

LAMOILLE NORTH MODIFIED UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016

Present: Catherine Gallagher, Michele Aumand, Sheila Jourdan, Brian Schaffer, Marilyn Frederick, Deb Baker, William Sander, Mark Stebbins, Mark Schilling, Katie Orost, Amanda Tilton-Martin, Tim Sullivan, Thad Tallman, Jodi Tallman, Deb Clark, Laura Miller, Jeff Hunsberger, David Whitcomb, Beth Bailey, Harold Bailey, Lisa Barry, Patti Hayford, Angie Evans, Candace Vear, Mark Nielsen, Beth Foy, Kim Moulton, Bernard Barnes, Heather Rodriguez, Sue Hamlyn-Prescott, Heather Hobart, Shirley Brown, and 7 other people.

Catherine Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:01. She explained that Secretary Holcombe could not be here and had appointed David Whitcomb her designee. She introduced Marilyn Frederick, retired business manager, who is back as an Act 46 consultant. She read the letter naming David Whitcomb as Secretary Holcombe's designee, then turned the meeting over to D. Whitcomb.

D. Whitcomb said this meeting is for the organization of the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District. Directors were elected to the new board on April 12. Two towns have not joined the union but they still have members elected who will be on the board but will not be able to participate in all votes. He asked if there were any objections to dispensing with reading the warning, as copies of it had been handed out. There were no objections.

W. Sander asked about the first article, to elect a temporary presiding officer and clerk. D. Whitcomb said the presiding officer is the moderator. A temporary moderator and clerk will be elected first, to serve only until the election of a moderator and clerk under Article 3. D. Griffiths asked if he was sure Article 1 was not supposed to be for election of a temporary board chair and board clerk, to serve until the new board could elect those officers. D. Whitcomb and C. Gallagher said they were sure that was not the intention.

**Article 1:**

**To elect a temporary presiding officer and clerk from among the qualified voters.**

Beth Bailey nominated David Whitcomb as temporary moderator. Beth Foy nominated Tim Sullivan. Voting was by paper ballot. T. Sullivan was elected 17-15.

Kim Moulton nominated Donna Griffiths as temporary clerk. Hearing no other nominations, T. Sullivan called for a voice vote. Donna Griffiths was elected temporary clerk.

**Article 2:**

**To adopt Robert's Rules of Order or other rules of order to govern the parliamentary procedures of this and subsequent meetings of the LNMUUSD.**

**W. Sander moved to adopt Roberts Rules of Order Revised to govern the parliamentary procedures of this and subsequent meetings of the LNMUUSD. The motion was seconded and passed.**

**Article 3:**

**To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification for one year or until the election and qualification of their successors:**

- **Moderator**
- **Clerk**
- **Treasurer**

T. Sullivan asked D. Griffiths to run the meeting during election of a moderator. T. Sullivan and D. Whitcomb were nominated for moderator. Voting was by paper ballot.

Shirley Brown said she thought each voter should be checked off on the checklist when turning in a ballot. (This had not been done.) Katie Orost said the number of ballots was compared to the number of voters who had been checked off on the checklists at the start of the meeting and the number was the same: 32. Others said that at the annual meetings of the Johnson and Cambridge boards, voters check in when they first get to the meeting but are not checked off the checklist each time they vote by paper ballot. T. Sullivan said the procedures being used seemed consistent with procedures used in Johnson and Cambridge so he felt they were appropriate.

Tim Sullivan was elected moderator 20-12.

Kim Moulton nominated Donna Griffiths for clerk. Hearing no other nominations, T. Sullivan called for a voice vote. Donna Griffiths was elected clerk.

Beth Bailey nominated Georgeana Little for treasurer. Donna Griffiths nominated Kim Moulton. Voting was by paper ballot. Out of 31 votes, 1 was spoiled, 18 were for K. Moulton and 12 were for G. Little. Kim Moulton was elected treasurer.

**Article 4:**

**To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid LNMUUSD officers.**

**W. Sander moved that there be no compensation for moderator, seconded by Deb Baker.**

B. Bailey asked if there is an option for the elected board to establish compensation during a future board meeting. Can we vote to not approve this now? T. Sullivan said this is a warned article. We will act on it here. It is a matter for the voters.

Mark Stebbins asked what the role of the moderator will be as compared to the chair. T. Sullivan said the moderator's role is to serve in public meetings like this, of which there are a limited number.

**The motion was passed.**

Shirley Brown moved to pay the rest of the officers nothing. The motion was not seconded.

**William Sander moved to give the clerk the same compensation the LUSD #18 clerk currently receives: \$300 plus mileage.** Donna Griffiths suggested an increase to \$325, as the pay has not been increased in some time. **Beth Bailey seconded the motion. Katie Orost moved to amend the motion to make the compensation \$325 plus mileage, seconded by Sue Hamlyn-Prescott. The motion to amend was passed. The amended motion was passed.**

W. Sander asked what the compensation is for the current LUSD #18 treasurer. Catherine Gallagher said it is \$5500. W. Sander asked how active this person will be until the system really gets up and running. Marilyn Frederick said the treasurer will be active in setting up bank accounts, getting tax ID numbers, etc.

**W. Sander moved to give the treasurer the same compensation the LUSD #18 treasurer currently receives: \$5500. The motion was seconded.**

**S. Hamlyn-Prescott moved to amend the motion to provide a prorated fraction of \$5500 based on the fraction of a year the treasurer will be in office. The motion was seconded.**

Harold Bailey asked for the amendment to be explained. T. Sullivan said the intent is to prorate the pay because the treasurer will be in office for less than a full fiscal year. B. Bailey said the treasurer's term will only be 21 days less than a full year and it sounds like the treasurer will have more work than in future years, because of having to get accounts established, etc. She would argue that the amendment not be passed because of the extra effort required this year.

Laura Miller said the LUSD #18 board has a treasurer who gets paid \$5500 and this board will have one too. Do they work hand in hand? W. Sander said the same person is the treasurer for both boards. L. Miller said then the treasurer will be getting double pay. D. Baker said for a year the work for the two boards will be overlapping. T. Sullivan asked for clarification from M. Frederick about the role of the treasurer.

M. Frederick said there is a year of overlap. LUSD #18 still exists this year. There will be more work related to statements and checks this year for the LUSD #18 treasurer than for the LNMUUSD treasurer. The workload is different for the two boards. The same person will be doing two different jobs. She would say that in the overlap year there will be more work for the LUSD #18 treasurer and gradually it will become just as much work for the LNMUUSD treasurer. She can understand prorating the pay because, while there is initial work getting tax ID numbers and setting up checking accounts, there will not be as much work for the new position as exists for the current LUSD #18 position.

L. Miller asked if the term ends town meeting day or July 1. M. Frederick said July 1.

K. Orost asked where the funding for the compensation comes from. T. Sullivan said he believes that is addressed in a later article.

**It was moved and seconded to call the question and the motion was passed.**

T. Sullivan declared that the motion had passed based on a voice vote. D. Baker asked for a show of hands. T. Sullivan asked for a show of hands, which clearly indicated a majority of yes votes.

**The motion to amend was passed.**

B. Bailey said she will vote no on the amended motion. She thinks we should pay the treasurer an hourly rate rather than paying her twice the amount she is making now, because we don't know how much effort will be needed.

**A show of hands indicated the motion was defeated.**

**D. Baker moved to pay the treasurer \$2500, seconded by D. Whitcomb.**

M. Nielsen asked if there is any reason why the same person can't do both jobs. The work for LNMMUUSD sounds very minimal in the beginning. D. Baker said it is the same person doing it. M. Nielsen said it seems the new work could be handled as part of the existing job.

L. Miller said if we paid the treasurer \$20/hr it would take 275 hours to equal \$5500. B. Bailey said we could consider a cap if we paid an hourly wage. Jodi Tallman asked if compensation is revisited each year. Others said yes.

W. Sander asked if the motion to set compensation at \$2500 includes prorating the amount for this year. T. Sullivan and D. Baker said no.

**The motion was passed on a voice vote.**

#### **Article 5:**

#### **To establish a date of the annual meeting**

C. Gallagher suggested Monday, February 20.

B. Bailey asked what establishing the date of the annual meeting means. T. Sullivan said the annual meeting will be much like annual meetings individual boards have had in the past – the public meeting that establishes all the officers and addresses any other business of a typical school board annual meeting.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott asked if having it on February 20 means it will not fall during vacation. C. Gallagher said yes.

**B. Bailey moved to set an annual meeting date of February 20, 2017, seconded by S. Hamlyn-Prescott.**

S. Brown asked if it will be February 20 every year. As she understands it, we could set a date that would apply forever and the meeting would fall on the same day every year or we could vote on it every year at the annual meeting. Was this discussed in the articles of agreement? W. Sander said this would correspond to the third Monday in February, but there is concern that the meeting shouldn't be during vacation. He thinks the date would be subject to review at each annual meeting. We could say something like "the third Monday in February provided that date

is not during vacation.” D. Baker said the LUSD #18 board sets the date every year. She thinks that is what will happen with this board. B. Bailey noted that her motion is specific to the year 2017.

**The motion was passed.**

#### **Article 6**

**To establish provisions for the payment of any expense incurred by the LNMUUSD.**

T. Sullivan read a suggested motion from the state that was provided by C. Gallagher.

**W. Sander moved and B. Bailey seconded that the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District comply with the provisions of 16 VSA Section 563, subdivisions (8) & (9), regarding the payment of expenses and the maintenance of financial accounts and comply with the policies and procedures of the Lamoille North Supervisory Union regarding such matters.**

There was a question about who sets the procedures. D. Clark said all payment of expenses will have to be voted on by the board. T. Sullivan said he believes the board will set up its own procedures.

**The motion was passed.**

#### **Article 7**

**To authorize the LNMUUSD to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the newly formed LNMUUSD is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.**

**S. Brown moved and W. Sander seconded to authorize the LNMUUSD to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the newly formed LNMUUSD is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.**

Beth Foy asked what the terms of the borrowed money are. Is it zero percent interest? W. Sander said we negotiate the best rates we can every year. B. Foy said she is curious whether other funding options are ever considered or should be considered. W. Sander said this motion gives authorization to borrow, then the board can consider options.

**The motion was passed.**

#### **Article 8**

**To transact any other school business thought proper when met.**

W. Sander asked if we have any guidance from the state about when and where the new board starts functioning. M. Frederick said within 90 days the board has to meet. It is suggested that the

board have a retreat to set their direction with regard to their responsibilities. There are suggested timelines. C. Gallagher said the new board also needs to begin bargaining within 90 days of today.

W. Sander asked about pay for board members. M. Frederick said she understands that it is set at the first annual meeting.

D. Baker suggested that the new board have another public meeting when we get answers from the state. C. Gallagher said there will be another public information session to help answer questions from board members and the community. She imagines it will be in the next 30 days. She suggests that people forward any questions to central office. Central office will compile them and work with the state to get answers, then address them at the public information session.

B. Foy said we set up this meeting around Rebecca Holcombe's schedule. It is very disappointing to her that no one from the state is here.

**D. Baker moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded and passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*