

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union District Board
Johnson Elementary School, Johnson, VT
Minutes of Meeting
December 11, 2017**

Members Present: Eden: David Whitcomb (Chair) (left at 7:20 p.m.), Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Andrew Beaupre, Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford; Johnson: Angela Lamell, Heather Rodriguez (left at 7:25 p.m.), Mark Nielsen, Bobbie Moulton, Katie Orost; Cambridge: Laura Miller, Heather Hobart, B. Sander, J. Sander, Sue Prescott (on phone); Waterville: Amanda Tilton-Martin

Members Absent: Angie Evans, Chasity Fagnant, Mark Stebbins

Others Present: Catherine Gallagher (left at 7:20 p.m.), Deborah Clark, Michele Aumand, Jennifer Stevens, Jade Hazard, Brian Schaffer, Wendy Savery, Charleen McFarlane (by phone), Jan Epstein, Mary Anderson, Brian Pena, Sherry Lussier

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. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Nielsen, to approve the agenda. Patti Hayford requested that the GMTCC Road Show be placed earlier on the agenda. The revised agenda was approved unanimously. There were no public comments.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business:

Minutes of the November 27, 2017, LNSU/LNMUUSD Meeting; Minutes of the November 16, 2017, Budget Committee Meeting; Minutes of the December 4, 2017, LNSU/LNMUUSD Special Meeting: B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: B. Sander made a motion to approve the Board Orders, seconded by Moulton. The motion passed unanimously.

GMTCC Road Show Presentation: Sherry Lussier introduced Kim O'Connor, Mallory Daudelin, and Meaghan Parker, staff members of GMTCC, to the Board. Parker provided information on the 13 programs offered at GMTCC including the two programs offered off site: the Forestry and Land Management program in Hardwick, as well as the Robtoy Farm in Jeffersonville which offered a sustainable agriculture and food systems program. Daudelin then introduced GMTCC students to the Board. The students provided information on how they had first heard about GMTCC. Responses included being taken by an 8th grade Art teacher for a visit and being impressed; having a father see the facility and encourage his son to consider it; having an Art teacher at Lamoille encourage attendance at GMTCC for graphic design; an English teacher, during a careers unit, helped the student determine that he was interested in the automotive field; looking for a fresh start, one of the students decided to attend the culinary program at GMTCC and found her passion.

The students appreciated being able to do what they loved, learning the real world application of their studies, participating in programs that were run like a business and being treated like an employee, something that would be helpful once they graduated. The small class sizes were considered a benefit. Students had plans to attend college and credited GMTCC with helping them believe college was possible for them. GMTCC also helped students by providing college credits and assisting students in applying to college. One student mentioned that GMTCC had helped her develop a stronger graphic design portfolio, which was a requirement for college. Another student stated that she planned to attend the Culinary Institute of America next year, while another student planned to eventually go to college for High Performance Motor Sports. Many of the students stated they wished they had attended GMTCC earlier. One of the students stated he had always thought the Tech Center had a bad reputation but it had been the best year of school he had ever had.

Pena asked if students were placed in jobs while being enrolled in school. Staff stated there were currently ten cooperative students, and employers were continuing to contact GMCC looking for HVAC

and construction students. Mark Nielsen asked if the students were advertising GMTCC to their peers. Students stated they were. J. Sander stated she was involved with two groups that were involved with automotive technology. One was the Vermont Auto Enthusiasts who provided scholarships to students at Vermont Tech. The other was New England MG T Register. Each year a \$1,500 scholarship was provided to a student studying automobile technology and Sander encouraged GMTCC students to apply. Rodriguez asked what the Board could do to change the perception of the GMTCC. One of the students suggested that students connect with their guidance counselors more often to determine whether the courses at GMTCC would move them closer to their goals. Some college programs required the skill set that the Tech Center provided.

Administrative and Mid-Management Salary Recommendation: M. Nielsen made a motion to discuss salary recommendations, seconded by Moulton. M. Nielsen then made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and asked that Gallagher, Clark and McFarlane be part of the discussion. Hunsberger seconded the motion. B. Sander expressed concern about going into Executive Session without discussion. Gallagher stated there could be individual personnel discussed and B. Sander then agreed with the decision. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m. The Board reconvened at 6:58 p.m.

Nielsen made a motion to approve a 3.14% salary increase for FY18 for the administrative and mid-management salary recommendations, retroactive to July 1, 2017, with the exception of four positions. Hunsberger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Neilsen made a motion to approve the salary adjustments made to four administrators: Superintendent - \$125,000; Business Manager - \$95,000; Director of Student Support Services - \$95,000; and Curriculum Director - \$85,000. Moulton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Whitcomb then requested that Orost chair the remainder of the meeting.

Nielsen made a motion to approve a 3.14% salary increase for FY19 for the administrative and mid-management salary recommendations retroactive to July 1, 2017. B. Sander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Hunsberger made a motion to briefly recess the meeting, seconded by Hobart at 7:09 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m. Tilton-Martin requested that, in the interest of time, several items be removed from the agenda. Ultimately, the Central Office Report, Elementary Principal Updates, Middle School Update, High School and GMTCC Principal/Director Updates, and Subcommittee Reports were removed.

Discussion and Possible Adoption of the Following Policies:

Financial Report and Statements: Lamell requested that a statement in the Financial Report Statements be changed to read “general accounting principles” rather than “practices.” Nielsen made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the Financial Report and Statements policy with that change. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability: Neilsen made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Substitute Maintenance Position Above Base: Clark stated that Laflam would like to hire Ernie Machia, Jr. for the substitute custodian position above base salary. This position did not offer benefits and the candidate was willing to work at all the schools. Machia had an extensive custodial and maintenance background and was a certified water operator. The recommendation was to hire at \$13.00 an hour, \$1.17 above base. Clark confirmed the Union had approved this. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve GMTCC Voluntary Transfer to Special Need Coordinator Position: Lussier stated she was cutting one academic position and moving that teacher, Jen Myers, to the Special Needs Coordinator position, currently vacant due to a retirement. Myers had been teaching financial literacy and professional communications at GMTCC for four years, was a great advocate for students and would make a great diplomat for all the sending schools. Nielsen made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve the voluntary transfer. The motion passed unanimously.

GMTCC Budget Approval: Lussier informed the Board the Tech Center was offsetting increases in salaries and health benefits with cuts in nearly every line item available and controllable. The academic program would reorganize with graduation-required proficiencies in focus to keep students on track for graduation, career, and post secondary education. Lussier was keeping in mind possible upcoming legislation regarding skilled labor force training and the funding of Career and Technical Education. Lussier noted that the number of students enrolled in tech centers throughout the State were down, however, the need for skilled labor was great. Therefore, GMTCC was trying to keep as many programs as possible and to be ready for enrollment to increase. This was expected to occur within the next five years. Lussier also stated they were beginning a team approach to help sending schools with Personalized Learning Plans which could help to inform students of their options at GMTCC. While the budget was cut by 1% for FY19, the income from grants and the State were such that the per student cost needed to increase from \$7,650 to \$8,920. The total budget for FY19 would be \$3,413,955. B. Sander asked why the number of students had dropped and asked that this topic be discussed at a future meeting. Nielsen made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the GMTCC budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Announce Tuition: Clark informed the Board that the tuition for the FY18 year was \$13,500 for the Elementary Schools and \$14,700 for the Union School. The proposed tuition for FY19 was \$12,500 for Elementary Schools and \$15,000 for the Union School. Beaupre asked how many students tuitioned in to the district. Clark stated that most were at the Tech Center, but Savery stated there were ten in the middle school. Clark stated tuition amounted to a few \$100,000 by the end of the year. M. Nielsen made a motion to accept the tuition as written, seconded by Moulton. The motion passed unanimously.

Set Annual Meeting Date: Clark reported she was working with the Budget Committee to get the budget ready to go so that the annual meeting date could be held on February 19, 2018. This date would allow time for the warning periods to fit in. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Nielsen, to hold the annual meeting on February 19, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Clark then requested that the initial presentation of the budget be held on January 8, 2018 with a special meeting being held on January 15, 2018 for budget approval. Orost stated those meetings would be scheduled.

Other Business: Barry asked about petitions for elections for the School Board. Clark stated she would contact the District's municipal lawyer or the Secretary of State's Office. Barry noted that the AOE website stated that election of representatives were done at the annual meeting. Clark stated she believed the officers were elected at the annual meeting and the town representatives were voted on at Town Meeting. Clark stated she would provide clarification to the Board when she received it.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion, seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.