

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District
Special Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
December 16, 2019**

Board Members Present: Cambridge: Sue Prescott, Bernard Barnes, Laura Miller, Jan Sander (phone), Bill Sander (phone); Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Lisa Barry, Chasity Fagnant, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Katie Orost, Bobbie Moulton, Lauren Philie, Mark Nielsen;

Board Members Absent: Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins; Eden: David Whitcomb; Waterville: Bart Bezio

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Brian Schaffer, Mary Anderson, Melinda Mascolino, Diane Reilly, Wendy Savery, David Manning, Erik Remmers, Brian Pena, Dylan Laflam,

Student Representative: Galen Reese, Jake Moulton

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items:

Minutes of the November 25, 2019, Meeting: Moulton made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

GMTCC Budget Presentation: Remmers presented the FY21 GMTCC budget to the Board. The budget would be increasing from \$3,230,526 to \$3,264,591, a difference of \$34,065, resulting in a 1.05% increase. This budget represented a reduction of one position: the Assistant Director position. They would also be merging the Adult Education and Co-op Coordinator positions into one full time position. Remmers and three different administrators would now share market outreach duties. Funds to support general program activities were increased in this budget after having been cut substantially in FY20. GMTCC would be looking to grant fund an Exploratory Foundations elective program in order to generate continued student interest in the Tech Center and increase student numbers. The 1.05% increase would result in a \$572 decrease in FY21 per pupil tuition cost. This was thanks to the modest increase and increased revenue. The FY21 per pupil tuition cost would be \$9,253, a decrease from the FY20 figure of \$9,821.

In response to a question from Fagnant, Remmers explained that the Foundations Program was primarily available to freshmen. Remmers was looking at how to expand that and open it up to the middle school as well. The Pre-Tech Program was entirely made up of sophomore students and was a full day program. Miller asked for information on the Foundations Program. Remmers explained that Foundations were smaller exploratory classes that allowed students to be hands-on with each of the programs with a focus on employability skills. Miller then asked if there were a minimum number of students required to keep a program running. Remmers stated they were assessing that from year to year. He noted that sometimes a program took time to build up their numbers.

Clark stated this budget had been presented to the RAB Board. At that time, there was an estimated six-semester average and the decrease projected in per pupil tuition was \$470. The updated six-semester average had been provided today and it now brought the decrease to \$572. The RAB Board was comfortable with the changes being proposed and recommended it move forward to the School Board. Lamell made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to accept the budget and recommend it move forward to the voters. The motion passed unanimously.

Elementary and Secondary Budget Update: Clark reported to the Board that the Finance Committee had met on December 9th. The budget that was presented was at about a 5.67% combined education spending increase. The State was recommending a 5.01% education spending increase. It was not clear if the 5.01% increase included changes in health care costs across the state. There was a lot of state data still up in the air, including the equalized pupil number that was not yet available. The yield was up to \$10,883 from \$10,648. The homestead rate would increase by 5 ½ cents. The District's preliminary budget increased by 7.3 cents, with 2 cents of that being the decrease in the Act 46 incentive. The Finance Committee asked that administrators go back and create scenarios for what it would mean to cut the budget by up to 3 cents. Clark reminded the Board that VEHI had asked for a 12.9% increase in premiums. Hyde Park Electric, used by the large campus and the elementary school, was asking for a 15% rate increase. These were major pressures on the budgets. Clark noted the education tax rate was a statewide tax rate. While districts developed their local budgets, the taxes were for statewide work. There would be a budget presentation to the Board on January 13th. If necessary, a special meeting could be held on January 20th to discuss the budget further, however, the budget needed to pass during the week of the 20th in order to distribute the Warning.

Receive Internal Financial Controls Checklist for Schools: Clark stated a document was included in the Board packet on internal financial controls. This document was required to be done annually. Next month she would ask that Nielsen formally sign the document.

Release of Cricket Hill Capital Reserve Funds: Laflam informed the Board that the Friends of Cricket Hill had asked the school to release funds from the Cricket Hill Capital Reserve Fund to replace worn or broken grooming equipment. Currently there was \$4,990 available in the reserve fund and they were requesting that \$2,659 be released. The funds would be used to replace a gooseneck hitch on the Scandic snowmobile, add a ball mount to the snowmobile, add two snow transfer blades, and buy a 6.5 foot snow roller. Laflam noted that the reserve fund typically received between \$1,000 to \$2,000 in donations annually. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Class Action Litigation Discussion: Gallagher requested the Board move into Executive Session to discuss possible participation in a class action suit, the premature disclosure of which could place the District at a distinct disadvantage. Miller made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to enter into Executive Session with only the Board and Superintendent in attendance. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into Executive Session at 6:22 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. Orost made a motion that the District join the Juul class action litigation with the stipulation that Superintendent Gallagher come back to the Board after doing more research if she found it not to be in the District's best interest. Moulton seconded the motion and the motion then passed unanimously.

Central Office Report: Gallagher reported there were four cases of whooping cough (pertussis) in the high school. Booster shots were available and the school nurses were on top of this. This is highly contagious and students diagnosed with pertussis were to stay out of school. Gallagher then informed the Board that Jade Hazard would be going out on medical leave on January 2nd and Wendy Savery would be supporting that role in Hazard's absence. Gallagher then spoke to the Board about her recent trip to Germany and outlined what she learned about their educational system.

Principals/Director Updates:

Cambridge: Anderson informed the Board that it was Cambridge's turn to represent the LNSU in nominating an elementary teacher for the UVM teacher of the year award. Anderson was happy to report that Kathy Ferguson was the teacher selected. Cambridge recently had two successful concerts. Students

recently participated in an Hour of Code, a program that got students involved in coding and creating something that then did something as a result of the programming. Anderson said it was very successful.

Eden: Mascolino reported they had had to deal with an inch of water in the equipment room. Laflam had dealt with the situation immediately and she appreciated his support. The school had their holiday concert last week and it was standing room only. The community meal would be held this week and that was always highly attended.

Hyde Park: Reilly informed the Board that the Grades K-3 holiday concert would be held the following evening. Thirty-five students from the Educating Children Outdoors program provided a Thanksgiving dinner to show off what they'd learned. Students prepared meals over an open fire to over 60 adults. Sports for Life would start during the second week of January and run for six weeks.

Johnson: Manning reported they were planning their second annual STEAM night in March. This year they were expanding the program to include a partnership with the local business community in order to showcase what STEAM knowledge looked like in the workplace. Manning then provided the Board an update on the health clinic. He had traveled to the Barre City Elementary School last week and spent time with the nurse practitioner stationed at the school. They learned what her day looked like and how the school and clinic coordinated appointments. Additionally, he had a phone interview with the Winooski High School as well about their clinic. Manning anticipated a slow phase in, with mental health counseling being provided first, then dental, and finally primary care.

Middle School: Savery stated that Team Nova was sponsoring a Lancer Pride Assembly on Friday morning. Savery thanked the middle school restorative practice trainers Tim Dobson and Jennifer Clark, as well as Mark Scott from the Restorative Justice Center, for leading the professional development work for all 7-12 staff last week. They focused on conflict styles. The substance abuse training with Jim Roy had needed to be rescheduled. Savery then thanked the Cambridge Rotary for making a \$1,000 donation to the food program in which bags of food were sent home with students prior to vacation.

High School: Galen Reese reported that all the winter athletics were getting off the ground. The first basketball game had had to be cancelled due to weather, but the Nordic race had been held and the team did very well. This was the largest Nordic team they had ever had. A dance performance had also been held last week. It was Spirit Week this week.

Schaffer expressed his deep appreciation to Joe Ciccolo, Dana Jewett, Erik Remmers, Central Office, and Wendy Savery for all that they did during his absence. He noted that the kindnesses extended to him would have a lasting impact on him.

GMTCC: Remmers thanked the Board for supporting the GMTCC budget.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion, seconded by Hayford, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.