

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 13, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Laura Miller, Jan Sander, Bill Sander; Eden: David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Chasity Fagnant, Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Katie Orost, Mark Nielsen, Angela Lamell, Allen Audette, Jr; Waterville: Bart Bezio

**Board Members Absent:** Cambridge: Bernard Barnes, Sue Prescott, Johnson: Bobbie Moulton

**Administrators Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Janet Murray, Denise Maurice, Brian Schaffer, Jeremy Scannell, Diane Reilly, Jennifer Hulse, Jan Epstein, David Manning, Melinda Mascolino, Brian Pena, Erik Remmers, Wendy Savery

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Orost made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Stebbins. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

**LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items:**

**Minutes of the March 30, 2020, SPECIAL meeting:** J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Bezio, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Orders:** Miller made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the Board Orders. The motion passed unanimously.

**Personnel:**

**Approve LUMS Principal Hire:** Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Orost, to approve this item. McFarlane stated the recommendation from Superintendent Gallagher was to approve a two-year contract for Denise Maurice as the Middle School Principal beginning July 1, 2020. McFarlane explained there had been nine applicants for the position, three candidates had advanced through the screening committee to the interview committee. The interview committee recommended two candidates as finalists. One of the candidates then withdrew their candidacy, leaving Maurice as the single finalist.

Gallagher stated that Maurice had been a principal in the past in both a private and public school setting, had been a curriculum director, had worked in restorative practices, and had worked with PBIS. Maurice knew the students, families and systems that she'd be working with. Gallagher said this was especially important now. Gallagher gave Maurice her highest recommendation, stating Maurice was a calm force, knew the system, and was a team player.

Orost asked for information on the structure of the screening and interview committee. McFarlane stated the goal had been to ensure that all staff were represented. Members included team leaders, special education staff, support staff, and student services staff. Because of the COVID situation they were not able to do the in-school part of the process. An all-staff Google hangout meeting had been held recently. However, no parents were able to be involved. Orost was disappointed that no parents were able to participate. McFarlane noted they were unable to hold a meet and greet for parents, but a video of Maurice had been posted for all of the public to view.

The motion to approve the hire of Denise Maurice as the Middle School Principal was approved unanimously.

**Central Office:** Gallagher reported to the Board on the current status of COVID-19. There were presently 748 cases in Vermont. While case numbers were growing there was some thought that Vermont might be

reaching a plateau. The Governor had extended the stay at home order until May 15th. The Health Commissioner strongly encouraged individuals to wear facial coverings. Gallagher encouraged people to set the example of wearing masks.

Gallagher praised the work of Karyl Kent and those who were helping her by continuing to serve meals to students. Over 7,600 meals were served last week. The Supervisory Union was now a hub for the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) because they had made a decision not to serve food to their students. Funds would be reimbursed, but, more importantly, Gallagher saw this as a sign of goodwill of this SU. Gallagher then recognized the work of Brian Pena who had been putting safe platforms forward to use. The District had been using Zoom and it had become clear that it was not the best platform to use. Teachers had become accustomed to it and liked using it. However, Secretary French instructed districts not to use Zoom. There were too many security breaches. Zoom could be used for Board meetings and staff meetings but would not be used for staff meetings in which students were discussed or community forums. The District would now be moving from maintenance learning to new learning and the AOE had accepted the District's submitted plan.

Clark reported to the Board that she had participated in a webinar last week with the head of the Joint Fiscal Office. There were concerns about future cash flow, but Clark stated that this year's cash flow should be okay. Going into FY22 there would be lost revenue, particularly in the consumer taxes that supported education. Therefore, this year would close out with a deficit where they had planned on surpluses to help with FY21-22. There were questions as to how much would be saved on transportation costs. Clark didn't believe they would save a lot because the contract for those services covered fixed costs. There could be a small savings in fuel costs and driver hours. In addition, for the current fiscal year, under special education there was still a question unanswered by the state as to how to reimburse special education costs under COVID line items. The District was obligated to pay those costs but it was unclear whether the general fund was responsible. If so, those costs had not been budgeted for.

Clark stated that she and the Chair of the Finance and Capital Committee were calling for a meeting on Monday, April 20th. They would then like to call a special meeting of the Board on April 27th to initiate strategic planning for FY20 and FY21.

Clark stated they had received guidance from the state on what to do about budgets. It appeared the District might receive COVID assistance totaling 80% of the FY20 Title 1 allocation, which was well over \$400,000. It was unclear whether that would be provided on a reimbursement basis. The District had implemented a budget freeze for everything that wasn't directly supporting remote functions and remote learning. She stated they were still okay for the current fiscal year; however, it was unclear whether there would be surpluses or how COVID would affect the budget.

Miller asked if there would be a greater need for ESY summer services. Hulse stated the Special Educator Directors regional group was meeting to talk about ESY and compensatory services. They had reached out to the AOE to provide very clear guidance on the language regarding compensatory services. ESY was going to happen and was a right under IDEA. It was unclear what it would look like though and it was unclear whether there would be a bigger caseload.

The Board members agreed to hold a special meeting of the Board on April 27, 2020.

### **Principal/Director Reports:**

**Belvidere/Waterville:** Epstein reported they were staying connected with their community through a Facebook page. Some traditions such as Student of the Week continued, as well as a principal's lunch once a month. A group of students joined her on Friday for a virtual lunch. Epstein said the teachers had been doing a really good job. Changing learning platforms this week had been difficult. They had held several staff meetings this week to help staff learn how to use Google hangouts. It was great to see teachers doing some interactive read alouds and mini-lessons.

**Eden:** Mascolino stated she had joined a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade meeting. Students were excited to see each other and to have opportunities to ask questions about their assignments and their work. They had narrowed down the number of families they had not be able to reach to three or four families. Mascolino reported that this week's break was important for both teachers and families. Switching to a different computer platform at the end of last week and getting ready to learn more about DreamBox Learning had overwhelmed some of the teachers.

**Hyde Park:** Reilly reported things were going well. Feedback from parents was that they wanted to see the faces of staff members, so humorous pictures were being posted to Facebook. The food being distributed by bus was very well received and much appreciated, with students greeting staff along the way. The school was holding two full staff meetings a week, with fifty teachers participating. The staff was following the continuation of learning plan and would be starting new learning on April 20<sup>th</sup> as well as taking attendance. Reilly noted there was a disparity in teachers being comfortable with technology. However, teachers were supporting each other and the Technology Department had been fantastic.

**Johnson:** Manning reported they were set up to start taking attendance on April 20<sup>th</sup>. He was proud of the flexibility the teachers had demonstrated. They had distributed surveys, taken feedback from students and parents, and had been rapidly changing the style and amount of work given. Manning believed that parents and students had more of a voice than they'd ever had in education. Manning had been able to participate in a debate that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class had held that was really well done and a quality on-line learning activity. Manning also sat in on a 3-year-old preschool class meeting. It had been impressive to watch the students interact with the teacher and present work that had been done at home. Manning noted there were about twenty students who hadn't engaged at all with the school. The school counselor was working on contacting those students.

**Middle School:** Maurice was amazed by how much the teachers put into the planning of curriculum and determining how students would access the information. One teacher was planning on doing his book groups and much of last week he worked with a variety of groups to ensure that each of his students would have the book for their individual book groups. He was then arranging small group meetings using Google to discuss the books, much like they would in class. Team Infinity was able to maintain some of their normalcy by bringing the Lancer Pride celebration to a video and posting it for the school community to see. One team was averaging about 95% of their students connecting with the team on a weekly basis. The switch from Zoom to Google was difficult but teachers were pivoting to the new platform. The attendance procedure was in place.

**High School:** Schaffer reported there was a bevy of new course proposals that had just been presented to the Curriculum Committee. With Dana Jewett retiring, interviews had been taking place to fill the Assistant Principal position. Schaffer was looking for someone with experience. Schaffer stated they provided daily morning announcements each school day and multiple faculty meetings were held each week. Each Friday teachers and students were coming together to present a video during daily announcements.

**Technical Center:** Remmers stated they were working very hard to make sure students were receiving as relevant of a career technical education experience as they could. Remmers continued to be impressed with how the teachers were connecting with their students. This included partnerships with some of the industry certification credentialing agencies, in particular in the culinary and auto areas. Those agencies had opened up online courses for students to stay on track in order to obtain IRC's.

**Other Business:** There was no additional business.

**Adjourn:** Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Lowe, to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.