a student in EPIC Academy. Gallagher then expressed appreciation to the Board for offering support to administrators on issues related to the handling of substance abuse issues. What was occurring was a microcosm of what was happening throughout Vermont and the United States. Gallagher then outlined the numbers of actions being taken to address this problem.

Gallagher then reported on proficiencies, which were receiving both positive and negative attention. 2020 was the first year that students would graduate with a new transcript. Gallagher explained how this state-mandated education policy of proficiency-based graduation requirements had come about and how

it played out for schools, students, and parents. Gallagher reported that in recent weeks the AOE had stated for the first time that how schools grade was a local decision but that did not mean they could return to traditional grading. She noted that more and more schools were opting to discontinue the SAT and ACT. Many students applying to college were including essays about proficiencies being used in their high school. Colleges were looking for unique individuals and a letter grade did not present a full picture of a student to the college.

McFarlane reported that Sue Prescott had attended the VSBA Regional Meeting last week. At present, the mediator had been working with both parties on the health insurance proposals and had not yet come to an agreement. The next step would be for both sides to present their last best offer to the arbitrator. A decision by the arbitrator on which proposal would be chosen would be on December 15th. The BNC met with the teachers and support staff last week. Goals of the meeting were accomplished, ground rules were agreed to and signed, and the next meetings were established. The HR Department was now working on open enrollment changes. McFarlane then stated that their first Wellness In-Service day had received rave reviews. All administration, support staff and teachers had attended. There was positive feedback from all of the District schools, so this would now become an annual event for all school staff. The Board applauded Michele Aumand for her work in organizing the event.

Principals/Director Updates:

Cambridge: Anderson reported on winning the Regional Spelling Bee. Anderson applauded the students who had studied so hard. Anderson stated that a long-time member of her support staff had told her the In-Service Day was the best she had attended.

Belvidere/Waterville: Epstein informed the Board they had had several field trips, with grades 4-6 going to the Flynn Theatre and Grades 1 through 3 going to Robtoy Farm. The students loved the farm and were impressed with the high school students who led the tours. They were going to have a food drive for Thanksgiving. Epstein had attended an excellent professional development training on anxiety with some new strategies to bring to her staff. Epstein noted there had been great parent turnout for report card conferences.

Eden: Mascolino stated she and four teachers had just returned from a Literacy For All conference. The keynote speaker was Kwame Alexander who is a poet and author of children's fiction. He was a terrific speaker and highlighted the fact that children need to be able to tell their stories. There was an open house last week and four out of seven classrooms had total parent participation. Mascolino said they were experiencing a spike in student behavior, both in intensity and frequency. They were wondering if the fact that there were now no free lunches was part of the problem or whether it was related to what was happening in the family. It was clear that children were suffering. DCF, Lamoille County Mental Health, and the Truancy Officer were all involved at the school at this point.

Hyde Park: Reilly stated that this was her ninth year at the school and it was the toughest year yet. There were students with behavioral issues who were coming in from preschool or from having had no schooling at all. There was a lot of aggression and more students in DCF custody. The 8th Annual Grandparent Dinner would be held, which in the past had served 500 people. Reilly and several others from the school had just finished the adult mental health first aid training and she stated it was a very powerful training. Reilly also expressed appreciation to M. Aumand for the Wellness Conference. A staff member had expressed appreciation for the number of excellent trainings the staff received.

Johnson: Manning stated the Business Assistant position had been empty since September. Someone had accepted the position but before the start date the person had declined the position and the process had to begin again. He noted someone would be starting in the position this week, but it had been good for him to learn the inner workings of payroll and the various office practices. He praised the staff of the Central Office for having been incredibly helpful. He noted these individuals weren't discussed often, but

they were unfailingly helpful to him. The gymnasium floor was now finished. Manning praised Laflam for stewarding the process. The staff and teachers had done great work managing lunches in the classrooms. Manning stated there had been visits from the local firefighters and the Sheriff's Department K-9 unit. Many classes had gone to the Robtoy Farm and the students really enjoyed those visits. This Thursday would be the annual mask parade, with students walking to Main Street in masks.

High School: Schaffer congratulated the cooperative football team for their recent 40-0 win. Schaffer then thanked the Board for their support following his discussion at the last Board meeting. He had developed a posting for a Student Assistance Coordinator. This position would be a real support. Following some very positive conversations with seniors, work was progressing on proficiency based reporting. They were continuing to take steps to develop reports that represented what students were learning.

GMTCC: Remmers informed the Board that the Automobile Program had volunteered with the Stowe Rotary Club to offload tires. The Construction Program was working with Habitat for Humanity on a building and also working with the Forestry Program to repair a roof. The Allied Health Program was training most of the other programs on Stop Bleed. The Sustainable Agriculture Program was hosting a large number of field trips. The Culinary Program would be holding an Open House this week and serving a dinner.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Orost, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.