



**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District
Minutes of Meeting
September 9, 2019**

Board Members Present: Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Bill Sander, Jan Sander, Mark Stebbins, Bernard Barnes, Laura Miller; Eden: David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Lisa Barry, Chasity Fagnant, Patti Hayford, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Bobbie Moulton, Angela Lamell, Lauren Philie, Mark Nielsen (by phone); Waterville: Bart Bezio

Board Members Absent: Cambridge: Sue Prescott; Johnson: Katie Orost,

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Charleen McFarlane, Michele Aumand, Jennifer Hulse, Jade Hazard, Janet Murray, Brian Schaffer, David Manning, Mary Anderson, Diane Reilly, Jan Epstein, Melinda Mascolino, Wendy Savery, Erik Remmers, Jeremy Scannell, Brian Pena, Dylan LaFlam, Maggie McGee, Galen Reese

Others: Danielle Shoda, JES Community Member

Minute Taker: Michele Aumand, Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

LNSU/LN MUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the August 26, 2019, Meeting and August 15, 2019, Personnel Committee Meeting: B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: Miller made a motion to accept the Board Orders. B. Sander seconded the motion and the motion then passed unanimously.

Grades 7-12 Athletic Program/Department Introduction: Tim Messier and Stacy Stokes introduced themselves to the Board. Messier shared their excitement on the passage of the bond. Messier explained the school athletes participated in Division 2 sports. Board members were provided details on sports offered to students in Grade 7-12. Messier explained that due to a decline in student participation in sports, there was a member-to-member agreement with Mt. Mansfield and BFA-Fairfax in order to round out rosters. Currently there was a cooperative opportunity with players from Lamoille, Stowe, Peoples Academy and Fairfax playing football. He encouraged Board members to attend some of the sporting events and to thank their constituents for their support of the bond and the athletic program.

B. Sander asked about the possibility of a track program. Messier supported the concept. B. Sander then discussed his concerns about students playing football. He asked if student participation in football had been brought before the Board. Messier stated the member-to-member agreement for football with BFA-Fairfax had been instituted years ago with a limit placed on the number of participants. As numbers declined at BFA, the numbers of students participating increased at Lamoille. Messier noted that youth football did not fall under the Lamoille umbrella. The VPA agreement with Lamoille covered grades 9-12 and VPA took measures to ensure the safety of the students while playing football. Further, the coaches were very careful with their students. Fagnant

stated she was on the board of the Football Committee at Fairfax for the Youth Program. Studies had been done and it had been statistically proven that there were more concussions in soccer than in football.

J. Sander stated she would like to have a track at the high school. Messier stated the number of participants had been low but last spring the number of participants in track activities increased to 40. Messier wondered if they could partner with NVU-Johnson as well. Laflam stated conversation about the track had to be stopped in order to pursue the bond. The possibility of adding a track could now be more fully researched and, in fact, discussions were currently taking place.

Schaffer stated they had recently hosted a sporting event where a guest had had a cardiac emergency. The staff had been well trained, with communication patterns laid out, a portable AED available, and resuscitation was possible. Schaffer was grateful to have Messier and Stokes leading an athletic program that provided such extensive safety measures.

Personnel Matter: Gallagher asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and requested that all Board members and Jan Epstein remain. B. Sander made the motion, seconded by Barnes, to go into Executive Session at 6:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously. The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

School Property Use Agreement with Eden: At this time, Stebbins took over as Chair. Clark explained that the town of Eden wanted to formalize the property use agreements, both the property that the School District used that was town property and the School District property that the town used. Clark stated this was a formality of a relationship that had existed for a long time. She requested that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the agreement. In response to a question, Clark explained the community had come to the District with the request and this was the first town to make such a request. The motion passed unanimously, with Cambridge Board members abstaining.

Hyde Park Student Materials Bid: Clark informed the Board that Eden and Hyde Park had received additional grant funding for some instructional support. One of the strategies involved purchasing high volumes of some instructional materials. The District went out to bid for that. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to review the bids. Hazard explained that the grant was for comprehensive support for both Eden and Hyde Park. These were in support of literacy instruction. Clark stated the grant was still in the final approval process. Therefore, no purchase would be made until the grant was approved. The funds for this particular portion of the grant needed to be spent by September 30th. Clark was asking for approval only up to the amount of the strategy as written in the grant funds.

Philie questioned the \$9,000 shipping costs. Clark stated the vendor could have put that dollar amount within the per-unit cost or broken it out. Miller asked if there would be training on how to use these materials and whether there was enough storage space to hold the number of books being ordered. Reilly stated that all the teachers were being trained throughout the year on using the material. She stated they had been waiting for these materials for three or four years and hadn't been able to put the cost of them in the budget. These books were more robust than what was being used now. Reilly stated the books would be going into the classrooms. Mascolino stated her teachers were participating in literacy training. They would be splitting up the books into classrooms and the book room.

In response to a question on why these two schools were selected, Hazard explained that Eden and Hyde Park were identified as being in need of support. Fagnant asked why there was only one bid. Clark explained that there were large parent companies and some small subsidiaries and so, in fact, there were very few companies that provided this type of material. Three bids were sent out and only one company returned with a bid. Whitcomb took over as Chair again.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the bid of \$131,758, plus \$9,223.06 for shipping, from Heinemann. Cambridge Board members abstained.

Eden Student Materials Bid: Philie made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to accept the bid of \$42,270, plus \$3,592.95 for shipping, from Heinemann. The motion passed unanimously with Cambridge Board members abstaining.

Fuel Oil & Propane Bid: Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the bid of Fred's Energy for fuel oil and propane as recommended. The recommendation was to accept the low bid from Fred's Energy of \$108,855 for fuel oil and \$42,665 for propane. The price being paid this year was slightly higher than last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Central Office Report: Gallagher reported to the Board that following the meeting with Senator Leahy's office, the Senator's staff had reached out to Karyl Kent for information on the farm to table and nutrition programs. Gallagher hoped there might be some type of financial support to help with the cost of the program. Negotiations had gone to fact finding and a report should be issued by September 15th. Clark, Gallagher, a community parent, and a representative from LVT would be interviewing with WCAX about the bus driver shortage in an effort to educate the public on the issues surrounding bus routes. Gallagher then expressed gratitude to the communities for supporting such a large endeavor when they voted for the bond. Gallagher applauded Clark for her strategic approach to informing the public about the bond through a variety of media sources. Gallagher then explained that the announcement of the bond vote on Front Porch Forum and Facebook had been delayed because they were being respectful of the passing of a school/community member. Gallagher noted there were individuals who questioned the timing of communication. Gallagher explained this was a caring community and people came first. Gallagher then reported that Nick Allen would be providing music classes to Hyde Park Elementary School. Gallagher appreciated Allen's creative efforts and willingness to be part of a greater team.

Clark expressed appreciation for Gallagher's comments and noted it was a team effort. She then reported on the estimated year-end figures, noting that they had done very well. Prior year funds would not need to be used for the MUUSD or the elementary schools. The Tech Center budget was affected by the FY18 allowable tuition adjustment and was substantial. There was now a healthy estimated unaudited fund balance going into FY21 for the GMTCC budget season and could possibly restore some capital. The budget development packet would be put together over the next few weeks and Finance and Capital Committee would begin developing a schedule to meet.

McFarlane noted the annual spelling bee with Grades 5/6 would be held on October 7th at 6:00 p.m. She invited Board members to attend.

Miller asked if there was an update on the space analysis. Clark stated she anticipated the report could go to the Finance and Capital Committee next month.

Principals/Director Updates:

High School: Reese reported the high school was getting off to a good start. Clubs were getting organized. McGee reported on dates of upcoming soccer matches.

Middle School: Savery highlighted the collaboration of Grade 7-12 around the focus areas of restorative practices, proficiency based learning, and safety protocols.

GMTCC: Remmers highlighted the fact that the program innovation (or TIME) grant had been approved. This grant would fund the hiring of a teacher to begin planning and organizing for an Early Childhood Education program to be run through GMTCC.

Belvidere/Waterville: Epstein reported that she and a team of teachers attended the BEST institute this summer where the PBiS program was refreshed. Students were encouraged to look at what the

expectations were at the school.

Cambridge: Anderson reported that the school was experiencing an enjoyable start to the school year. A number of new families were moving into Cambridge and there were 19 students added to the school's roster. Anderson stated a new bus driver had been hired. She is currently taking the CDL course and will come on board shortly. This should allow them to be able to return to the 2018-2019 bus routes soon. Finally, with the departure of the "Part Two" childcare program, CES had decided to apply for a childcare license that they should receive shortly. This would be a relief to many parents who were in need of after school care.

Eden: Mascolino reported the beginning of school was going very well. Teachers reported how easily the staff had come together to get the year started. She informed the Board that she had placed an ad in the local paper last spring and five people had applied to be subs at Eden. This would be extremely helpful as there would be a good deal of professional development that would require staff being out of the building this year.

Hyde Park: Reilly reported on how excited students were that Nick Allen would be teaching music at the school. She appreciated the collaboration with the high school. This year there were a large number of hires and the staff was working well together, collaborating on a lot of projects. She reported they had a barbecue during the second week of school with 400 people in attendance.

Johnson: Manning reported they had a gym floor issue, which meant that physical education, lunches, and community meetings were impacted. The repair would take at least five weeks.

Other Business: Gallagher noted the next Board meeting would be held on September 23rd.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion, seconded by B. Sander, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.