

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union District Board Meeting  
Cambridge Elementary School, Cambridge, VT  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 9, 2018**

**Members Present:** Belvidere: Angie Evans; Cambridge: Sue Hamlyn-Prescott, J. Sander, B. Sander, Mark Stebbins; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Andrew Beaupre, Chasity Fagnant, Patti Hayford, Lisa Barry; Johnson: Mark Nielsen, Katie Orost, Bobbie Moulton; Waterville: Amanda Tilton-Martin

**Members Absent:** Cambridge: Laura Miller; Eden: David Whitcomb; Johnson: Angela Lamell, Heather Rodriguez

**Others Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Diane Reilly, Melinda Mascolino, Brian Schaffer, Wendy Savery, Janet Murray, Jennifer Stevens, Dana Jewett, Jeremy Scannell, Sherry Lussier, Chris Damato

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Acting Chair Mark Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. B. Sander requested that the item on the agenda entitled "Rob Toy Farm" be changed to read "Robtoy Farm". Gallagher stated that Brian Pena requested the HPES IT Infrastructure agenda item be tabled to the next meeting. Stebbins made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Hunsberger. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Minutes of the March 26, 2018, Meeting:** B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the minutes.

**Minutes of the March 12, 2018, Bond Committee Meeting:** B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the minutes.

**Minutes of the February 12, 2018 Curriculum Committee Meeting:** B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Beaupre, to approve the minutes. The three motions passed unanimously.

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

**LNSU/LNEMUUSD Trespassing and Dog Therapy Policies – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Gallagher reported that a VSBA attorney had vetted the Trespass Policy. This was a suggested policy and was similar to one that LUSD #18 had had in place. The Dog Therapy Policy was new. J. Sander had suggested a change to include more vetted licensing for registered therapy dogs. Gallagher wanted to keep the policy vague enough so as not to lock the District into using certain people/businesses. J. Sander made a motion to approve both policies, seconded by Beaupre. The motion passed unanimously.

**LNSU/LNEMUUSD Student Freedom of Expression Policy – First Reading:** Gallagher stated this was a required policy and any changes made to the policy could not be substantive. The policy was developed largely as a result of how different schools chose to handle student protests. The policy allowed for freedom of speech, with parameters being set forth in the policy that the protest couldn't disrupt the student learning environment or impact the safety of the students or others. This item would be on the agenda at the next meeting.

**LUHS Course Approval:** Beaupre stated the Curriculum Committee was bringing two course proposals to add to the course book to the Board at the request of the High School. One was the Lamoille North Capstone Seminar Course and the other was the Lamoille North College and Career Preparatory Course. Both courses were designed to make students both career and college ready. Stebbins made a motion to approve the two courses proposed, seconded by Hunsberger. Orost asked if every new course at the High School came to the Board for approval. Schaffer stated he believed so and with the new Board it seemed the logical route to take. Schaffer explained that these two courses came about through conversations with students. Each class would have a range of individuals teaching them, with a blend of

administration, teacher and counselor responsible for the classes. B. Sander explained the history of the Curriculum Committee's process when determining new courses. They reviewed the value of the class, how it fit in with other coursework, and how a course could fit in with the master contract without adding additional preparation and extra compensation. Administration was quite confident these two courses would not result in any additional cost. Sue Hamlyn-Prescott asked that the Board would be advised if the courses cost extra money. Schaffer then explained that teachers were set in place through the budget approval process. Students requested classes they wanted to take and from those requests a schedule was created. The schedule at the High School was 100% based on student requests. These two courses were widely sought after by students, administrators, and community members and should not come at an additional cost. The motion then passed unanimously.

**Personnel Items:** Schaffer explained that these hires were individuals that had been brought on late in the previous school year and administration had wanted to have a year of observation and evaluation completed before offering the individuals permanent positions. Each individual being brought forward had the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Principal. Tilton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Beaupre, to approve the administration's recommendation for personnel hires.

The LUHS Social Studies teacher hire being approved was David Mitiguy. The two LUHS English teacher hires being approved were Michael Potvin and Kerry Sheldon. The LUMS/LUHS Technology Integrationist teacher hire being approved was Lori Lisai. The LUHS Physics teacher hire being approved was Dr. Kazuo Cottrell. The LUHS Spanish teacher hire being approved was Marvin Ramirez. Savery then spoke about Tim Dobson, the LUMS English Language Arts teacher being approved. Dobson had taught at the High School for a number of years and was now on a one-year contract at the Middle School. The position was now becoming a permanent position. The motion to approve the personnel hires passed unanimously.

**Central Office Report:** Gallagher reported that she had attended the SkillsUSA competition, with students from GMTCC receiving gold, silver or bronze medals. She stated that Lussier would be speaking more about this event and praised the students for their great work. Gallagher also attended M. Piscitelli's Middle School classroom where the students were engaged in their passion projects. Gallagher stated the two presentations she sat in on were outstanding. One presentation by a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student was titled Violin Neurology. The presentation was student-led and questions ranged from how to use music therapy to impact the world and how to help children with ADD or anxiety through music. The second presentation involved exploring emotions in terms of science, with a discussion of the fight or flight syndrome and what conditions brought about a higher order of thinking. Gallagher noted this student was probably the most articulate and poised 7<sup>th</sup> grader she had ever seen. Gallagher stated this was a great example of new learning involving student-based and inquiry-based instruction.

Gallagher reported she had been asked by the State to develop a wellness team per a required wellness policy. This would be in line with what the Board adopted as far as the Safety and Drug Free School Environment Committee. Gallagher informed J. Sander that Sander had been volunteered to be on the team, along with Gallagher. Other individuals were being asked to participate as well, such as PE coaches, nurses, guidance counselors, teachers, parents, students. The goal was to review how to encourage health and wellbeing in schools. Gallagher stated this policy was aligned to the Continuous Improvement Plan and with what the Board had decided to take on this year.

Gallagher then informed the Board the administration was completing the Supervisory Union's Continuous Improvement Plan. The Administrative Council team reviewed what data they had that might inform where they needed to go with school programs. Preliminarily, the information showed that work needed to be done on truancy. Gallagher asked what that might look like as far as receiving funding to encourage students to stay in school. She noted this was a two-generation solution, as parents often dictate what happens as far as attendance. This might mean looking for grant money to help the school work with families. Gallagher then discussed the fact that students were still being referred out for Tier 2 and 3 instruction. Great work had been done to encourage teachers to work on Tier 1 instruction in their general education classroom, however, teachers needed more professional development to assist with

Tier 1 teaching. Gallagher and Heather Hobart would also be providing training on restorative practices, which was aligned with trauma informed training.

**GMTCC/Robtoy Farm Tractor Bid:** Damato informed the Board that GMTCC had applied for and received funding through a Perkins grant to pay for the purchase of a tractor over the next five years. GMTCC had received five bids and their decision was to purchase a John Deere from Harvest Equipment. Damato reported GMTCC would apply for this grant annually over the next five years. The municipal lease provided a two-cent interest rate. Damato explained the difference between the brand of tractors and why he preferred the John Deere. Damato also noted that this type of investment was what the Land Trust expected in kind for the use of the forty acres they provided. B. Sander made a motion to accept the administration's recommendation to purchase a John Deere 506SE tractor from Harvest Equipment for \$37,497.68, seconded by Beaupre. B. Sander asked if this was a purchase or a lease. Damato stated it was a rent to own, with ownership being after five years. Beaupre asked how many students were engaged in the program at Robtoy Farm. Damato stated there were six this year, with between six and eight applying for next year so far. Lussier stated this was only the second year of the program. The motion then passed unanimously.

**GMTCC Legal Issue:** Gallagher informed the Board that an injury had allegedly occurred at GMTCC in 2014. The matter was now in the hands of the VSBIT attorney and all things appeared to be in order at this point.

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

**Eden:** Mascolino expressed her personal appreciation to Savery and the Middle School team for the process they had set up to prepare elementary school students to move to middle school. The Eden parents had provided great feedback about the process as well.

**Hyde Park:** Reilly stated that classroom space had been assigned and the teaching staff would be going to the new school on April 12<sup>th</sup> to look at their classrooms. This would allow teachers to take measurements and develop plans for their space. Reilly stated Board members should feel free to stop by that day as well. Reilly then expressed her appreciation for the work that Savery had been doing on a new learning platform to be used in grades K-12. Savery was taking the lead on the project and the collaboration across the grade levels was greatly appreciated.

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

**Middle School:** Savery reported they had begun the 8<sup>th</sup> grade process of signing up for high school classes. There would be a musical this week at the school. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> graders would visit GMTCC. This was an effort to inform students of the opportunities available to them at the Tech Center. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, there would be student-led conferences and exhibitions running from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Savery invited Board members to witness students leading conversations with parents and family members about projects and their personalized learning plans. Savery then discussed the amount of time that was spent on mandated assessments, stating that from early April through the end of May a number of tests were being done. There was an effort to try to keep student anxiety down while the testing was being done.

**High School:** Schaffer discussed two articles he had provided to the Board about a new challenge facing school administrators: JUULing. This was a hidden, silent and odorless technology that vaporized tobacco or other substances. Schaffer reported it was currently being used at the High School and was out in the community. While it was regulated at convenience stores, which required that an 18 year old purchase it, they were finding their way into school. Security and surveillance was in place but these were very discrete tools that could be used in a classroom or bathroom. Debbie Haskins, a drug and alcohol counselor, would be doing a session at the Tech Center in May. They were also working with students to update procedures on the school's response to these issues.

**Green Mountain Technical Center:** Lussier reported on the SkillsUSA competitions. These competitions were based on content the students were learning in the programs, as well as job interviewing and extemporaneous speech. Sixty students competed at the State level and this year two students from Stowe and one student from Hazen medaled, with students from Lamoille winning all the other medals. Lussier then announced the names of the students who medaled and stated that Joanne Zorzi had won Advisor of the Year. Damato noted that three of the programs won gold, silver and bronze. The five students who

would be going on to compete nationally will compete against 6,000 students. Gallagher stated that Lussier was being very humble. There were 650 people in attendance, with many students from many technical center throughout the state attending and the GMTCC stood out.

**Other Business:** Gallagher stated that Linda St. Cyr had asked how the end of year High School Board teacher dinner would be handled now that there was a Modified Board. Tilton-Martin asked for the history of the event. Schaffer stated it was the custom of the LUSD Board to gather all employees on the last day of school for an end of year celebration and recognitions were awarded, years of service recognized, and food provided. He noted that the Board had paid for the event and volunteers had assisted, but it was a tremendous undertaking by the administration. He noted that each school could have their own events and Gallagher stated they already did. B. Sander provided additional history and stated it was a nice way to recognize people. He believed it was a nice tradition and he would like it to continue.

Gallagher stated the elementary schools all had their own end of year celebrations. Gallagher's recommendation was that if the Board held this event for the High School, they should do it for all of the schools. Reilly stated they held their celebration during Teacher Appreciation Week and they would be too busy to do this at the end of the year. Sue Hamlyn-Prescott noted if it were held on a workday, they would be very short on volunteers. Orost wondered why they couldn't have one event for all the schools and recognize all the years of service during that event. Hayford stated they were supposed to be a unified district. Stebbins liked the idea of having a single event held at a centralized location. Beaupre suggested holding the event the evening before the last day of school, with attendance not being required. B. Sander stated that over the years many people had attended. However, getting employees to leave their schools to come to a centralized location may not work. Barry stated that each year the Essex School Board delivered large platters of fruits and vegetables to staff and teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. It was nice to be recognized for what you were doing. She noted the event took place the first week in May during Teacher Appreciation Week. This item would be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Gallagher gave a brief update on Chair Whitcomb.

**Adjourn:** B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Beaupre, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.