

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board
Minutes of Meeting
March 9, 2020**

Board Members Present: Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Bernard Barnes, Mark Stebbins, Laura Miller, Jan Sander, Bill Sander; Eden: David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Chasity Fagnant, Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Katie Orost, Bobbi Moulton, Angela Lamell, Allen Audette, Jr., Mark Nielsen; Waterville: Bart Bezio

Board Members Absent: Cambridge: Sue Prescott

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Janet Murray, Denise Maurice, Brian Schaffer, Wendy Savery, Jeremy Scannell, Diane Reilly, Jennifer Hulse, Dylan Laflam, Jan Epstein, Mary Anderson, David Manning, Melinda Mascolino

Student Representative: Galen Reese, Jake Moulton

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor/Michele Aumand

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Hunsberger requested that language stating that a possible executive session and possible executive action be added to the item under Personnel: LNSU Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Hire. There was no public comment.

Reorganization of the Board

Elect LNSU/LN MUUSD Chair(s), Clerk: Barry made a motion that David Whitcomb and Mark Nielsen be elected as Co-Chairs of the two boards. B. Sander made a motion that nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Whitcomb and Nielsen. Stebbins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Whitcomb then asked Nielsen to chair the remainder of the meeting. Sweet nominated Laura Miller to be Clerk. Stebbins seconded the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and Approve 2020-2021 Board Meeting Schedule and Date of Annual Meeting:

Gallagher asked the Board if they would be interested in having one Board meeting a month except during budget season. The Board members supported the idea and it was decided to hold one meeting a month on the second Monday of the month.

Clark then proposed the annual meeting be held on February 15th. If the annual meeting were moved to February 22nd it would be during school vacation. Miller confirmed that the informational meeting would be held on February 22, 2021. B. Sander made a motion to approve February 15, 2021 as the annual meeting date and February 22, 2021 as the informational meeting date. No second was required. The Board was in agreement with the dates.

Discuss and Approve 2020-2021 Committee Meeting Schedule/Membership: Gallagher requested that Board members select their first and second choices of committee assignments during this meeting. Committee assignments would be provided to members by the next meeting. Gallagher later clarified that committee meetings would be held before each monthly meeting.

LNSU/LN MUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the February 10, 2020, February 17, 2020, and February 24, 2020 meetings: B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: Miller stated she had not reviewed the March 6, 2020 Board Orders yet. She made a motion to approve the Board Orders of February 21, 2020. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

Approve HPES Art Teacher Long-Term Substitute Hire: McFarlane requested approval to hire Rachel May as the HPES long-term substitute art teacher at a base rate of \$40,000, pro-rated based on the duration and start date. The motion was made to hire Rachel May and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve LNSU Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Hire: McFarlane requested approval to hire Wendy Savery as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for a July 1 contract. The motion was made to hire Wendy Savery and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Central Office Report: Gallagher welcomed Allen Audette as the new Board member and congratulated all those members re-elected to the Board.

Gallagher then reported to the Board on the student group that had been in southern Italy. Gallagher noted that there were still no cases of COVID-19 in the areas that the students had visited. The policy of the tour company was that if an area were announced to be at a Level 3 they would move quickly and, in fact, when it was announced the LNSU group was the first group out of Rome within a matter of hours. Students were transported from Newark to Vermont by bus rather than flying on to Boston. On February 29th guidance from the Vermont Department of Health was that people would self-monitor for cough, fever, or shortness of breath. Travelers from impacted areas who came back on March 4th or later were told to self-isolate. Gallagher stated she had provided the Department of Health the names of each person on the trip and the Department was then responsible for checking in with the individuals. Once the Department of Health had the information, the District would be the third contact they would inform if there were an issue.

Gallagher reported there was very little guidance from the Department of Education but the Department of Health had been terrific. The District had been ahead of this issue and was now being asked by the AOE to craft guidance for them to use. Gallagher stated the school in Southern Vermont had closed in order to clean the school. LNSU had been super-cleaned during the break.

Gallagher then noted there were a good number of flu cases in the community at present and those symptoms were quite similar. It was important not to ostracize students and she was afraid some of them felt that way. Gallagher stated that Lamoille North students were not the only people traveling in other countries; there were people throughout the state that had been traveling in affected areas. In response to community members asking why the school didn't tell people to self-isolate, Gallagher stated that the schools were not health care experts and could not tell people to self-isolate. This was a public health situation and the administration needed to take their guidance from public health agencies. Further, compelling a student not to attend was discriminating.

Board members applauded the Superintendent's efforts. Following a question, Gallagher stated parents had the right to keep their children at home. However, there were no cases at present and fear should not be the reason to deny students access to an education. A Board member asked if harassment and bullying was being addressed in the schools, as some faculty and students were being impacted. Schaffer outlined efforts he had made to address this issue. Miller asked if there were any medically fragile student who needed support or homeschooling options. Gallagher stated all information provided to parents noted that parents should contact their provider and the Vermont

Department of Health because the District did not want to dispense medical advice. Schaffer stated the universal messaging and guidance from the Superintendent had been effective and impressive.

Principal/Director Reports:

Belvidere/Waterville: Epstein reported they had participated in their first year of the Big Change Round Up and had surpassed their goal, raising \$850. They were very excited to participate next year. Guest readers would be coming to the school to participate in Read Across America the week of the 23rd. The school would have two teams participating in the Junior Iron Chef event this weekend.

Cambridge: Anderson thanked the Lamoille Union band and chorus for their performance at the elementary school. She then thanked the Cambridge School Board and the Cambridge community for supporting the school budget and for allowing the addition of the fresh fruits and vegetable program into the budget.

Eden: Mascolino stated there was only one substitute available, which was a challenge for the school. The I Love to Read week had been great. Natalie Kinsey-Warnock had done writing projects with the students and Audrey Miller, the school librarian, had done a great job.

Hyde Park: Reilly reported the teachers had finished all of the student assessments and Reilly was able to meet with all of the reading and math interventionists. They looked at each child to see where they were academically, where they should be and developed a plan for the next twelve weeks. She was seeing a lot of student growth. Last week the LUHS band and chorus performed at the school and the students, as part of a community project, make snow sculptures throughout the village. The staff and students enjoyed it tremendously.

Johnson: Manning noted that Lamoille North had been a leader in the state in providing communication to parents about the coronavirus. He reported that Mark Scott from the Lamoille Restorative Center had been present at a recent staff meeting for Tier 2 training on repairing harm. Manning informed the Board that he had been to a training hosted by the town of Johnson on implicit bias training and put on by the Human Rights Commission. He felt that this training needed to be held in the school as well.

Middle School: Maurice invited Board members to attend an assembly on March 27th, an event that highlighted the achievements of Lancer students. She reported that \$1,300 had been raised for the American Heart Association and Mark Collins Scholarship Fund. Informational meetings on the transition to middle school were beginning to be held at schools throughout the district.

High School: Reese reported that students seemed to be calm about the coronavirus. Schaffer reported there were going to be 18 new course proposals and these proposals were ones that came directly from the students. The pre-registration process would begin shortly. Additionally, personnel activities were starting up, with assistant principal vacancy interviews beginning next week. He asked that a meeting of the Safety and Wellness Committee be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss upcoming training. He also expressed appreciation for the community and the Board's support of the budget.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.