

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union District Board Meeting
Eden Central School, Eden, VT
Minutes of Meeting
February 12, 2018**

Members Present: Cambridge: Laura Miller; Cambridge: J. Sander (left at 6:30 p.m.), B. Sander (left at 6:30 p.m.); Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Andrew Beaupre, Chasity Fagnant, Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford; Johnson: Bobbie Moulton, Mark Nielsen, Angela Lamell, Katie Orost; Waterville: Amanda Tilton-Martin

Members Absent: Belvidere: Angie Evans; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Sue Hamblyn-Prescott, Heather Hobart; Johnson: Heather Rodriguez

Others Present: Catherine Gallagher, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Brian Pena (left at 6:05 p.m.), Dylan Laflam, Diane Reilly, David Manning, Melinda Mascolino, Brian Schaffer, Wendy Savery, Jan Epstein, Janet Murray, Sherry Lussier, Jade Hazard, Mary Anderson, Stacey Ferriman

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for their help at the last meeting he attended and thanked Orost for chairing the Board meetings during his absence.

Agenda: Gallagher asked that both the IT Update and Replacement Truck bid be removed from the agenda. McFarlane asked that approval of a paraeducator hire above base be added to the agenda. Moulton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Beaupre. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Stacey Ferriman addressed the Board and asked that the bus drive her child directly to their house. It was a ten to fifteen minute walk from the bus stop with no sidewalks and she considered it unsafe.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the January 29, 2018, Special Meeting: Orost stated it should be noted that Board Orders were approved at the last meeting. Further, she stated that the word “be” should be added to the next to last sentence in the second paragraph. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Lamell, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Bus Transportation for LUHS Student: Gallagher reported that the Board was not responsible for establishing bus routes. Deb Clark, working with Lamoille Valley Transportation, reviewed the routes once a year, in August or early September. The age and health of pupils, distance to be traveled, condition of the road and the type of highway were all reviewed. The administration received four or five requests to change bus routes this year. Clark denied the requests after reviewing a number of factors. Clark noted they would be addressed again at the beginning of the year, as it was hard to change the route mid-year. The Ferriman request was then received. Gallagher stated that while she understood parental concern, this student was in high school. When bus routes were being created, it was typical to provide close to door-to-door service for elementary school students. The middle and high school students were not provided door-to-door service.

Gallagher noted there were 25 common stops on the bus route. In Johnson there were generally two or three students at each stop. The goal was to have students walk no more than .5 miles. The approximate maximum walking distance was .8 miles, which was a result of a bus not being able to get up a Class 4 road. When the Ferriman's request was received, the administration reviewed the route and was able to get .2 miles closer. This resulted in the walk for this high school student being .3 miles to a three-sided shelter. Gallagher reminded the Board that whatever was in place now might not be in place next year because bus routes were decided by the number of students needing transportation and any necessary accommodations. Clark had asked if there was a need for an accommodation and had been told there was not. Therefore, Clark denied the request and Gallagher reinforced Clark's decision.

Miller stated her husband was a bus driver and she knew there was a policy about trying to get bus schedules finalized at the beginning of the year. Accommodations could be made if a student was injured or the number of students on the bus changed. She stated it wasn't the Board's role to make those decisions. If Cambridge parents were concerned about their child being on the road, they drove them to the school. Lamell thought it was important to note what was around the area. The student needed to walk past the skate park, which she thought was not necessarily a good location to walk by in the afternoon. There was also a construction company at the end of road with trucks and forklifts driving by.

Gallagher stated she was concerned about setting a precedent after saying no to four other families. She reiterated this issue could be revisited in the fall. Ferriman said they were not aware the route had changed, as it had been the same for the last four years. Gallagher believed the routes were published. B. Sander was concerned that adding stops to the bus routes would make the ride longer for students. He didn't think it was unreasonable to walk that distance. He didn't feel there was compelling evidence to reverse the decision at this time. Orost asked for clarification on who was asked if an accommodation needed to be made. Gallagher stated that Clark had spoken with the parents. B. Sander made a motion to uphold the Administration's decision, seconded by Miller. The motion passed, with Orost voting no and Lamell abstaining.

Accept FY2017 District and LNSU Audits: Gallagher reported that Clark would distribute the audit and the Board could accept the final audits at the next regular meeting. Whitcomb asked that the item be put on the next meeting's agenda.

Central Office Report: Gallagher reported that she, Mark Stebbins and Deb Clark met with Rebecca Holcombe, Brad James, and Donna Russo-Savage at the Agency's request to talk about Cambridge and the Board's plan relative to Act 46. The Department specifically asked why a Section 9 proposal, or alternative structure proposal, had not been submitted. Stebbins stated that, according to a survey done of residents, the will of the people was to look at the Articles of Agreement to see if there was anything that could be amended. Holcombe stated she understood, but added that under the law something would take place, with an announcement coming on November 1st. The Department asked if the Board would be willing to accept other districts and asked Cambridge if they would be opposed to come into the Union. Stebbins stated Cambridge was already part of the Union, with grades 7-12 attending the middle and high school. Holcombe also asked where Cambridge might want to draw boundaries if given an option. Stebbins did not commit to that. Gallagher stated it was clear that no district would be left untouched. Holcombe's data showed that in the last ten years enrollment had declined and education spending per pupil was increasing.

Gallagher informed the Board that both the application for transfer and the transfer student update form would be sent out this week. The forms and information would be posted on the LNSU/LNMUUSD website, and both paper and electronic copies would be sent to principals for distribution to families. Forms were due back to Central Office on April 15th.

Gallagher then distributed the tenets for proficiency-based learning to the Board. Jade Hazard explained that the ten tenets for proficiency-based learning had been adopted as a District. Last week three areas were identified that the District would focus on: communication around the tenets, technology, and aligning the curriculum. Action plans started to be developed last week and those would be shared at the next Board meeting. B. Sanders and J. Sanders left the meeting at this time.

Elementary Principal Updates:

Belvidere/Waterville: Epstein informed the Board that the school was wrapping up their winter sports day. In March, Jon Gailmor would be doing a residency with grades K-6. Students would write and perform songs on the theme of Habits of Mind.

Cambridge: Anderson informed the Board that the Big Change Roundup annual fundraiser kickoff had taken place and this year they would be collecting change in memory of former CES student, Jenaya D'Amico. The annual Geography Bee took place on January 29th. Thirty students from Grades 4 through 6 participated, a record number, and ten participated in the final event. Oliver Laxer was the winner of the event and he would compete in the Vermont Geo Bee in the spring. Anderson stated, as part of professional development, the teachers at Cambridge were working with Renee Affolter from the Vermont Science Initiative. They had been working with Affolter over the past few years and the test scores were in part due to her efforts at the school.

Eden: Brian Schaffer stated there was a need for more space and more storage facilities at the school. He was glad that the Bond Committee was meeting to discuss this. Mascolino then informed the Board that high school students had come to the school to conduct a Math Fair. Tables were set up with different math games. The students enjoyed the event. Gail Moskowitz would be coming in to work with teachers this week. I Love to Read Week was coming up and Audrey Miller had a number of things planned for the event.

Hyde Park: Reilly reported that the building tour had taken place and the building was beautiful. There would be another tour after the February break. The Winter Carnival would take place the day before the break. Students would walk to Oxbow Park and the theme would be Olympics sports.

Johnson: Manning reported to the Board that the school nurse had informed him that approximately 10% of the students didn't have a dentist or hadn't been to a dentist. They held a meeting with the CEO of the Community Health Systems of Lamoille Valley and had now developed a partnership wherein a dental hygienist would be coming to the school to determine the needs of the students. The school would be looking into ways of getting the students into the dental clinic in Morrisville and possibly providing transportation if necessary. Manning said this spoke to the fact that schools were being asked to do more things now than they were in years past. Manning then reported that almost all of the sixth grade students participated in a march to raise awareness about homelessness in Lamoille County. The teachers linked the event to a writing unit on youth activism. Hunsberger stated the service providers were very happy that the students participated.

Approval to Hire Paraeducator Above Base at JES: McFarlane informed the Board that Manning wanted to hire Deej Meegan as a one to one paraeducator. Meegan had been employed at Johnson and had left last June. McFarlane asked the Board to approve hiring Meegan at a Grade 3, Step 3 at \$12.20 an hour. The base was \$11.84. Orost made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the request.

Manning explained this position had been filled in the fall by an outside agency that Johnson had stopped working with. Hayford asked if Meegan had accepted the position at the base rate. Manning stated Meegan had accepted the position at the base rate, but had been told that a request for a higher rate would be brought to the Board. The motion passed, with Hayford voting against.

Middle School, High School and GMTCC Principal/Director Updates:

Middle School: Savery reported that the 6th to 7th grade transition process would officially kick off tomorrow at Eden Central School. There would be a Medic Tournament on February 23rd that was a fundraiser for American Heart Association.

High School: Schaffer reported that three high school students had gone to Washington, DC to participate in the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America event. The students participated in leadership training, legislative visits and a tour. Despite the bus breaking down on the return trip, the overall experience was positive. Schaffer then discussed the fact that this was the time of year that next year's plans were being discussed. Conversations were taking place on consistency in the daily schedule across the campus. The Food Services Director was looking for efficiencies next year and that had led to a forum held by D. Jewett where people provided a number of ideas. They would be reviewing those ideas. Schaffer thought having the flexibility of movement for students as far as classes was important. However, any plans that they want to put forward couldn't be executed without the budget passing. He was working to ensure that budget information was sent to parents and voters in the hopes the budget would be approved.

GMTCC: Lussier reported that several classes, along with the Skills USA group, put on a Valentine Luncheon for first responders. Roger Marcoux spoke to the students during the luncheon about how important it was that the first responders were being recognized. Lussier stated the High School business class and the GMTCC business program shared a bus to attend Entrepreneur Day held at the Capital Plaza in Montpelier. This Friday the Skills USA team would be holding a STEM activity day, with students from several elementary schools being shown activities and careers available in science, technology, engineering and math. Finally, Lussier reported that Adobe had been working on a new national ad campaign where they highlighted customers. The creative media program at the Tech Center had been chosen to be one of their spotlights. Miller asked whether events and celebrations could be televised for parents and students to view. Lussier said they sometimes had events live on Facebook and if someone were to videotape something they could put it on the web.

Other Business: Whitcomb asked that all Board members go to their town post office and pull the annual reports out of the recycling bins. He found ten in his town's post office. These could be provided to voters on Town Meeting Day.

Whitcomb then stated that on February 19th the Governor and legislators would be at Johnson State College. The Chamber of Commerce held this event and charged \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members to attend. He stated it was wrong to charge because the taxpayers owned the building, and the taxpayers paid the legislators and the Governor. Legislators wanted residents to attend the meetings, but did everything to keep residents away. Whitcomb explained that the last Legislative Breakfast had been held at Green Mountain Tech. The room was free and food was served by GMTCC. He stated the Chamber of Commerce was a non-profit corporation and should not try to get more money for people to meet with their legislators. He requested that Board members contact their legislators to discuss the fact that taxpayers who were not Chamber members should not have to pay an extra \$5 to attend the meeting.

Orost stated there was an advertisement in the paper for a food service position and she asked for more details. McFarlane explained it was an advertisement for a Chef Manager. There was a cafeteria worker position that at the present time didn't need to be filled, but now that the Food Service Director was being deployed to a number of SU locations a chef manager was needed at Lamoille Union. Laflam further clarified that two people had left and those positions hadn't been filled. McFarlane stated this was a non-union position and the Union was aware of the position.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion, seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.