

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union District Board Meeting  
Green Mountain Technology Career Center  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 23, 2018**

**Members Present:** Belvidere: Angie Evans; Cambridge: Sue Prescott (arrived at 6:20 p.m.), B. Sander, Laura Miller, Mark Stebbins; Eden: David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Andrew Beaupre, Chasity Fagnant, Patti Hayford, Lisa Barry; Johnson: Angela Lamell; Waterville: Amanda Tilton-Martin (arrived at 6:24 p.m.)

**Members Absent:** Cambridge: J. Sander; Johnson: Katie Orost, Bobbie Moulton, Mark Nielsen, Heather Rodriguez

**Others Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Michele Aumand, Diane Reilly, Melinda Mascolino, Brian Schaffer, David Manning, Wendy Savery, Janet Murray, Jennifer Stevens, Dana Jewett, Sherry Lussier, Karyl Kent, Dylan Laflam, Jan Epstein, Emma Grove-Griffith, Mary Anderson, Pat LaClair

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Lisa Barry made a motion, at the request of Gallagher, to table the following items until the May meeting: the Heidi Rich sabbatical update, the approval of the SPED new hire for Eden Central School, the Eden Central School Driveway and Parking Lot Reconstruction and Paving Bid, and the Hyde Park School IT Infrastructure. Additionally, it was requested that the GMTCC personnel issues item be moved and placed under Central Office. Fagnant seconded the motion. The motion to approve the amended agenda passed unanimously. There was no public comment. B. Sander informed the Board that Jim Condos, Vermont's Secretary of State would be at the Hyde Park Town Clerk's Office the following evening to discuss voter integrity. He suggested students might want to attend.

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

**Minutes of the April 9, 2018, Meeting:** B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Beaupre, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Orders:** B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the Board Orders. Miller stated she wanted to report there was one company the District was paying late charges to. Miller didn't want to pay late fees. She noted that Central Office was looking into the matter. Clark explained there was confusion with the contract and where the bill should be sent. B. Sander noted this was a recurring problem that had been going on for years. Clark stated the District generally didn't pay late fees. If there were late fees, the District could often go back and negotiate a refund. The motion passed unanimously.

**Farm to School Presentation:** Gallagher introduced Karyl Kent and Pat LaClair to the Board. Kent began by thanking the Board and staff for the support she'd received since she began working for the District. LaClair explained that he was the Latin teacher and was the adult facilitator of the middle and high school Environmental Club. LaClair explained that a farm to school program worked to increase access and connection to good local foods. The reason to offer this program was because local food was better tasting with more nutrients, and it connected the community and the classroom. Kent noted that food wasn't nutritious unless students ate the food. LaClair stated that healthy, well-nourished students were better learners and grew into wise consumers. He also noted that teaching about food had a common thread that connected to science, math, social studies, and literature.

LaClair informed the Board the program had begun two years ago when they were awarded a \$2,400 grant from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. The goal was to procure local food for the cafeteria, provide professional development for teachers to bring ideas related to that food to classrooms, create a mobile cooking cart to allow teachers to bring food to their classrooms, and, finally, to hold a community

dinner to ensure the work could be sustainable and continue. Kent reported a Community Harvest Dinner had been held in October. It was so successful they planned to do it again. Food products were all purchased from local farms. Approximately 80 people attended and \$600 was raised in donations. She noted that the GMTCC students cooked pasta for the event.

The grant funding also allowed the program to hire Ryan Morra of VT FEED (Food Education Every Day) to provide professional development to the middle and high school teachers. Morra's focus was on how to bring ideas into the classroom, such as using chemistry and math skills to make cheese. The number of ideas that the teachers were contributing was very encouraging to Kent. 24 teachers attended this optional professional development course. Kent provided the Board with information about the mobile cooking cart that went from classroom to classroom. Kent estimated that 175 students had worked with the mobile cooking cart over the past two months. They hoped to be able to provide the elementary schools with a cooking cart as well. The Biology class was learning about preserving food using the cart, French class was making omelets, and the Entrepreneurial class was working on ways to refine recipes to make products to sell. LaClair explained there was a school garden on Cricket Hill, but they were hoping to bring it closer to the middle and high school and were applying for grants to be able to do so. Kent stated they had hosted a procurement meeting with VT FEED and Lamoille South. There were some added values that would be added into the procurement policy, such as whether the farm would host field trips. That would allow the smaller farms to be more competitive with the larger suppliers. Farms were identified during the procurement meeting and bids would be sent out to them. Kent thought that having Lamoille South be part of the purchasing group would be more lucrative for the farmers.

Kent outlined actions being taken in some of the other schools: they had obtained a grant for a breakfast kiosk in the middle school with 25-30 extra breakfasts being provided per day; a dairy grant allowed the District to purchase equipment to make smoothies from local food suppliers. These smoothies provided a full breakfast that was reimbursable, and both Eden and Waterville were recipients of the equipment. Eden also was the recipient of a milk cooler grant and a salad bar. Next year Hyde Park would be using an old-fashioned milk dispenser with milk from Kingdom Creamery. Waterville and Hyde Park would also have a salad bar. Student response to the salad bar in Eden was that children were enjoying eating vegetables and there was less waste. LaClair noted that students were excited about new foods being introduced to them. He credited Kent's vision and leadership in providing new and exciting options for student meals.

LaClair informed the Board that eight Lamoille North employees were accepted to attend the 2018 Farm to School Institute in June of 2018 to be held at Shelburne Farms. A team from Lamoille South would be going as well which would help in future collaborations. Kent stated they were first to approach the Farm to School effort as a district. While many schools had worked on this initiative on an individual basis, Lamoille North had a broader vision in which all District schools participated. Kent and LaClair would be seeking more funding with the goal being to hire a District Farm to School Coordinator position. They believed the program would be able to grow if a person were able to dedicate their time to that specific mission. Additionally, they hoped to bring students to local farms and have farmers come to schools to have lunch with students. Miller asked if the farmers had to be organic farmers. Kent said they did not. It was more important that the farmers be local. In response to a question from Miller about the milk dispenser, Kent reported that the amount of waste that would be eliminated as a result of not using individual milk cartons would be substantial.

**Update on In-District Transfer Applications:** Gallagher reported the deadline for applications had been April 15<sup>th</sup>. Gallagher met with the principals impacted by requests: Manning, Reilly, and Mascolino. Seven families requested transfers and the District determined they were able to honor all requests. Three children requested to attend Hyde Park Elementary, while five would be transferring. Six students requested to attend Johnson Elementary, while two students would be transferring. Six students requested to attend Eden Central, while two students would be transferring. Parents would be reminded that transportation would not be provided. In response to a question from B. Sander, Gallagher explained the requests were made due to moves and Pre-K accommodations.

**LNSU/LN MUUSD Student Freedom of Expression Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Gallagher reminded the Board that this was a required VSBA policy and no substantive changes could be made. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Beaupre, to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

**LNSU/LN MUUSD End of Year Teacher Appreciation:** Gallagher stated that at the last meeting they had discussed the previous Board’s practice of providing a campus-wide lunch at the end of the school year. The Board was now looking at whether to provide something to all schools within the District. Gallagher’s recommendation was that if the Board chose to do something for one school, it must be extended to all schools. Barry reported that the District she worked for provided a tray of vegetables and dips to each building during teacher/staff appreciation week. Fagnant agreed that something should be done at all schools during teacher appreciation week. Stebbins noted that schools already had routines established during their teacher appreciation week. It was the end of the school year that this discussion was focusing on. Beaupre asked what would happen if the Board lunch were eliminated. In response to a question, Schaffer stated that while the last day of school was a good time for recognitions and a lunch, teacher appreciation week was a good time for the Board to participate in a number of events that took place during that time, such as National Honor Society. Prescott noted the Board had not traditionally done anything toward teacher appreciation week. The Board had done something for all employees on the last day of school, including recognition of service, etc. Manning suggested that whatever the Board did for the middle and high school should be duplicated at all buildings. Otherwise the elementary schools would feel left out. Manning thought the elementary school teachers would like to know that the Board appreciated their work. Jewett stated he would like to see the tradition continue. Barry stated it was the first full year as a new Board and it was a good time to do something at each of the school campuses. Barry thought it went a long way in showing appreciation to staff. It was determined that Gallagher would organize a subcommittee of the Communications Committee and include a representative from each town to determine the next step.

**Personnel Items:**

**LU Food Service - Approve Rate for Food Service Worker:** Laflam outlined the prior experience of Nathan Young, a candidate for the food service worker position. Young had twenty years of food service background and had seven years of experience working with students at the ski program at Smugglers’ Notch. Laflam asked for approval to hire Young at a Step 5, \$12.80 per hour. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Tilton-Martin, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**LU Custodial – Approve Rate for Custodian:** Laflam informed the Board this position had been open for two months and had been difficult to fill. Laflam stated they had now selected Travis Rogers to fill the position. While he had no direct custodial experience, he was a certified master mechanic with a great deal of experience in a number of areas. Laflam asked for approval to hire Rogers at a Step 3, \$12.40 per hour. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve GMTCC Allied Health Instructor New Hire:** Lussier stated they had chosen to hire Heidi Richards, an in-house candidate. She had worked at the LU Nurse’s Office, had taught adult education classes, had provided clinical supervisions and had substituted in Allied Health over the last few years. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Tilton-Martin, to approve the hire of Heidi Richards. Miller asked if the candidate needed a degree or license. Lussier explained that three to six years of experience in the industry was required. This often meant a candidate didn’t have a teaching license. Therefore, GMTCC paid for the candidates to attend a teacher apprentice program. The motion to approve the hire then passed unanimously.

**GMTCC Curriculum Change Request:** Lussier explained that the typical process for curriculum changes was to go to the Regional Advisory Board first, followed by the LN MUUSD and then the Agency of Education. Due to time constraints, Lussier needed to bring the request to the LN MUUSD Board first. The change being requested would allow more students the flexibility to access classes in IT, coding, and

cybersecurity at GMTCC by offering morning or afternoon classes. Schaffer stated he endorsed the change and noted that the administration had been working on creating schedules that opened up educational opportunities for students. He also stated that Act 77 pushed schools to offer more flexible educational pathways for students. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Beaupre, to approve the curriculum change request. B. Sander asked whom these classes would be available to. Lussier stated primarily students at Lamoille Union High School. It would be difficult for students at other schools to attend partial day classes. Lussier agreed it wasn't fair to the sending schools. In response to a question from Fagnant, Lussier stated this option was only for juniors and seniors. The motion passed unanimously. B. Sanders asked that the normal protocol be followed in the future.

**LUMS/LUHS/GMTCC Snowplowing Services Bid:** Laflam stated that last year all the elementary schools had been combined in a bid process. The Lamoille Union campus had been kept separate because the campus was quite large and held many night and weekend activities. Laflam received one bid in response to an RFP. J.L. Audy had already been doing the work for almost ten years. Laflam stated that other companies weren't interested in bidding because the stipulations placed on the work were too much for them to accommodate. Laflam also stated that this contractor not only plowed, but also brought in a loader to remove the snow. Tilton-Martin made a motion to accept J.L. Audy's three-year bid of \$24,850 for the first year, \$25,850 for the second year, and \$26,850 for the third year. Fagnant seconded the motion. In response to a question from Miller, Laflam stated he was trying to move most of these services into three-year contracts. Miller also was concerned that the cost was too high. Board members noted the higher costs that other businesses were paying for plowing and expressed satisfaction with this contract. The motion then passed unanimously.

**Central Office Report:** Gallagher started by stating that the snow day attempt at a waiver had not been approved. There would now be a half-day on the last day of school, which would be June 18<sup>th</sup>. Gallagher then noted that safety grants were available for all schools at a maximum of \$25,000 per school. She would be working with school administrators to determine what items individual schools wished to purchase. These decisions would be based on the results of the safety survey performed by Lt. Lucas and suggestions from the State. Prescott asked if matching funds were required and Gallagher stated they were not. Fagnant asked if Hyde Park would be getting a safety audit. Laflam stated that VSBIT would be contacted to review the new building.

#### **GMTCC Personnel Issues:**

B. Sander then made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters, the premature public knowledge of which would place the District at a substantial disadvantage. One involved the Tech Center and one involved the Central Office. All Board members and Lussier were invited to stay for the first item and Board members and Clark were invited to stay for the second item. Stebbins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. The Board finished discussion on the Tech Center item at 7:09 p.m. The Board finished discussion on the Central Office item at 7:12 p.m. No action was taken.

Stebbins then made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Board members and the Superintendent were invited to stay. Tilton-Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m. The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. No action was taken.

#### **Elementary Principal Updates:**

**Belvidere/Waterville:** Epstein reported they were preparing for the SBAC testing.

**Cambridge:** Anderson reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders put on a Cambridge History Night. Many elders of the community spent time with the students during the course of study and attended the evening event. This Wednesday, students would be participating in National Walk to School Day. Because there were no sidewalks in Cambridge, they would be walking around the playing fields. Also on Wednesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders would be launching the rockets they had designed and built with the Starbase Program. The Ronald McDonald dental van would be coming to the school from May 7<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> to provide

dental services to students who did not have them otherwise. This effort was organized by the school nurse and was very popular and important.

**Eden:** Mascolino reported that students had told her they were excited to be back at school. The school bought seeds this week and planned to plant pumpkins for the October Fest, plant potatoes for the kitchen to use and plant other fall vegetables as well. There were two new kitchen staff beginning today. Mascolino also stated there would be two special education positions opening in the fall. The school was preparing for the SBAC testing next week.

**Hyde Park:** Reilly reported the school was wrapping up the Children's Literacy Foundation grant. Throughout the year, the Lanpher Library had been bringing books to the school every other week, there had been a free book giveaway, and the final event would be meeting Jim Arnosky, a nature author, at the library. Reilly stated that a highlight this year had been working with Lanpher Library. Laflam also stated that Wright Morrissey would be providing trim detail at no cost, and a new scoreboard was being paid for by the tournament organization.

**Johnson:** Manning reported that the school nurse has been working with area partners to put on a health fair at the end of May. There would be booths with representatives from a variety of agencies offering information on bike helmet and car seat safety, dental hygiene, etc. Free bike helmets would be distributed. Manning had started planning for next year's teacher committee assignments. A survey had been sent today to staff to get their feedback on what type and structure of committees they'd like to see. Manning then reported that Johnson and Waterville would be sharing a pre-school teacher and hiring would start for that position. This was the only opening Johnson had right now.

**Middle School:** Savery congratulated Sydney Copp for a successful play/musical. Culture Fest would be held this Friday morning and Board members were invited to attend. Next year's placement process would start in two weeks.

**High School:** Schaffer reported that the Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together group led by Pat LaClair were working on creating dialogue between students and adults at school on focused issues around culture, proficiency-based learning, and flexible pathways to education. The organization was collating and coding responses from conversations with community members and students and working on a simple communication piece on what it meant to graduate from LUHS. Schaffer then reported that contracts had been extended to teachers.

**GMTCC:** Lussier reported that the Allied Health students were doing their clinicals at the Manor and Copley Hospital and preparing for their LNA testing. Green Mountain Tech did not receive any information from the AOE on testing and she speculated that it was because the SBAC was changed from Grade 11 to Grade 9 and there were no 9<sup>th</sup> graders at GMTCC. Lussier was attempting to have the sending schools do the testing for the students. Lussier reported that NEASC had accepted GMTCC's two-year report without changes. Matt Neckers was awarded another Artist in Residence for the fall. The Tanzania funds were almost in place so they would definitely be going. The scheduled dates of the trip were July 18<sup>th</sup> through August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business:** There was no other business to discuss.

**Adjourn:** B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.