

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union District Board Meeting
GMTCC - CEC
September 24, 2018**

Members Present: Belvidere: Angie Evans; Cambridge: J. Sander, B. Sander, Laura Miller, Bernard Barnes; Eden: David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Tina Lowe, Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford; Johnson: Katie Orost

Members Absent: Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Sue Hamlyn-Prescott; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Chasity Fagnant; Johnson: Eve Gagne, Angela Lamell, Mark Nielsen, Bobbie Moulton; Waterville: Amanda Tilton-Martin

Others Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deborah Clark, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Melinda Mascolino, Janet Murray, Mary Anderson, Chris Damato, Jennifer Stevens, Jan Epstein, Brian Pena, Wendy Savery, 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. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Barnes, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the September 10, 2018: Orost made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Updates:

Finance: Clark reported that the Committee had elected Mark Nielsen to be Chair and Angela Lamell to be Vice Chair. The Committee reviewed when Executive Session could be used. There was a discussion on open bonds at Eden, Johnson and Hyde Park and Laflam had outlined projects that still needed to be completed. Eden had about \$90,000 remaining and was working on storage, insulation, catwalk and kitchen upgrades. Johnson had approximately \$58,000 remaining and continued to work on HVAC issues. Hyde Park had about \$191,000 remaining. Of that, \$35,000 was being held until all punch list items were satisfactorily completed. Campus facility needs were then discussed and the Board was told that a request for a bond would be coming to the Board. Work on the gymnasium had been postponed for six years or more and as the years had gone by the anticipated work had become more expensive. Additionally work needed to be done in the auditorium. The Committee was also requesting an analysis of some other projects to determine whether they could be paid for through capital reserve or budget lines items. These projects included cafeteria line equipment, High School HVAC issues, a complete reworking of the campus-wide security camera system, renovation of the dance studio, and pavement work. There was also a discussion about Eden Elementary School's space issues. The Committee had requested a comprehensive analysis of space usage across the SU.

Clark notified the Board that the Annual Meeting was scheduled for February 18, 2019. The first review of the 2020 budget would be on February 12th with discussion on February 15th. Clark also reported that VISBIT had announced a health insurance premium increase request of 11.9% and Clark was hoping that would be reduced somewhat. Finally, Clark reported that Eden was now considering the need for a new bus as one of their busses was aging out.

Curriculum: Miller reported they hadn't had a quorum at their meeting and there were no pressing issues to discuss. She stated the Committee could use more members.

Central Office Report: Gallagher reported the Governor's School Safety Conference would be held in Burlington on November 13th and she encouraged Board members to attend. Individuals from Homeland Security, the FBI, students and parents would make presentations and attendees would be taken through real life situations. Gallagher then notified the Board that on Tuesday, September 25th, Jessica Bickford of Healthy Lamoille Valley, would be co-hosting a lecture on the state of youth with respect to drug use.

The SU Wellness Committee met and developed action items to address throughout the year. The three overarching goals for staff and students were nutrition, physical education and physical wellness, and social/emotional wellness. Gallagher noted that Board member Hunsberger would be rolling out mental health first aid training for all staff and secondary level students. Surveys would be provided at the elementary level that measured belonging and connectedness with the students, which would inform what work needed to be done. The District's work on restorative practices was not only about repairing harm caused, but another way to build community and a sense of belonging. Gallagher stated that in the spring the State would be requiring that all schools perform a climate survey. The survey would ask about engagement, safety and the school environment. Gallagher thought it would be an interesting survey. Feedback would be from adults and students in the schools and would inform where the District needed to go and how people were feeling. The survey would be rolled out in the spring of 2019, with the results being available by the end of the school year.

Gallagher then reported on PSSST World Online, an anonymous online reporting system the SU was looking into using, which allowed students to report potential issues or concerns. Gallagher noted there had been a number of situations last year on the secondary level where students had known about a drug-related situation but hadn't wanted to report on a friend. This online system bypassed that concern. Gallagher stated the District was attempting to help address student concerns and students had asked for this. Pena stated that this system allowed for anonymity. Any report received would be relayed to administrators. Miller asked how the administrators would know if the report was false. Pena stated that each report would need to be investigated. If there were repeated false reporting, there might be some assistance to determine who was falsely reporting information. Barnes asked if the accused would know who was accusing them. Gallagher stated it was typical that the accused wouldn't know who the accuser was in bullying, harassment and hazing investigations.

Jewett stated that, as the individual who performed hundreds of investigations each year, this system could create more investigations but he would rather do more investigations than miss one that was critical. In the many investigations he had done, it was rare that a student made a false accusation and that there was at least an element of truth to the accusation. Jewett thought it was important to have an outlet to be able to report something. Miller asked if parents would be notified if there were accusations. Jewett stated that typically when there was an accusation it automatically generated a report to the parents. Gallagher agreed this situation would operate in the same fashion. However, occasionally there were situations where a number of entities including Lamoille County Sheriff's Department or DCF were investigating. These agencies had different rules on what they wanted done, as they didn't want interference from the school. Gallagher felt very strongly that an investigation would not be put off if there were a reasonable suspicion that students were not safe. Jewett explained that the typical bullying and harassment process was that within 24 hours of the report being received the school had to start an investigation. Usually within that first day letters were sent to both the accused and the potential victim. Within a week there was a follow up letter to wrap up the investigation.

Whitcomb informed the Board that he had met with the Sheriff whose focus was on prevention. Marcoux had stated there was a tremendous drug program and he had two detectives working on drug and sex problems and Marcoux asked that if anyone knew something they should feel free to contact the Department. Miller noted that if a student were being mistreated at home they'd be able

to report it through this system, as it was a way to get help without using your name. Gallagher stated this was a work in progress and still needed to be legally vetted. The system was currently being used by other organizations and the District still needed to talk with those users. The cost was approximately \$2,000 and Clark noted the cost could possibly be covered through grant funds.

Elementary Principal Updates:

Cambridge: Anderson informed the Board the school had begun their 6th grade community service projects. The students recently served lunch to elders at a community lunch in Cambridge. Another group would be going to NCAL as part of their community service. Anderson then expressed appreciation to Damato for the invitation to Robtoy Farm. She encouraged everyone to visit. She was looking at possibilities of partnering with the farm.

Eden: Mascolino reported that each student was able to select a book to take home today as part of the CLIF grant. One of the two prebuilt garages, paid for through a bond, had been delivered. The school recently held their annual recognition of Peace Day. Mascolino stated they were now working on creating a document for teachers that would help to drill down on student benchmarks in literacy.

Waterville: Epstein reported the 6th grade had gone to Lake Elmore and done field work. It was a good team building exercise. The tipi was being put together which would allow for some outdoor classroom experiences. Coaching cycles would begin on Tier 1 instructional strategies.

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

Middle School: Savery reported the biggest change for students that had come about as a result of the new schedule was that all teams were now able to have lunch together in the high school cafeteria. While it was a bit loud there was an alternative location available for those who desired a less stimulating environment. Feedback on the change had been very positive. Savery stated their key focus for the remainder of the year was on the continuous improvement plan.

High School: Jewett agreed with Savery that the new schedule had worked well, particularly the cafeteria arrangement. It has been a collaborative project between the middle school, high school, tech center and cafeteria. He stated this had also saved the cafeteria between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The schedule had created new opportunities for students to meet with their advisor for about 40 minutes. Jewett stated there was a new emphasis on both the academic need of the student as well as on their social/emotional needs.

Tech Center: Damato noted there hadn't been any work occurring in any of the shops because students were finishing their safety training. Robtoy Farm was currently training forestry students on precision tree felling and logging rescue. In partnership with West Farm, Robtoy Farm would be participating in a Fall Celebration on October 6th. Through this partnership with West Farm, there had been a major renovation of the barn. There would be an Open House at GMTCC on October 17th. Tours and demonstrations would take place after dinner.

Board Negotiations Council Update: McFarlane reported that the BNC had entered into a side agreement with the Association about the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). They continued the agreement that was held already in place that had been negotiated in May for July 1 to December. The agreement was for employer first dollar from January to June, which would complete the current contract for support staff and teachers. The BNC had met with the teachers once already and would be meeting with the support staff this week.

Other Business: Aumand informed the Board that the SU Spelling Bee would be on October 9th.

Adjourn: B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Barnes, to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.