

LAMOILLE NORTH SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2015  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

Board members present: Belvidere – Angie Evans; Cambridge – Bernard Barnes, Jan Sander, Mark Stebbins; Eden – Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park – Raven Walters, Dan Regan, Lisa Barry; Johnson – Katie Orost; LUSD #18 – David Whitcomb, Beth Bailey, Eve Gagne. Others: Edith Beatty, Marilyn Frederick, Kate Torrey, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Jade Hazard, Joe Ciccolo, Diane Reilly, Mary Anderson, Catherine Gallagher, Wendy Savery, Sherry Lussier, Janet Murray, Harry Frank.

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. *Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment***

D. Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:07.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and the motion was passed.**

**2. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items (Superintendent Evaluation Committee Minutes 9-23-15 and 10-14-15, Board Minutes 9-28-15, Clerk's Report on Directors' Orders)***

**MOTION: J. Sander moved to approve the consent agenda and the motion was seconded and passed.**

**3. *Report from Executive Committee on Superintendent Evaluation***

D. Regan said the superintendent evaluation committee met with the executive committee just prior to this meeting to discuss plans. The plan is for the superintendent evaluation committee to meet one more time before the end of the calendar year to refine the survey items that are going to be used and decide on appropriate methodology for each set of items. That work will be informed by the discussion that just happened with the executive committee. The goal is to create an instrument that would be rolled out by mid-January. Three weeks or so would then be spent gathering data. All of that effort is in the context of a continuous growth model intended to find areas of strength and areas of weakness to be worked on in a subsequent cycle. The areas to be worked on might pertain to the superintendent or the board. The goal is for the board and superintendent to work together more successfully to address board priorities. (*E. Gagne arrived.*)

**4. *Presentation of LNSU FY17 Budget and Possible Action***

M. Frederick gave a presentation on the proposed budget. It represents little change but it includes:

- transportation costs to maximize state aid
- special student support services transportation
- math coach continues at LNSU level
- Pre-K/EEE coordination
- Supports business manager transition
- 7.9% health increase
- Salary increase between 2-3%

The total budget is \$6,772,466. That includes special ed licensed staff who were moved into the LNSU budget last year but couldn't actually be moved because we didn't have a side letter allowing it. We have the offsetting grants we have traditionally had in central office as well as those that support the special educators who are now LNSU employees. Subtracting those grants gives an assessment budget of \$6,177,240. Subtracting services to schools and miscellaneous revenues gives an FY17 assessment amount of \$4,234,477. One service to schools will be transportation. We never agreed to centralize transportation in such a way that LNSU would take over ownership of buses, but all costs have to come into central office because the state will only reimburse central office expenditures when providing state aid.

M. Frederick showed how the assessment budget and assessment have changed over time since FY13. The assessment increase is \$56,545 (1.35%.) Salary increases have the biggest impact on the budget. Benefits also have a fairly large impact. M. Frederick showed for each district FY17 regular transportation costs, the state aid offset, and the local district transportation budget.

We have new responsibilities under Act 166. We need to supervise and evaluate Pre-K partners. C. Gallagher said for the first time in the history of LNSU we achieved a 98.9% compliance rate for special ed plans and evaluations. Much of that is due to Janet Murray. She and building administrators deserve thanks. There was a round of applause.

J. Murray said the biggest change with Act 166 is that we need to implement quality control for partner programs. We will be supervising and evaluating programming. She was recently trained in a statewide assessment system for offsite programs. As EEE people move to central office, she will be responsible for supervising them. She will also continue to consult on autism. We have seen an increase in preschool students on the spectrum. C. Gallagher said J. Murray can't diagnose autism but she can program for it and do ongoing assessments. It costs \$3K per child or more to have someone assess for autism and probably \$12K to have an outside consultant program for the child. J. Murray can do that and she knows our children. M. Frederick said because of that J. Murray pays for herself. J. Murray said she has seen a big increase in students 3 or younger coming from families affected by opiate addiction. Helping them and their families involves a lot of collaboration with agency partners to provide wraparound services for them.

M. Frederick showed how the LNSU assessment for each district has changed since 2009. She pointed out that GMTCC has no transportation costs and no special ed costs, and the GMTCC assessment has been pretty much flat since 2009.

M. Frederick recommends using \$79,713 of the uncommitted fund balance to offset assessment costs in FY17.

**MOTION: J. Sander moved to approve the FY17 budget of \$6,772,466 and apply \$79,713 of the audited fund balance to support the general assessment budget of \$6,177,240 with an assessment of \$4,234,477, seconded by K. Orost.** M. Frederick said we are still not bringing over special ed purchased services to central office as discussed

last year. Now we have Act 46. There are so many moving parts it would really muddy the waters to look at it. This budget does include special ed licensed staff and transportation. Central office will pay the leases or bank notes for buses but will not take ownership of them. B. Bailey asked, this budget has nothing to do with Act 46? M. Frederick said that is right, it has nothing to do with Act 46. **The motion was passed.**

5. ***Recommendation for FY16 Administrative Increases***

C. McFarlane said there are 2 administrators in central office who haven't received increases this year – M. Frederick and E. Beatty. Her recommendation is to give them 3% increases, the same as other administrator increases that have been approved. E. Beatty said she thinks all the other administrators except John Coppens have had increases approved. In the past if contracts weren't settled administrator increases were held up but that doesn't make sense because administrators are not in the master agreements.

**MOTION: J. Hunsberger moved to approve salary increases of 3% for M. Frederick and E. Beatty for FY16, J. Sander seconded and the motion was passed.**

6. ***Act 46 Update***

P. Ingvaldstad said at its next meeting the Act 46 committee will hopefully finish off and approve the articles of agreement they are going to send to the state. The state will look at them and decide if they will accept them. If they do, then in February and March the committee will have more public meetings to explain what the articles of agreement mean. Then the voting will happen on April 12. He thinks the committee is pretty well committed to bringing the question of consolidation to the voters.

7. ***Teacher Negotiations Update***

**MOTION: B. Bailey moved to enter executive session to discuss teacher negotiations with everyone present remaining, seconded by B. Barnes, the motion was passed, and the board entered executive session at 6:45.** The board came out of executive session at 6:53.

8. ***Superintendent's Report***

E. Beatty reviewed some highlights from her written report. She gave kudos to C. Gallagher and special ed teams for achieving a 98.9 compliance rate for special ed plans and evaluations. Our elementary schools have begun receiving their Continuous Improvement Grant awards for supports and services to increase student learning. D. Regan was elected to the VSBA state board of directors. E. Beatty welcomed Jade Hazard, the new Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction (and Professional Development), who has not been to an LNSU board meeting before tonight.

E. Beatty thanked everyone involved in the Act 46 committee's work. P. Ingvaldstad and P. Laflamme have both chaired some meetings. Consultant Steve Sanborn's knowledge and experience have been helpful and M. Aumand has provided fabulous support. The LNSU website has Act 46 committee minutes, agendas, and articles of agreement. On November 30 the committee will be looking at the articles of agreement. E. Beatty and S. Sanborn wrote up two sets of articles. Which is used depends on whether the committee decides all districts will be necessary for a merger or if all will be advisable, in which case any 4 out of 6 have to vote for consolidation. The committee feels either all districts should be necessary or all should be advisable.

J. Hunsberger said the Eden board discussed putting a link on the ECS website to the Act 46 page on the LNSU website. Others may want to consider that for their school websites as another way to make it as easy as possible for community members to get information.

Each of our elementary schools will receive Continuous Improvement Grants. That frees up some other funds that would have been used for the elementary schools to be used for the middle school and high school.

LNSU has volunteered to pilot an external review of our Education Quality Standards implementation later this school year with the Agency of Education. By participating in this pilot we garner early feedback and are off the hook for the review – and consequences – for a few more years.

This year we have a new physical therapist, Pat Rickart, and two new OT's. Diane Solomon works full time and serves children at ECS and HPES predominantly. Genny Cook, replacing Stephanie Smart, serves JES, WES, and CES as needed.

Auditors have come and gone. We await their report. Budgets are being developed. HR continues to support hiring and leadership support for new and continuing staff. They are updating and developing HR procedures. HR is also working to support the process of finding a new business manager and a new principal for ECS. For those who are interested in being a part of the business manager hiring process there are many ways to be involved. Some will screen candidates. Some will interview candidates. There will be a board forum and a public forum to meet the finalist or finalists. The first step in hiring a new ECS principal is meeting with ECS faculty in early December to get a sense of what kind of leader they are looking for.

J. Hunsberger said he is working with Jeff Lindgren to pick a time to have a little retirement celebration for J. Lindgren as part of some other school event at ECS. Anyone who wants to attend should let him or J. Ciccolo know.

9. *Adjourn*

**MOTION: B. Bailey moved to adjourn at 7:05, L. Barry seconded, and the motion was passed.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LNSU Board 11-23-15:

1. *Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment*  
**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and the motion was passed.**
2. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items (Superintendent Evaluation Committee Minutes 9-23-15 and 10-14-15, Board Minutes 9-28-15, Clerk's Report on Directors' Orders)*  
**MOTION: J. Sander moved to approve the consent agenda and the motion was seconded and passed.**
4. *Presentation of LNSU FY17 Budget and Possible Action*  
**MOTION: J. Sander moved to approve the FY17 budget of \$6,772,466 and apply \$79,713 of the audited fund balance to support the general assessment budget of \$6,177,240 with an assessment of \$4,234,477, seconded by K. Orost. The motion was passed.**
5. *Recommendation for FY16 Administrative Increases*  
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9. *Adjourn*  
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