

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board
Minutes of Meeting
April 11, 2022**

Board Members Present: **Belvidere:** Stephanie Sweet; **Cambridge:** Jan Sander, Sue Prescott (remote), Mark Stebbins, Laura Miller; **Eden:** David Whitcomb (phone); **Hyde Park:** Patty Hayford, Chasity Fagnant, Lisa Barry; **Johnson:** Angela Lamell, Mark Nielsen, Katie Orost, Allen Audette, Bobbie Moulton

Board Members Absent: **Cambridge:** Bill Sander, Denise Webster; **Eden:** Jeff Hunsberger; **Hyde Park:** Tina Lowe; **Waterville:** Bart Bezio

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

Student Representative: Jake Moulton

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Announcements and Public Comment: Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the agenda. The agenda was amended by removing the Math Interventionist Hire item. The Board approved the amended agenda unanimously. There was no public comment.

LNSU/LNEMUUSD Routine Business - Consent Agenda Items:

Minutes of the March 14, 2022, Meeting; Minutes of the March 14, 2022, Curriculum and Social/Racial Justice Committee Meetings; March 23, 2022, Personnel Committee Meeting: J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously

Board Orders: Fagnant made a motion, seconded by Miller, to approve the Board Orders noted on the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Accept FY '21 Audits: Clark, reporting on both the LNSU and LNEMUUSD audits, stated that the auditors noted both audits were clean opinions, there were no difficulties with management in performing or completing the audit, no reportable misstatements were noted, and there were no disagreements with management regarding financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matters during the course of the audit. The auditors found no weaknesses in internal controls that could be considered material. The LNSU fund balance was \$1,719,183. The change in General Fund balance was \$326,704 and the balance of that fund was \$1,493,449. \$713,000 of that was committed. \$780,210 was unassigned. The HRA/HSA reserve at the SU was \$87,008. There were special revenues of \$139,000.

The MUUSD's total fund balance was \$6,177,228. The General Fund balance of \$2,799,215 was a change of \$640,000. Of that fund balance, \$1,914,456 was committed. \$885,000 was unassigned and all of that was applied to FY23 expenditures. The capital funds available as of June 30th were \$1,920,249. The long-term debt totaled \$16,808,173 in bonds outstanding. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to accept the FY21 LNSU and LNEMUUSD audit reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Acceptance of Federal Funds and Subgrant Agreements and Assign Agent(s) for Financial Matters: Clark stated this was the annual subgrant agreement that LNSU had with the District. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, that the LNSU agree to subgrant federal funds to the District accordingly. The motion passed unanimously.

Clark asked that the Modified Unified Union School District approve the subgrant agreement with Lamoille North Supervisory Union. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Lamell, to approve the request and the motion passed unanimously.

Appoint Jeff Hunsberger as New GMATV Board Member: Whitcomb made a motion to appoint Jeff Hunsberger as a Board member to the GMATV Board. Barry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Accept Recommendations From Curriculum Committee to Approve New LUHS Courses: Savery informed the Board that the Curriculum Committee met in March and reviewed eight 2022-2023 new high school course proposals. Savery provided information on the new courses. Sweet made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Bids for Eden Central School Bus Replacements: Clark reported that Eden was currently leasing one bus and owned one bus. This was the last year of the lease and they would be replacing it. Because there was only one more year on the existing bus they decided to look at leasing a second bus. It would take a full school year to receive it. The company was willing to extend the lease another year.

Clark stated they received only one bid from WC Cressey and Sons for \$22,195 per bus per year. The alternative was to buy a bus for \$113,425 with a \$17,000 trade-in value. The Administration recommended that the Board accept the bid for an annual lease of two busses from WC Cressey and Sons of \$22,195 per year, or \$44,390 for the two busses, with the understanding that the District would take possession of them in time for the 2023-2024 school year. This would be an annual lease for three years. Orost asked about the use of electric busses. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Moulton to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Bids for LNSU Wheelchair Accessible Van: Clark informed the Board that the District currently had a 2019 wheelchair accessible Dodge Caravan with 43,000 miles. It was time to trade it in. They had received two bids. Freedom Motors offered a 2022 Chrysler Voyager with the purchase price of \$59,000 with a trade in of \$23,500. Mobility Works offered the same vehicle with the purchase price of \$57,500 and a trade in of \$27,000. The Administration recommended that the Board accept the low bid of \$30,516, after trade in, from Mobility Works for the 2022 Chrysler Voyager. Moulton made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Stebbins. Following further discussion as to the need for a new van, the motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Matters:

Approval LUMS Literacy Interventionist Hire: McFarlane recommended that the Board approve the hire of Heather Bellavance as the LUMS Literacy Interventionist at a salary of \$67,116. Barry made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve LUMS Science Teacher Hire: McFarlane recommended that the Board approve the hire of Sarah Denaker as the LUMS Science Teacher at a salary of \$57,596. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve WES 4/5 Grade Teacher Hire: McFarlane recommended that the Board approve the hire of Mallory Jones as the 4/5 Grade Teacher at WES at a salary of \$50,876. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Fagnant, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed, with Cambridge members and Barry abstaining.

Approve ECS/WES Music Teacher Hire: McFarlane recommended that the Board approve the hire of Cassandra Heleba as the ECS/WES Music Teacher at a salary of \$41,000. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Fagnant, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. Cambridge members abstained.

Approve LUHS Special Educator Hire: McFarlane recommended that the Board approve the hire of Peter Weaver as the LUHS Special Educator at a salary of \$68,504. Moulton made a motion, seconded by Fagnant, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Central Office Updates: Gallagher reported there was a new District Facebook page. April break would begin next week. Gallagher reported that Consolidated Communications had failed during recent messaging that needed to take place to parents. Clark noted this was why it was important to have a back up to the system currently in place.

Maria Davies had brought in Juniper Creative Arts as resident artists. They created a beautiful mural at Waterville and were now working at Hyde Park. Gallagher accompanied Kesha Ram-Hinsdale and Kate Donnally to HPES who participated and spoke to students.

Gallagher stated there would be a public forum on May 11th to discuss Title 1 ESSER funds. Healthy Lamoille Valley would also be there to discuss cannabis use and misuse. Healthy Lamoille Valley was wondering whether the legalization of cannabis was contributing to the rise of use in the schools. Elementary school students were talking about it now. A parent of a middle school student would be joining the forum to share information. Regarding COVID, they were in the endemic phase of the pandemic. The Department of Health did not see any mitigation measures returning. Following spring break school nurses would be offered a tool to announce an outbreak.

Clark informed the Board that the Finance and Capital Committee had met for a quick update. The Eden project was moving along. The track project was heading into Phase 2. The District had not received any viable bids for the Central Office relocation. They would modify the RFP and go back out to bid. The Johnson boiler and the parking lots at GMTCC were discussed. There was an opportunity at Waterville to partner with the town for a generator. It looked as though there would be a healthy surplus at the secondary level and the Committee had started the discussion on strategic ways to utilize those funds this year. The organizational data workgroup had been created and the first meeting would be on April 25th.

Principal/Director Updates:

Belvidere/Waterville: Epstein stated that students were participating in theatre performances. The Drum Daddies event had created a great partnership with UVM. A 4-piece quartet came to the school and students were able to ask the musicians questions. The art teacher was doing a virtual field trip of the MOMA. There were also cooking demonstrations taking place. The staff would be meeting with Joe Bremer twice in May.

Eden: Goodman stated one of the highlights during March was the Family Fun Day. Approximately thirty families participated. There were a variety of activities including seed planting, creating bird feeders, a book giveaway, and a cup stacking station run by a student. It was great to have people back in the building. The school-wide community meeting was held and it was powerful to have everyone together in person.

Hyde Park: Reilly talked about the mural work being done by Juniper Creative Arts. The mural was beautiful and meaningful to the community. The greenhouse was now installed and they were starting to use it as a classroom. Hyde Park had also had chamber music at the school. It was the first time since COVID had begun that everyone had gathered in the gym for an assembly. They had finished SBAC testing. As part of an innovation grant, they were employing Nature's Classroom. Pre-K through 4th grade would spend three days in the woods integrating curriculum in a fun and engaging way. Circus Smirkus would be coming as part of a PE class. An author would be offering writing workshops. Taiko Drummers would be coming for the Mud Run.

GMTCC: Remmers stated they were in the midst of application and admission season. It was a strong applicant pool. They were still looking for an instructor for the electrical program. Remmers announced the names of the Skills USA winners. There were four bronze medalists, three silver medalists, and two State champions. Those two individuals would be going to Atlanta.

Middle School: Maurice stated that SBAC testing had started today. For some students, this had been more stressful than it had been in the past and some students opted out of the testing. They were beginning the transition process to help the 6th graders become accustomed to the middle school. Some middle school students would be going to each of the elementary schools to speak with the students and answer their questions. Parents and family members could attend an informational session this Thursday. The Special Education Department had been meeting with their counterparts in the elementary schools to find out what the needs of the students were before coming to middle school. Maurice stated that Matilda was bound to be an amazing show. It would take place on Thursday and Friday. It was also a busy time with testing, trips, and transitioning 8th graders to high school as well. Stacy Stokes had informed Maurice that they had now returned to pre-pandemic levels of students participating in sports teams.

Other Business: Clark stated that the FCC had discussed the Belvidere school. Melinda Mascolino had researched town birth records. There were potentially nine students who were currently attending different pre-K's at the MUUSD who would like to return to the Belvidere building. There was an additional 17 children that Mascolino had identified who would be 3- and 4-years old going into the fall. With these numbers it made sense to continue the pre-K at Belvidere. There were also partner agencies that may be able to utilize other space in the building.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.