

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 26, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Laura Miller, Jan Sander, Bill Sander, Denise Webster, Mark Stebbins; Eden: David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Chasity Fagnant, Tina Lowe, Lisa Barry; Johnson: Katie Orost, Mark Nielsen, Bobbie Moulton, Angela Lamell, Allen Audette, Jr.; Waterville: Bart Bezio

**Board Members Absent:** Cambridge: Sue Prescott; Hyde Park: Patty Hayford

**Administrators Present:** Deborah Clark, Michele Aumand, Charleen McFarlane, Denise Maurice, Tommy O'Connor, David Manning, Diane Reilly, Melinda Mascolino, Mary Anderson, Bethann Pirie, Wendy Savery, Jennifer Hulse, Flo Kelley, Brian Pena, Dylan LaFlam

**Others Present:** Nicole Chauvin

**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. McFarlane asked that the agenda be amended to include the approval of a high school math teacher hire and the removal of the high school chemistry teacher hire. The Hyde Park Elementary School Professional Development item was also removed. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Whitcomb, to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

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

**Minutes of the April 12, 2021, meeting, and Curriculum Committee Meeting:** Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Orders:** Miller made a motion, seconded by Whitcomb, to approve the April 16, 2021 Board Orders. The motion passed unanimously.

**Lawn Maintenance Bid Results:** LaFlam informed the Board that a bid request had gone out for a three-year contract for Hyde Park Elementary and Johnson Elementary lawn maintenance. The companies that responded to the bid request were Roberts and Sons, Evergreen Associates, Big Dreams Property Management and Jacob Atkinson. Roberts and Sons provided a quote of \$3,100 for Hyde Park Elementary School and \$3,800 for Johnson Elementary School. Big Dreams Property Management provided a quote of \$7,500 for Hyde Park and \$7,000 for Johnson. The Administration recommended the Board accept the bid of Roberts and Sons for both Hyde Park Elementary School and Johnson Elementary School. Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by Sweet, to approve the recommendation.

Orost asked LaFlam why Johnson had to go out to bid, noting they had a mower. LaFlam stated they had gone out to bid for Johnson for the last three years. The Johnson mower was broken and the cost to buy a new one was almost \$17,000. Several years ago they had decided that because of the cost of general maintenance, the cost of the new mower, and time constraints, they would put this work out to bid. The motion passed unanimously, with Cambridge members abstaining.

**Review Bids for Union School Sidewalk & Sport Courts Repairs and Consider Use of Capital**

**Reserves:** LaFlam explained that this project grew out of some grant monies that Flo Kelley had through a nursing/guidance grant that couldn't be used this year because of the pandemic. Therefore, a good deal of this would be paid for through EPSDT grant money. The project would involve installing a full exterior half-court basketball/four square court on the high school side. On the middle school side the broken sidewalk would be pulled up and an asphalt basketball/four square court would be installed. Two bids went out: one for excavation work and one for paving. Gravel Construction provided the only bid of \$25,020 for the demolition, excavation and grade work. Gray's Paving provided a bid of \$12,040 and S.T. Paving provided a bid of \$21,490 for paving.

The Administration recommended accepting the bid of \$25,020 from Gravel Construction and the bid of \$12,040 from Gray's Paving for a total of \$37,060. Of that total amount, EPSDT grant money would cover approximately \$15,000. Additionally, the Administration asked the Board to approve an expenditure from the Capital Reserve not to exceed \$25,000 to complete the project. Orost made a motion, seconded by Lamell, to approve the recommendation.

B. Sander asked if these were items included in the middle school construction years ago. LaFlam stated the chunks of sidewalk were part of the middle school construction, which was twenty years old now. B. Sander thought the work should last longer than twenty years. LaFlam stated the Tech Center sidewalks were even newer and were also in bad shape. LaFlam stated they were now in the process of redesigning the Tech Center sidewalks but the work on that would be done several years from now. The motion then passed unanimously.

**Personnel:**

**Approve High School Math Teacher:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Ian Meunier at a salary of \$52,220. Orost made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the recommendation. McFarlane stated Meunier was smart and energetic and very excited about coming to Lamoille. Pirie stated Meunier had also been coaching the football team for the last six or seven years and he was looking forward to teaching at the high school where he could continue to build that community. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve LUHS French Teacher Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Scott Tarbox at a salary of \$54,005. Orost made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve LUHS Social Studies Teacher Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Chris Bologna, the middle school social studies teacher. His salary would reflect the negotiated movement for next year. Orost made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. Orost stated Bologna was a terrific teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve LNSU/LUHS Special Educator Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Sally Hile at a salary of \$56,435. B. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve GMTCC Automotive Instructor Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Dennis Mercier, Jr. at a salary of \$47,075. McFarlane stated Mercier went through Todd Bedard's class and would shadow him for a little while. Mercier was very excited to have the position and had some great ideas for the future. Moulton made a motion, seconded by J. Sander, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve HPES Special Educator Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to move Morgan Sargent, currently at Waterville Elementary School, into the position at Hyde Park Elementary School and she would receive the negotiated increase next year. Sweet made a motion, seconded by Orost, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve JES 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Vicki Pinault at a salary of \$60,365. Orost made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously, with Cambridge members abstaining.

**Approve LNSU/CES Special Educator Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Kathleen Mahoney at a salary of \$42,215. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve LNSU/CES Early Childhood Special Educator Hire:** McFarlane stated the recommendation

was to hire Catherine Powers at a salary of \$52,790. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Continue Discussion Regarding Contracted Services:** Clark stated the question to the Board was whether to renew The Abbey Group's managed food service contract with Johnson Elementary School for FY22. Information had been presented to the Board last meeting about this item. Administration had met with union representation and they were fine with taking over food service and bringing it back in-house. The financial aspect of bringing it in-house would not be astronomically different. Comparing Johnson to Hyde Park it seemed they cost about the same. The Administration recommended not renewing the contract with The Abbey Group at Johnson Elementary School and bringing those services in-house and under Karyl Kent and David Manning's leadership, effective July 1, 2021. Bezio made a motion, seconded by Sweet, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

**Central Office Updates:** Clark reported that the first step of the Recovery Plan, the needs assessment, was approved by the State. This was an accomplishment, as a lot of groups did not have their plan approved at this point. Clark also reported that all of the elementary, middle and high school students had been invited back to school for four days a week instruction. There were an additional sixty middle school students and 20 high school students returning. The elementary schools were almost at 100%. Miller asked if the schools would go back to a five-day schedule this year. Savery stated they were waiting for more guidance but the intent was to leave the schedule at four days. Partially this was due to the fact that they were SBAC testing and the schedule for that testing ran through early June. Changing schedules now would be difficult but they could manage it if the Governor mandated it. Savery thanked the Recovery team and school personnel for the work done on the needs assessment. The work helped to identify needs and now the work would involve determining how to address those needs.

Whitcomb thanked Dylan LaFlam and Clark for the tour of the Eden School.

**Principal/Director Updates:**

**Eden:** Mascolino thanked Whitcomb, Nielsen, LaFlam and Clark for coming to Eden and seeing what they had done to accommodate students during the pandemic. Mascolino stated the SBAC testing would start next week. She was very excited to report that she was not in the midst of the hiring process. At this point no one was leaving Eden. A floating substitute would be switching to a paraeducator position and she had interviewed someone today to be a substitute.

**Johnson:** Manning stated they had a new custodian. This was great as they had been short-staffed for many months. Some work on damaged tiles had been done on the school during the vacation. Manning thanked the Board for approving the second grade teacher hire. There were several positions still to fill. There were only four students not coming back to school four days a week. The students were now in the middle of SBAC testing.

**Hyde Park:** Reilly reported they were currently doing SBAC testing and other end of year assessments. The staff was trying to keep everyone interested and engaged in learning while having fun. Reilly reported on the fourth annual wish tree. Students wrote wishes on fabric and hung them on the tree in front of the library.

**Cambridge:** Anderson informed the Board that Cambridge students were involved in SBAC testing. They were doing a lot of hiring and that would go into May. They were also planning some fun end of the year events and outdoor field trips were currently taking place. Anderson noted they were now planning an outdoor sixth grade graduation ceremony.

**Middle School:** Maurice informed the Board that the middle school was in the middle of SBAC testing. They were excited to have so many students choosing to return for four days a week instruction. Maurice thanked the Board for approving the construction of the basketball/four square court. This Wednesday was the final Q&A session with parents from the elementary schools. More transition events were being

planned for the sixth graders. Team placements would be taking place in May. They were now looking to hire a math teacher as well as a social studies teacher.

**High School:** Pirie informed the Board that it had been a pleasure working with all six of the hiring committees and they had been able to fill all six positions with outstanding candidates. Twenty-one students would be returning to four days beginning on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. SBAC testing would start next week for remote students. Pirie stated that last Friday new guidance came out about end of school year gatherings and graduations. Gatherings and graduation ceremonies were encouraged with specific provisions set in place. LUHS was now beginning to plan the end of the school year celebrations and would keep the community informed of the details.

**Other Business:** Miller reminded people that GMTCC students were taking part in the Vans Sneakers Project and she encouraged members to vote daily.

**Adjourn:** Moulton made a motion, seconded by B. Sander, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.