

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union District Board Meeting  
Johnson Elementary School, Johnson, VT  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 12, 2018**

**Members Present:** Cambridge: Laura Miller; J. Sander B. Sander; Mark Stebbins, Sue Hamblyn-Prescott (arrived at 6:47 p.m.); Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Andrew Beaupre, Chasity Fagnant, Patti Hayford; Johnson: Bobbie Moulton, Mark Nielsen, Angela Lamell, Heather Rodriguez, Katie Orost; Waterville: Amanda Tilton-Martin

**Members Absent:** Belvidere: Angie Evans; Cambridge: Heather Hobart; Hyde Park: Lisa Barry

**Others Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Brian Pena, Dylan Laflam, Diane Reilly, David Manning, Melinda Mascolino, Brian Schaffer, Wendy Savery, Jan Epstein, Janet Murray, Sherry Lussier, Mary Anderson, Jen Stevens, Chris Damato, Dana Jewett

**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. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Tilton-Martin, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

**Reorganization of the Board: Election of Chair:** Whitcomb handed the meeting to Gallagher at 6:01 p.m. J. Sander nominated David Whitcomb as Chair. There were no other nominations. J. Sander made a motion to have nominations cease and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Whitcomb as Chair. Moulton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was then turned over to Chair Whitcomb at 6:04 p.m.

**Election of Vice Chair:** Moulton nominated Orost as Vice Chair. Stebbins nominated Nielsen as Vice Chair. Paper ballots were distributed. Fifteen ballots were cast with Nielsen receiving eleven votes and Orost receiving four.

**Clerk:** Fagnant nominated Miller as Clerk. There were no other nominations. Stebbins made a motion to close nominations and asked the Clerk to cast one ballot for Laura Miller as Clerk. Tilton-Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discuss & Approve 2018-2019 Board Meeting Schedule & Date of Annual Meeting:** Gallagher stated the Board would continue meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of every month. She said that some community and Board members had stated to her that the rotation of the location of meetings was not having the results they had hoped for, as the public was not attending meetings. Gallagher suggested that the Board meet at Hyde Park when the school was ready, but any future meetings be held at GMTCC. Tilton-Martin stated that she had talked to people at her local town meeting about her disappointment at their lack of involvement at the Waterville Elementary School meeting. The Board noted there were three more meetings being held, at Cambridge, Waterville, and Hyde Park. Tilton-Martin stated she thought the Board should keep the schedule that had been developed until the end of the school year. The Board agreed with Tilton-Martin.

**Date of Annual Meeting:** Clark stated she was disheartened by the number of people who had attended both the informational meeting and the annual meeting. Clark asked the Board if changes should be made to the structure of the meeting to make it more of an event. She believed the date should be set far in advance of vacation. B. Sander stated he didn't believe that people were interested in attending the meeting because they voted by Australian ballot. Tilton-Martin stated she wanted to see better community involvement for the budget presentation. That was the one time where voters could get their questions answered by the experts. Tilton-Martin suggested holding the meeting the evening before the vote. Clark noted that this had been done in some of the towns. Whitcomb suggested the Board consider options and discuss it at a later meeting. Stebbins stated that Cambridge had created a committee to address town meeting concerns. He asked if the Board was interested in creating a subcommittee to

discuss ideas regarding the annual meeting. Whitcomb asked that committee assignments be placed on a future agenda.

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

**Minutes of the February 12, 2018, Meeting:** J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Approve Acceptance of LNSU Federal Funds & Subgrant Agreements and Assign Agent(s) for Financial Matters:** Clark explained that grants came into the SU and then were distributed to the schools. J. Sander made a motion that the LNSU accept any and all federal funds, execute subgrant agreements with member districts for distribution of federal funds, and authorize the Superintendent, Business Manager, and other Central Office administrators as authorized by the Board to sign agreements or contracts in the receipt and distribution of funds. Nielsen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Clark then sought approval to execute the subgrant agreement with the LNSU and to authorize the Chair or Clerk to sign it on behalf of LNEMUUSD in order to receive federal funds. B. Sander made a motion to approve the execution of the subgrant agreement, seconded by Tilton-Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Hire of LUHS Long-Term Social Studies Substitute Teacher:** Schaffer requested the Board approve a partial-year long-term substitute contract for Anna Wadlington. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the hire. Schaffer confirmed that the candidate had a provisional license. Schaffer explained that Wadlington was a Lamoille Union graduate and was in the process of getting her Masters Degree. She had been substitute teaching at a high level and was sought after at the school. Schaffer believed this was the mark of a healthy system when students came back to teach at their former school. The motion passed unanimously.

**Engineering Proposal for Johnson Elementary School:** Laflam stated the Bond Committee had approved the proposal from GWR to design an HVAC upgrade for Johnson Elementary School at their last Bond Committee meeting. Laflam asked that the Board approve the proposal. M. Nielsen made a motion to approve both Phase 1 and 2 of the GWR proposal. Stebbins seconded the motion. At Orost's request, Bond Committee minutes would be distributed to the Board following the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Johnson Elementary School IT Infrastructure:** Pena requested Board approval to spend an estimated \$40,000 on Johnson Elementary School IT infrastructure. Pena stated the wiring in the ceilings and walls was original wiring and were of a lower grade connection. The infrastructure needed to be upgraded because it had aged and would no longer support additional upgrades. This work would include 26 wire runs, and included installing 18 access points and one Cisco switch to support the expansion of the 26 wire runs. Pena confirmed the funds would come from existing bond funds. Nielsen made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Stebbins. The motion passed unanimously.

**Eden Central School Kitchen Upgrade:** Laflam requested Board approval to spend \$9,864 of Eden bond funds to bring the kitchen's serving station up to code. Stebbins made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Tilton-Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

**Facilities Update: Safety & Security Discussion:** Laflam informed the Board that all elementary schools were locked and keycards were needed to access these buildings. He distributed a proposal that would institute protocols to the middle school, high school and tech center. At 6:40 p.m., B. Sander made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Tilton-Martin. The motion passed unanimously. All individuals present at the meeting were allowed to remain. At 6:55 p.m. the Board came out of executive

session. Stebbins made a motion to approve putting the security plan out to bid, seconded by B. Sander. The motion passed unanimously.

**Johnson Elementary School Administrator Presentation:** Manning's presentation focused on two unique programs being offered at Johnson Elementary School: a math enrichment program taught by Betsy Cass and a Spanish language program taught by Ashley Stout in a part-time position.

Math enrichment was available to students in grade K-6. 62 students out of the 288 students in attendance had accessed the program. Multiple measures were used when determining whether a student should participate in the program, including pre-assessments, benchmark assessments, and observations of mathematical practices. Students were reassessed four times a year to see if they should be accessing the program. Some students received enrichment all year, while others might go in and out of the program. Students met two to four times a week in small groups. Manning explained examples of enrichment activities, noting they did more extended and deeper math application projects than they could do in the classroom. Projects included developing business plans to raise money for victims of Hurricane Harvey, learning to create 3D designs and printing them on a 3D printer, programming robots and creating a school mural which required the use of least common multiple, greatest common factor, and prime factorization. Manning explained that Cass had also been doing whole class STEAM activities with grades K-6. As an example of whole class activities, Manning stated that kindergarteners were receiving 30 minute lessons in engineering using Legos and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were using engineering concepts to construct a conveyor belt. In addition to classwork, students could sign up for a 6-week-long breakfast club, held for 30 minutes twice a week per group. Board and logic games were used in this group and the work done was cooperative. Students learned strategy and negotiation skills, as well as teamwork and collaboration skills.

Manning then explained that students received 30 minutes a week of Spanish instruction. This wasn't a great deal of exposure, but it introduced students to a different language and culture. This year instruction focused on basic vocabulary, letter sounds, reading and sounding out Spanish words and phrases. For the cultural aspect, focus was placed on several holidays celebrated in Mexico and Spain and artwork was created for the holidays. Familiar books were read in Spanish to the younger students and older students were expected to be able to read from these books by the end of the school year. Spanish songs and videos were also used throughout the classes. Pre-K students received instruction every three weeks. Manning then outlined the three ways that students of all levels were learning to count and learn their alphabet. He noted that both enrichment teachers encouraged cooperation through working together when problem solving.

Manning explained that parents had come before the Johnson Elementary School Board and proposed and pressured the Board to initiate these programs. He appreciated that these programs had been developed as a result of community involvement and he hoped this type of involvement would continue with this Board. Miller stated she was very excited about the programs and asked for more information on how students could participate without missing Tier 1 instruction. Manning stated they did not miss out on that instruction. Miller asked how the teacher determined when whole group teaching would take place. Manning stated that originally some classes didn't have students who needed to be pulled out so the plan was adjusted to provide enrichment to the whole class. Miller then asked if there had been any negative feedback from parents about offering a Spanish class. Manning stated there had not been any. The only feedback he had received was that people would like more of it offered. Orst also explained the Board had chosen to offer Spanish after a survey was sent out to the community asking which language they would like prefer to be taught at the school.

**Central Office Report:** Gallagher informed the Board that Jan Sander was now a member of both the MUUSD Board and the LNSU Board. It was Cambridge's task to appoint a representative to the LNSU Board. Gallagher stated she had received legal guidance from the VSBA stating that J. Sander could be that person. She would have a 1.83-weighted vote. Heather Hobart would no longer be a Board member but would stay on to work on a subcommittee. Hobart would now be instrumental in bringing Restorative

Practice training to all schools. Gallagher then explained that principals at all of the elementary schools in the MUUSD had informed parents of the in-district transfer policy. Applications were due on April 15<sup>th</sup> and this date was non-negotiable. Four parents had already requested transfers. Gallagher would be meeting with MUUSD elementary principals on April 16<sup>th</sup> to make decisions on the requests.

Gallagher discussed the upcoming national school walkout. Gallagher's position was that they could not condone a walkout because they couldn't keep students safe. Savery, Schaffer, and Lussier had met with students to discuss a viable alternative. The plan was to hold a student-led assembly. She believed this was a safer way to educate, give students a voice, and to team with the students in a different way. Fagnant asked if this event could be discussed with the Hyde Park 6<sup>th</sup> graders who were currently at the Tech Center. Gallagher asked Reilly to address that. If students did walk out, there would be support from the Sheriff's Department along with some adults who had been assigned greater supervision at the campus.

Schaffer stated that he, Savery and a number of teachers had met with sixty middle school, high school, and tech center students to build a bridge. Secretary Holcombe and Gallagher had suggested opening up a dialogue on this issue. While there were many different perspectives, the overwhelming consensus was to have a safe event that would make an impact. Juniors and seniors were stepping up their leadership and they wanted to make and send a statement. The students were planning on reaching out to media and legislators. Schaffer anticipated a positive and safe assembly that was open to all students on campus, including 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The first section of the assembly would consist of seventeen students and teachers reading a bio about those who perished in Parkland. The second section would focus on one student speaking about what it's like to be a student who has to look over their shoulder. The third section would be trying to build connectivity between all of the individuals on campus. Schaffer noted, however, that school rules still would apply.

B. Sander noted that Wednesday could very well be a snow day. He applauded the students nationally but wondered what the students at LNSU were thinking of doing. Schaffer stated there was a social awareness/awakening that was happening. Schaffer felt that the plan that had been developed for the talkout was a good one. Gallagher stated it was an opportunity to have more dialogue with students. She envisioned there being more opportunities for student voice. B. Sander was more concerned about those students who decided to walk out and wondered if Schaffer would discipline them. Schaffer stated that every school had a code of conduct and regular discipline assigned to infractions. He stated this was an evolving conversation and Gallagher stated she believed they needed to take each situation on a case-by-case basis. Miller noted that students who were 18 could sign themselves out and not be charged with truancy. Schaffer agreed they were adults and could create their own educational record. That did not stop a school from enforcing truancy protocols. However, he believed that being heavy-handed was counterintuitive.

Gallagher then informed the Board that the Vermont School Safety Center was asking local law enforcement to complete safety plan assessments for all schools. These would be done by the end of the month. Gallagher said she had information she would forward to Board members on cyberbullying and social media's role in respect to safety, along with an article on stopping the next school shooting. She noted that the best security system in the world could be put in place, but people couldn't always be stopped from doing what they intended to do. A strong focus needed to be on identifying students who needed something that they weren't getting. The District was in the process of procuring behavior referral information from all of the schools and they were determining what supports and programs were in place. That information was being reviewed now and would be brought before the Board at a later date.

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

**Belvidere:** Epstein reported that Jon Gailmor had started working with the students. The theme that Gailmor was working on was Habits of Mind and the songs would incorporate some piece of that. Epstein reported that the long time custodian had resigned and interviews were now taking place for that

position. Teachers were currently finishing up their report cards and conferences would be held next week.

**Cambridge:** Anderson reported that four Cambridge students were recognized by the DAR for their entries to the American History Essay Contest. One of the students won first place for the state in her age group. Anderson encouraged other schools to participate in this event. The I Love Literacy week took place and Anderson expressed appreciation to the numerous Lamoille students who attended. Finally, the part time enrichment/technology integration teacher was now on maternity leave and Jennifer Brown had taken her place for the remainder of the year. Anderson noted she had been contacted by the State Police to conduct their safety review.

**Eden:** Mascolino reported that she had met with Bob Lucas today to review safety protocol. She stated Lucas had been pleased with the card system being used for entry at the school. One item noted on the review was that not all substitutes wore badges to identify themselves. Lucas was asking that all of his officers spend more time at the schools. He wanted students to start seeing law enforcement around the buildings. Mascolino then reported that both of the school cooks had health issues. One of the cooks had recently resigned and they would need to refill that position. Carol Kent has been there every day to help and that help was great appreciated. Mascolino reported that their third bus did not pass inspection. They were informed it would cost almost \$30,000 to correct the issues. It was determined the school would run the two remaining buses and not have a spare bus.

**Hyde Park:** Reilly stated that Carol Kent has been extremely helpful to her school as well. Reilly then expressed appreciation to Laflam for an interview he conducted with the local newspaper about the new building. Reilly reported that a teacher was heading out on maternity leave and a long-term substitute would be taking her place. Additionally, she would be posting for a kindergarten position and school nurse. Reilly informed the Board that the District Band Festival would take place on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Students from all elementary schools would be in attendance and 38 students from Hyde Park would be participating at the District Festival.

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

**Middle School:** Savery reported there would be a second middle school musical coming up in April. This Thursday there would be a 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent night at Cambridge. She invited Board members to attend. Savery applauded the group of World of Difference students who were headed to a "Beyond Bullying" event. Students would be presenting at the event. She then congratulated Cori Rockwood on Team Extreme for being a winner of this year's IGNITE award. This award was for teachers who were using technology in very innovative ways.

**High School:** Schaffer noted the work he'd done with Diane Reilly, stating that with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders now being on campus, they were now working together with shared families. This Thursday the Lamoille Union Winter Band Concert would be performing. He stated it would be really entertaining and high quality. Finally, Schaffer reported that on Friday a single bedbug was confirmed at LUHS. Schaffer expressed appreciation to Reilly for all the work she had already done on this issue and thanked Laflam and the maintenance crew for their work keeping the building sanitary.

**GMTCC:** Lussier informed the Board that GMTCC was proactively working with the curriculum coordinators at all three Supervisory Unions that the sending schools came from to find a way to have a single reporting system. All five sending schools were reporting grades things differently. Lussier then said it had been almost two years since their last NEASC review and GMTCC had finished the paperwork for the review last week. Lussier reported that the sugarhouse was finished two weeks ago, was ADA accessible, and they were now making maple syrup. The Governor had come to the sugarhouse and did his annual ceremonial tree tapping. Lussier stated that this year's Teacher of the Year had been headhunted and had taken a position in Maine. This position was currently being advertised. Fundraising for the Tanzania trip was moving along. An anonymous donor had come forward to provide a matching donation of up to \$17,000. Students were learning Swahili and the names of orphans the students would be serving. As part of a fundraiser, Chris Damato informed the Board of an Open Mike at the CDC on Friday night. Additionally, Damato noted there was a GoFundMe page for the trip.

**Other Business:** Whitcomb requested that people review the committee listing to determine which committee they wished to work on. Clark stated the elementary vote was a 2-vote margin. No action had

been taken yet, but there had been questions about a revote. Voters had until Friday at 4:00 p.m. to file a petition for a recount; they had thirty days to file a petition for reconsideration.

**Adjourn:** Moulton made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Nielsen. The motion passed unanimously.