

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board
Minutes of Meeting
March 14, 2022**

Board Members Present: **Belvidere:** Stephanie Sweet; **Cambridge:** Jan Sander, Mark Stebbins, Laura Miller, Denise Webster; **Eden:** Jeff Hunsberger, David Whitcomb (phone); **Hyde Park:** Lisa Barry, Patty Hayford, Tina Lowe, Chasity Fagnant (remote); **Johnson:** Angela Lamell (remote), Mark Nielsen, Katie Orost, Allen Audette; **Waterville:** Bart Bezio

Board Members Absent: **Cambridge:** Bill Sander, Sue Prescott; **Johnson:** Bobbie Moulton

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Michele Aumand, Charleen McFarlane, Betzi Goodman, Jan Epstein, Diane Reilly, David Manning, Jeremy Scannell, Denise Maurice, Bethann Pirie, Erik Remmers, Melinda Mascolino, Wendy Savery, Dylan Laflam, Brian Pena

Others Present: Randy Burnett, architect; Gail Whitten

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Announcements and Public Comments: Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by J. Sander, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: Board Member Barry abstained on all motions throughout the meeting, as she had not yet taken her oath with the town clerk.

LNSU/LNMMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of the February 14, 2022, meeting and March 2, 2022 Special Meeting: J. Sander 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 listed on the agenda. Hunsberger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ratification of Action Taken at Reorganization Meeting: Gallagher asked for a motion to ratify action taken at the Reorganization Meeting where the following were voted into office: Mark Nielsen as the Chair of LNSU/LNMMUUSD, Katie Orost as Vice Chair of LNSU/LNMMUUSD and Chasity Fagnant as Clerk of LNSU/LNMMUUSD. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Bezio, to ratify the action as stated. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and Approve 2022-2023 Board Meeting School and Date of Annual Meeting: Clark stated the Annual Meeting was typically held the Monday before February break and the Information Meeting was held the first Monday of February break. Clark suggested they stick with this schedule. Therefore, the Annual Meeting would be held on February 20, 2023 and the Information Meeting would be held on February 27, 2023. The recommended schedule for Board meetings would continue to be the second Monday of every month. The Board agreed with the schedules.

Eden Central School Project Bid Contract Award: Laflam noted that Randy Burnett, the architect for the project, was in attendance and could respond to any questions. Several weeks ago the District had opened bids for the Eden Central School renovation and addition. Laflam explained that the project was a 1,400 square foot renovation of the main administration/health areas and a 3,500 square foot addition in the back of the building that would encompass a large multi-purpose room/dual classroom space. This would be an ESSER-funded project and the only local funds going into the project would be the Eden capital reserve funds that would expire in June of 2022. If not spent, those funds would be rolled into the 2024 budget.

Four contractors had been pre-qualified: Millbrook, Wright and Morrissey, Farrington, and Neagley & Chase. Neagley & Chase chose not to bid on the contract. Millbrook's base bid was \$1,460,000. Wright

and Morrissey was \$1,620,000. Farrington was \$1,659,304. It was determined the District wanted to add alternate items #1, #2, #3, #4e, 9a and 10. Add alternate #1 was an outdoor classroom, #2 was a partition, #3 was a change in the wall panel, #4e was adding cabinetry in the health office, #9a was using fiberglass windows, which would save approximately \$2,000, and #10 was a limestone cap.

The total cost with the add alternates for Millbrook was \$1,695,651.15. Wright and Morrissey would cost \$1,878,040 and Farrington would cost \$1,901,722. The Administration and Colin Lindberg's office recommended moving forward with Millbrook. Clark noted again that ESSER funds would be used for this project and it was a great opportunity. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Bezio, to approve the Administration's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously, with Cambridge abstaining.

Review and Discuss Eden Town Property Use Agreement: Clark stated that every year since the merger, Eden Town requested a formal Use Agreement for the property that was shared with the school. This was the same agreement that had been approved over the last few years. Clark asked for a motion to authorize Chair Nielsen to sign the Eden Land Use Agreement for the 2022/2023 year. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Bezio, to approve the request that the Chair sign the agreement. The motion passed unanimously, with Cambridge members abstaining.

New LU Campus Internet Connection: Pena explained to the Board that he was seeking to add a secondary internet connection to service the Lamoille Union campus. This would mean two separate connections. One connection would support the elementary schools, except for Cambridge, and the other would cover the Lamoille Union campus.

Consolidated Communications had been the District's carrier for a long time and was the largest carrier in the area. Pena wanted to bring on another company called First Light for the campus and separate the two connections in the hopes it would bring better dedicated service. This would help Pena keep internet connection outages to a minimum. This fiscal year alone there had been four internet outages. This would be a 60-month contract. It had been bid through USAC and would be 70% reimbursable. The total five year cost would be \$124,278 with an e-rate reimbursement of \$86,994.60. The monthly cost would be \$2,071.30. Following reimbursement, the cost to the District would total \$621.39 per month. Pena said these funds had already been budgeted for.

J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to accept the bid from First Light for sixty months. In response to questions, Pena explained that separating the connection would decrease the possibility of all schools losing connection. Clark stated this was not a redundant project and would enhance the services currently in place. Hunsberger asked if there was an opportunity to use Xfinity. Pena stated in order to get federal funds for the project, the District needed to go through USAC's list of service providers. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve LNMUUSD ELL Teacher Hire: McFarlane stated that the recommendation was to move Kate (KD) Bryant from the middle school literacy specialist position to the LMUUSD English Language Learner position. Hulse informed the Board there was a huge increase in students needing this support service. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve LUMS One-Year Long-Term Art Substitute: McFarlane stated the recommendation was to hire Rachel Lemay as the one-year long-term Art Substitute at a salary of \$42,344. This position would cover a leave of absence. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Orost, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

New Required Section 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol for Students and Staff Policy C-14: Hulse stated this was the second reading of the policy regarding Section 504. This policy outlined the process in place to file a grievance. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Central Office Updates: Gallagher reported that there had been no surge in COVID cases following the break. While there had been some cases, it was not widespread. With low levels of severe disease and effective methods to prevent COVID, Vermont health officials announced that as of today the recommendations were updated.

The stated recommendations were now that Vermonters consider their own circumstances and risk in deciding what precautions to take, including whether to wear a mask. It was no longer a recommendation to wear a mask in all indoor spaces. People who tested positive were still required to isolate for 5 days; however, the recommendation to mask from days 6 through 10 was no longer a recommendation from the Department of Health. Gallagher noted that none of this applied to nurses or other health care workers. The recommendation was that they mask in their workspaces.

Dr. Levine said the virus would stay with us and everyone needed to determine his or her own personal level of risk. There would no longer be a test to come back to the school. If someone were a close contact or believed to be a close contact, they recommended that a test be taken if the person was not up to date with vaccines. If someone experienced symptoms, they should get tested even if they were vaccinated. Gallagher stated that testing would continue to be available at the school and would be up to the clinical discretion of the health professionals on campus.

Gallagher informed the Board that the Community Advisory Group had met and discussed what people appreciated about the District and what people saw as opportunities for improvement. The group then discussed how they could realize the suggestions for improvement. The positives were many: strong relationships, amazing educators, pride in school and community, welcoming facilities and staff, good overall communication, availability and responsiveness of staff, and feelings of safety in the schools. Communication also fell under the subject of opportunities to improve. Some families stated they heard from teachers but not administration and vice versa. There was a strong desire for different kinds of communication. Jeremy LeClair was well versed in District school Facebook pages and a Facebook page would be set up. Michele Aumand would be the manager of the page.

Gallagher congratulated the Dance Team who had been named the #1 jazz team and #2 in hip hop in Vermont. Graduation dates were 99% final. GMTCC would hold their graduation on June 7th, Hyde Park would have theirs on June 8th. Eden, Cambridge, and Waterville would hold their graduations on June 9th and Johnson's graduation would be held on June 10th. The high school graduation would take place on Saturday June 11th. Lamoille middle school's graduation would be held on Friday during the day.

Clark stated that the finance reports had been distributed. Projection reports were due to the finance team. Audits were done and would come to the Board next month for acceptance. The FCC would meet in April.

Eden: Goodman thanked the Board for supporting the renovation at Eden Central School. It would make a huge difference for the students. Goodman expressed appreciation to the teachers who had just completed the second trimester. Preparing report cards and providing feedback to parents required a lot of effort. Goodman also thanked the other principals and administrators for assisting her.

GMTCC: Remmers stated that applications were coming in. There were 130 first year applicants, 25 second year applicants and 45 pre-tech applicants. Remmers would like to see the first year applicant numbers be a little higher. Students were doing full day visits now. The comprehensive needs assessment that was tied to the Perkins Grant was still ongoing. In order to complete the assessment, surveys had been sent throughout the sending school communities to students, parents, and employers. They had received a lot of good information back from the employers. He hoped to be able

to provide the data to the Board next month. Remmers expressed appreciation for bringing Drum Daddies in to all of the schools. The students really enjoyed it.

Hyde Park: Reilly agreed that the Drum Daddies was very well received at her school. The school had just finished a read-a-thon fundraiser that raised over \$4,424 for the Lamoille County Cancer Network. The students would celebrate this accomplishment by having a Mud Run in May. Taiko drummers would be coming in for that.

Belvidere/Waterville: Epstein stated that Drum Daddies and being able to see Speech of Arrested Development was wonderful. The whole school was able to participate and seeing the student engagement was quite moving. There would be an artist residency, which would result in a mural project that would include diversity and equity and inclusion within it. The community was invited to participate. Epstein noted that every four years Waterville had its own Olympics with events such as curling and bobsledding. This took place last week. The students love it and everyone received a medal.

High School: Pirie informed the Board that providing an option to wear a mask had been a positive experience at the school. The Drum Daddies were amazing. The teachers were able to get many classes in to see them. Teachers were in the process of meeting with students in each grade level to explain what they would be offering next year. School counselors would be available to talk with the students so they could see their path to graduation. The guidance team would then meet one on one with the students to help them choose their classes. This was going very well. Pirie stated the Dance Team was one of the highlights of Pirie's year so far. The dance team was invited to perform in front of the students. The dancers were incredible. She congratulated the coaches and dancers. Early release day would take place on Thursday. They were offering a number of events that students could choose to participate in. Some of the events were academic-based and some were fun events.

Johnson: Manning agreed that the Drum Daddies were great and the students enjoyed it. He was able to get into classrooms this week to observe which was the first time in a long time he had been able to do so. Manning was pleased to report that last week, for the first time, a dental hygienist was able to come in. Four students were able to get their teeth cleaned. Two of them had never been to a dental facility before. The hygienist's April's schedule was already full. Pediatric care will start in the fall.

Middle School: Maurice stated there had been a lot of respectful discussions about mask wearing at the middle school. The Drum Daddies was a huge hit. Maurice noted that there were going to be a number of retirements and positions would need to be filled. Several assessments would be taking place over the next few weeks. Maurice encouraged people to see the play that the middle school would be performing.

Adjourn: Hunsberger made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.