

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 27, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Laura Miller, Jan Sander, Bill Sander (phone); Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Lisa Barry, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Angela Lamell, Lauren Philie, Mark Nielsen; Waterville: Bart Bezio

**Board Members Absent:** Cambridge: Bernard Barnes, Sue Prescott; Eden: David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Chasity Fagnant, Patti Hayford; Johnson: Katie Orost, Bobbi Moulton

**Administrators Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Janet Murray, Erik Remmers, Charleen McFarlane, Karyl Kent, Denise Maurice, Brian Schaffer, Wendy Savery, Diane Reilly, Jennifer Hulse, Dylan Laflam, Jan Epstein, Mary Anderson, David Manning

**Student Representative:** Galen Reese

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The ECS Food Service Coordinator Pay Rate item was removed from the agenda. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve the revised agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

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

**Minutes of the January 13, 2020, meeting and January 6, 2020, Finance & Capital Committee Meeting:** Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Bezio, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Review, Discuss & Execute Bond Documents:** Clark explained there were documents that needed to be signed for the closing of the bond. Clark asked that the Board make a motion to accept the bond documents as presented and authorize the Board and the Treasurer to sign accordingly. Stebbins made the motion, seconded by Barry, as requested. The motion passed unanimously. Clark stated the closing should be by the end of next month.

**Use of Capital for Safety Grant Match:** Laflam explained that when the safety grants had been brought before the Board it had been the intent to use capital reserve funds as the 25% match. In reviewing Board minutes, that had not been made clear. He asked that the following amounts be moved from the general fund into the individual school's capital reserve:

Waterville Elementary School: \$4,226.81

Eden Elementary School: \$7,255.34

Johnson Elementary School: \$6,119.44

Lamoille Campus: \$26,978.53

J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve that the funds be moved from the general fund to the individual school's capital reserve. The motion passed unanimously.

**Central Office Report:** Gallagher informed the Board the House was looking at separating out the AOE's responsibilities from the Agency of Human Services in dealing with Act 166. The AOE would potentially lead on Act 166. Gallagher then reported that Dan French was interested in having every student who presented with potential reading issues at the kindergarten level be assessed for dyslexia. Gallagher noted this wouldn't help control the budget and was being suggested by people not well versed in

education. There were many issues students could have at that age that had nothing to do with dyslexia. Gallagher hoped that wouldn't go anywhere.

Gallagher then reported that superintendents were submitting their school calendars for next year. The District would be aligning their April vacation with Burlington. This hadn't been done in the past, but the State was looking to have a statewide April vacation. The other suggestion to schools was to start one week earlier. When replacing lost days as a result of snow days, they were looking at when students would be most engaged in school and the thinking was that August was the best time. Gallagher stated that she and Jeff Hunsberger were partnering to bring more supports to Eden and Waterville through a pilot program potentially being funded through a private funding source. Gallagher thanked Hunsberger for his work on this.

Because of numerous complaints, air quality testing had been done at Central Office. There was no mold found, but the carbon dioxide levels were almost twice the healthy limit. Laflam would be looking into this further. Gallagher stated that she and Clark had met with Andrew Martin and had a good conversation about the budget. She had heard from several community members that Central Office was adding numerous positions and that was not the case.

Clark reported that the LNMUUSD Finance reports had been sent to the Board. They were running tight with the budget and she would be working with administrators to review every encumbrance.

### **Principals/Director Updates:**

**Belvidere/Waterville:** Epstein reported she had sat in on the first, second and third grade PLC. Assessments were being done and she was pleased to see the progress that the Tier 2 students were making. They were working on goals with the MTSS consultant and were making good progress. The school held their first winter sports day and the VSO brass ensemble would be coming on Friday.

**Cambridge:** Anderson stated they were doing many of the same things as other schools in the District. In addition, the Rotary Club of Cambridge had fundraised so that students could ski and ride five times this year and today was the kickoff. Anderson thanked Aumand for advocating for Path to Wellness dollars to be used to fund crafting activities. It had been very well received by the staff.

**Hyde Park:** Reilly stated the Big Change Round Up would be this week. A staff member ran the Sports for Life program, with specialist teachers and paraeducators leading the students. That allowed teachers to receive six weeks of professional development. Also during that time, special educators were working together to make plans for next year. Assessments were being done now. Reilly then talked about the three assessment programs being used and the concept of triangulation. Results at Hyde Park were showing that no matter which assessment was being done, the student results were the same.

**Johnson:** Manning reported this was the time of year that students learned the most. There were few distractions and students were familiar with the routines. He had visited seven classrooms and students were engaged in a variety of learning experiences. The Restorative Center would be coming in to meet with staff for the third time to discuss community-building circles, which created a positive culture in the classroom. The last meeting they had discussed targeted circles that had a specific purpose. This week they were going to meet with the MTSS consultant to review survey results and determine where to go next. Teachers were also meeting with literacy and math coaches and sharing that information with their colleagues.

**Middle School:** Savery stated she was starting the 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade transition planning. She thanked Cambridge Rotary for their \$1,000 donation to the middle school for vacation food bags. Last year staff and Board members donated funds to buy food supplies. The food bags were very much needed. Savery and Karyl Kent will be going to talk with the Rotary in March about this program as well as other work

Kent is doing. Savery then thanked Denise Maurice for taking the lead at the middle school while Savery was covering curriculum. Winter activities and the ski and ride program are now in full force. Savery then reported that the MTSS consultant would be working with the middle school on student engagement and motivation.

**High School:** Galen Reese informed the Board that he would be part of a task force that Gallagher and Savery had put together to address concerns regarding proficiency-based grading. Last week he had been in Rutland to attend the State School Board meeting to testify in defense of proficiency-based grading. He noted there was almost unanimous support from most education experts. There were a number of well-regarded experts speaking at the meeting. The only two individuals who spoke against proficiencies were parents. Reese then reported that all sports teams were doing well.

Schaffer highlighted a recent issue of the student newspaper. Schaffer noted that the work that the Board was doing did not go unnoticed within the school. He highlighted several articles and encouraged the Board to read the newsletter. He was happy to report that the work the Board was doing was resonating with the students.

**GMTCC:** Remmers stated the students were very busy, with houses being built and internships in place at the local hospital and other businesses. He noted this was the heart of recruitment and application season and they were working on providing information to parents and students. Remmers hoped to be able to present information at the next Board meeting on trends so that Board members had data available when talking with others about the program.

**Other Business:** There was no other business.

**Adjourn:** J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Jeff Hunsberger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.