

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board
Board Retreat Minutes
August 16, 2021**

Gallagher explained the new information being added to the notebooks that Board members had in their possession. Community partners information, town clerk information and administrator biographies were included as part of the packet. The Master Teacher Agreement, Master Support Staff Agreement and all Board policies were included and Gallagher asked that Board members become familiar with that information.

Gallagher discussed their annual confidentiality training. She explained that confidential information was anything that was maintained as part of a student's educational record. Anything that was discussed in executive session needed to be kept confidential because it could harm the student, family, and strength of a Board. If someone breached confidentiality, funding could be withheld. That had never happened to the District but it could.

Gallagher provided scenarios in which a community member might ask for information from a Board member. The correct thing would be for the Board member to suggest the individual contact Gallagher or the Board Chair and ask that they address the question. It was not the responsibility of the Board member to engage in conversation about a Board matter. Outside of Board meetings, the member was a citizen only. If a community member complained about a teacher, the teacher should have a discussion with the parent. If that failed, the discussion would go to the principal. Finally it would go to the Superintendent. The chain of command should be provided to the community member.

Gallagher then talked about a Board member who had told a community member that they had not voted for the budget. This was posted online and caused a great deal of division. Miller noted that they'd be talking about masking constantly now. Gallagher stated the response should be the Board was following legal counsel and that the Board was here to ensure safety to the extent that they could. It didn't matter what a Board member's personal beliefs were because when speaking to the community as a Board member it was about what was best for the system.

The role of the School District Board was to be a trustee on behalf of the community and to provide oversight. Boards don't run the schools. They oversaw the work that was being done in the schools. The Board member had the most influence and power by remembering to be partners in the community but not to micromanage the operations. Board members had zero legal powers outside of the Board and conflicts of interest should be avoided.

Gallagher stated the packet also included information on specific types of meetings, open meeting laws, and the role of executive sessions.

Gallagher then informed the Board that at the next meeting the committees would meet and would be asked to identify three goals that could be measured. Every administrator in the District identified three measurable goals and those would be shared at the next meeting. Veteran Board members would be asked what had been their accomplishments to the system as a School Board member. For new members, they would be asked what they hoped to accomplish as a School Board member.

Jeremy LaClair then provided a presentation on new websites that were being developed for each school. Because of COVID the project had been delayed and it was difficult to keep the project moving,

but new websites were now being launched. They all had similar designs but showcased individual aspects of the school. The new websites were mobile-friendly. Duplication had been reduced. A number of people were involved from each school and it had been great to see how invested they all were in making the websites work well. The websites could be accessed at LNSD.org. The tab for the schools could be found at the top of the page.

The meeting ended with members expressing appreciation for the dinner provided by Karyl Kent.