

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union District Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
June 10, 2019**

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

Board Members Absent: Cambridge: Sue Prescott, Bernard Barnes; Eden: David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Patti Hayford

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Jennifer Hulse, Brian Schaffer, Janet Murray, Dylan Laflam, Diane Reilly, Jeremy Scannell, Melinda Mascolino, Brian Pena, Jeremy LaClair, Jade Hazard, Student Representatives Maggie McGee and Galen Rose, David Manning (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)

Others: Amber Carbine-March, Kim Hoffman, Nick Allen, Allen Audette. Students: Hayden Cheever, Jasper Henderson, Erubey Lopez, Wenzdae Wendling

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Nielsen reported the Elementary School Principals, Middle School, High School and GMTCC Director Reports would be postponed. The LU Track Discussion item was moved to Public Comment. Stebbins made a motion to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Bobbie Moulton. The motion passed unanimously.

Students spoke briefly about the value and importance of making a track for track and field events. Once a week students went to People's Academy to use their track, but issues associated with that solution were cited. It was also noted that track had the highest number of participants in spring sports and had experienced enormous growth over the past few years. High jump and long jump athletes had no place to practice at Lamoille. B. Sander asked if anyone had researched the cost associated with developing a track and the location they were looking at. McGee stated Cricket Hill was the preferred location and she would be willing to research the costs over the summer. B. Sander noted that some of that area had been designated as a replacement septic field. The conversation continued later in the meeting under several agenda items.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the May 13, 2019 Meeting and Minutes from any Committee Meetings: B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: Miller made a motion to accept the Board Orders. B. Sander seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Belvidere Board Member Appointment: Gallagher reported one letter had been received for the position. Stephanie Sweet had served on the local Belvidere Board for some years. Following the positive recommendation of the Belvidere Selectboard, Stebbins made a motion to approve the appointment of Stephanie Sweet to the Board. The motion was seconded by Hunsberger and passed unanimously.

EPIC Academy Presentation: Gallagher introduced Kim Hoffman and Amber Carbine-March. They explained that students participating in EPIC could choose to participate in traditional classes while also participating in EPIC activities. Students would be instructed on how to complete a project that they were passionate about. Teacher mentors would work with the students to ensure they stayed on track to achieve all the proficiencies required. English, science, history and math mentors were already available, but consultants within the school were also accessible. The use of consultants and activities outside of the school, such as employers, politicians, internships or job shadowing, were encouraged as part of the project-based learning program. Rather than following the traditional teacher model, mentors in the program will monitor the progress of the students in order to help them make the connections to the academic material and to community members that would be helpful to them. Each day of the Academy would begin and end with group meetings with a mentor. This would be a supportive group that would

capture what was done that day and brainstorm ideas on what a student's next move might be if they were stuck in their project.

Hoffman and Carbine-March had visited nine Vermont schools that were doing projects similar to the Academy and attended several consortiums to see what students were doing. They provided, as an example, a freshman from Winooski who was interested in renewable energy and had created his own solar powered phone charger. He had done all the work himself by contacting consultants and getting information from them. At the end of the project, he not only had a new phone charger, but he also had a number of contacts in the renewable energy industry. Doing this real world, hands-on, project met a lot of the proficiencies required to graduate. Several other student case studies from throughout the State were provided to the Board.

Four students came forward to outline the projects they would be working on ranging from composing and choreographing a musical, engineering design, designing a program for elementary students to learn to Nordic ski, broadcasting, designing heated underwear for Nordic skiers, encouraging student activism and researching how to change the law so that 16-year-olds could vote.

Hoffman and Carbine-March stated that the most successful academies were ones that supported the students in small groups and were shown models on designing and developing a project, how to engage with community members, etc. Students who had participated at other schools noted that it was frightening at the beginning because they had never been trained in this type of effort. They had always done what they were told and now they were told to take full responsibility for developing their projects. Hoffman and Carbine-March explained how students would develop these skills and how employers and colleges would benefit from the initiative and independence the students experienced and the skills they had developed through project-based learning at EPIC Academy. More information could be found at: <https://www.epicacademyvt.com>

B. Sander asked whether the school had thought of offering more college credit courses or applying for early admission at colleges. Sander also agreed with the idea of working with legislators to see how that process worked. A student responded that she did not want to apply for early admission as she was in three varsity sports and other extracurricular activities and wanted to enjoy her senior year at Lamoyille. This program would offer her a great experience. Miller asked how students would apply for EPIC and whether students could be rejected from the program. For equity alone, Hoffman stated that everyone who applied could be in EPIC. The more the student needed, the more attention that student would receive.

Hoffman and Carbine-March were asked if a student who was not self-driven could be successful in EPIC. They responded that for equity sake they didn't want to develop a program for students who were already self-motivated and self-driven. The program was built to get students excited about learning and coming to school. Mentors would be working more often with those particular students.

Facilities/Technology

JES Mini-Splits/HVAC Bid Result: Clark reported that bids were received from Merrill Mechanical for \$40,800 and A. Thivierge Heating and A/C LLC for \$27,726.27. Orost made a motion, seconded by Fagnant, to approve the low bid of \$27,726.27 from A. Thivierge Heating and A/C LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

JES and WES Integrated Public Address Systems Bid Result: Clark explained this project was part of the State of Vermont School Safety Grant and would be eligible for up to 75% reimbursement once completed. Two bids were received: Integrity Communications for a combined \$34,470 and Vermont Electrical Contracting for a combined \$80,820. The administration recommended accepting the low bid of \$43,470 from Integrity Communications. Orost made a motion to approve the administration's recommendation, seconded by Fagnant, and the motion passed unanimously. The Cambridge Board members abstained.

ECS Lenovo 11E Bid Result: Clark explained they had received matching bids for Lenovo 11E laptops for Eden Central School from GovConnection and CDW of \$24,375. The administration recommended the

Board accept the bid of GovConnection based on the rapidness of response and delivery timelines. The District had worked with GovConnection several times and they had been great to work with. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation and the motion passed unanimously. The Cambridge Board members abstained.

LU Lancer 1:1 Bid Result: Clark informed the Board they were coming up on the fourth year of the Lancer 1:1 program. They had received three bids to support the Lamoille Union 1:1 program: GovConnection for \$188,001, SHI for \$163,317.60 and Apple Inc. for \$110,146.50. The administration recommended accepting the bid from Apple Inc., primarily because of the low bid but also because these devices were similar to what was currently being used. Jeff Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Philie, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

District-Wide Firewall Bid Result: Clark informed the Board they had received six responses from vendors to provide a solution to support the firewall, content filtering, redundancy and increased internet access via higher throughput. IT had focused on the Fortigate 600E and the administration requested the Board move to accept the bid of \$47,797.29 from Carousel Industries based on lower cost and successful prior projects completed in the District. The administration also requested the Board set a “not to exceed” cost of \$51,000 with funding provided through capital reserves. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

LU IT Room Expansion Bid Result: Clark informed the Board that the LNMUUSD had requested bids from nine vendors to provide a solution to support the Lamoille Union Campus IT Intermediate Distribution Frame (IDF) room expansion project. Funding for the request would come from remaining operational funds at Lamoille Union and GMTCC. This project would need to be done within the next few years and because funds were available this year the administration wanted to get started. The administration requested that the Board accept the bid of \$42,030 from AMNET Global based on lower cost and previous successful purchase and delivery of items. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

District Website Update: Pena informed the Board that they had contacted current and long-term customers of Finals site. There were no complaints. The recommendation of IT was to go with Finals site, with a mid-January launch.

LU Track: Laflam explained they had determined they could accommodate up to three full size soccer fields and a track on seven acres on Cricket Hill. Laflam would be working with engineers to determine the work that was required. He estimated this would be between a \$200,000 and \$300,000 project. The next step would be to hire an engineer to do preliminary work on the design. B. Sander asked if any of the potential areas would overlap with the designated replacement septic fields. Laflam stated it was possible but he couldn't confirm it.

Revenue Anticipation Note/Line of Credit Bid Result: Clark informed the Board that the District's Revenue Anticipation Note was currently with Community Bank N.A. Their bid for the FY2020 RAN offered 2.75% on the debt or lending rate and a potential earning rate of 3.25% with an associated investment with a spread of 0.50%. They also would provide 1.5% on all amounts in operating accounts in excess of the \$6.276 million Revenue Anticipation Note meaning there was an opportunity to make some money. This year the District made \$155,000 to date in interest. Union Bank offered 2.30% interest on the lending with an earning rate of 2.65% or a spread of 0.35%. They also offered an interest rate of 2.65% on all funds that exceeded the loan amount. Community National Bank offered a lending rate of 2.80% with an earning rate of 3.20% or a spread of 0.40%. They offered an interest rate of 2.05% for amounts exceeding the loan amount.

Last year Clark recommended Union Bank because they had stepped up with a higher interest rate on funds that exceeded the loan amount. Orost made a motion, seconded by Philie, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously, with Nielsen abstaining from the vote.

JES Food Services: Clark informed the Board that going into FY2020, Johnson would become a regular pay-for-service site with free and reduced students as well as whole pay students. The Abbey Group was not comfortable renewing their contract for the last year of the four-year renewal, not knowing what the participation and budget would look like. They had terminated their contract with a 90-day warning. The District would be going out to bid for this service. Clark anticipated a food service bid available at the first meeting in August. B. Sander asked if there was consideration of managing the food service in-house. Clark stated that was always a discussion. In response to a question, Clark explained that community eligibility was determined based on direct certification of students. Direct certification meant that students or someone in the family of a student was eligible for other statewide social programs and was on the state register. Once the district reached a certain threshold percentage (40% or higher), the school then become CEP-eligible. It had nothing to do with applying for a grant. Manning noted that five years ago the number of eligible students was at 52%. This year it was in the mid-30's.

Authorize IDEA-B Grant Administration: The Board was asked to authorize and certify that the Superintendent of Schools accept and administer IDEA-B grants. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by B. Sander, to authorize the Superintendent to administer the IDEA-B Grant program. Philie asked what the grant was for and Clark explained it was grant money from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve SPED Van Lease Buyout: Clark reported they were coming to the end of two special education van leases. The administration's intention was to exercise the end of lease purchase option. There were too many miles on the vehicles to return the vehicles, pay the penalty for usage overage, and then purchase new vans. These vans were Toyota Siennas and had been well taken care of along the way. One van had 77,000 miles on it and the other had almost 79,000. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve the lease buyout. The motion passed unanimously.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy: Gallagher stated this was the first reading of the proposed policy, stating this was a mandated state policy. The District had already achieved many of the goals stated in the policy. Gallagher noted the Wellness Committee had been doing great work in this area. The next meeting would be the second reading where the policy could be approved.

Personnel:

Committee Report: Orost reported that at the last few meetings the Committee had approved the hiring of a high school math teacher, a high school English teacher, a middle school math teacher, a forestry and land management instructor at GMTCC, and a physical education teacher at Eden. A pay rate of \$15.24 for a WES climate coordinator/ planning room teacher was also approved.

Approve JES Early Childhood Special Education Hire: McFarlane reported that the administration recommended Sarah Pray as the Early Childhood Special Educator at the base salary of \$40,000. Pray had been a long-term sub for Johnson. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Orost, to approve the recommendation. Pray would receive a provisional license in early childhood special education. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve WES/JES Preschool Paraeducator Pay Rate: McFarlane reported that Amy Maher was recommended by the administration to be the joint Waterville and Johnson Preschool Paraeducator. Maher came with experience and a Bachelor's Degree and, therefore, the recommendation was to place Maher at a Step 4, or \$13.72. Fagnant made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve SLP Hire for ECS: McFarlane reported that Kayla Zakrzewski was recommended by the administration to be the Eden SLP teacher at a rate of \$46,840. Orost made a motion, seconded by Fagnant, to approve the recommendation. This would be a full-time position at Eden Central School. The motion passed unanimously.

Central Office Report: Gallagher reported that Melissa Ramsey, a teacher at Hyde Park Elementary School, would be moving out of state. Ramsey thanked the Board for their support. Gallagher then reported the dates of the graduation ceremonies of all District schools. Gallagher stated the SU Wellness Committee had done great work this year. Adult mental health first aid was now available to employees. The August retreat would include training on adult mental health first aid. The overall SU-wide truancy rates were down 32%. They had never seen such a decline in truancy before. While this statistic was great, it was also challenging. Some teachers had had to deal with some difficult behavior.

Gallagher then reported she had had the opportunity to be present when Sherry Lussier received the Director of the Year award. At that assembly she met the team from S.D. Ireland who spoke with the Tech Center students in construction and offered them all jobs. They tied wages into proficiencies. Gallagher spoke about the middle and high school gallery walks. The Board retreat would be on August 12th at the CEC. Gallagher then reported that next year they would begin sending the middle, high school and tech center newsletters to all elementary principals.

Clark reported that in March the Board supported the purchase of a tilt skillet contingent upon receiving a grant. The District had received the grant so Karyl Kent would move forward with the purchase. Kent might have to come to the Board for some additional funding to complete the purchase. Regarding the bond, Clark stated the Finance and Capital Committee were putting together a schedule for communications to the community. They hoped to be able to provide a conceptual walkthrough of the proposal. There would be a special Board meeting on July 29th to warn a bond vote for September 3rd.

McFarlane reported that she and Gallagher had attended Joanne LeBlanc's, the Superintendent of Orleans Southwest, retirement party. Both McFarlane and Gallagher were asked by several individuals, including Jeff Francis of the VPA, what Lamoille North was doing right. This Board was tame in comparison to other boards and Central Office had systems in place to get work done. McFarlane credited Gallagher for the success.

Hazard spoke about going to the Harvard School of Education with a group of principals and teacher leaders to be trained in Data Wise. In January another group would be trained as well. The following week of June 24th, the Curriculum Committee would be working with Renee Carter from Understanding by Design and updating the pre-K through 12 curriculum documents.

Hulse reported that in August there would be an in-service for general and special education paraeducators and there would be two trainings across three SU's on service plans.

Murray informed the Board that the early childhood special educators and teachers would be participating in literacy training, which would be the focus for next year. This training would also include paraprofessionals. Murray thanked Hazard for getting the grant that made this training possible.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion, seconded by Orost, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.