

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
August 8, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet (remote); Cambridge: Bill Sander (remote); Tommy O'Connor, Denise Webster; Eden: David Whitcomb, Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Lisa Barry, Chasity Fagnant, Tina Lowe, Patty Hayford; Johnson: Angela Lamell, Mark Nielsen (5:30 p.m.), Katie Orost, Allen Audette, Bobbie Moulton; Waterville: Bart Bezio

**Board Members Absent:** Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Jan Sander, Sue Prescott

**Administrators Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deborah Clark, Michele Aumand, Rachel Crawford, Denise Maurice, Betzi Goodman, Erik Remmers (5:55 p.m.)

**Others Present:** Cyril Brunner (Vermont Electric Co-op), Kristie Bandolon, Jake Moulton

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor, Michele Aumand

**Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Announcements and Public Comment:** Orost called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm. A motion was made to approve the agenda as written, seconded and passed unanimously. There were no announcements or public comment.

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

**Minutes of the June 6, 2022, SPECIAL meeting; minutes of the July 28, 2022,**

**Personnel Committee Meeting:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2022 Board meeting and the July 28, 2022 Personnel Committee meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Board Orders:** Chasity Fagnant asked for a motion to approve the Board Orders from April 22, 2022, April 29, 2022, May 13, 2022, May 16, 2022, May 27, 2022, June 10, 2022, June 24, 2022, June 30, 2022, July 8, 2022 and July 15, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Electric Buses, Vermont Electric Co-Op:** Cyril Brunner was at the meeting to inform the Board there was an opportunity through the EPA for select schools across the country to apply for funds to purchase electric school buses. All the Vermont schools were eligible for fully funded buses. This included funds for the bus and chargers. VEC was encouraging as many schools as possible to apply. The application was due on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Clark asked if the funds would be in the form of a reimbursement. Brunner stated the District would not need to come up with the funds. The funds would be disbursed at the time of the purchase, not when they were actually received. When asked about the cost of a zero-emission school bus, Brunner stated depending on the size and type of bus it could be between \$270,000 and \$400,000. Brunner also noted that the amount of the EPA grant was for up to \$395,000.

Clark asked about the cost of building the charging infrastructure and insurance considerations. Brunner stated the charger would require some work from an electrician to set up. There was a chance there might need to be some upgrade to the power. As far as insurance, the vehicles would be charged outside most of the time but he would anticipate the buses would be covered by insurance.

Clark asked if additional specialized training of the drivers would need to take place. Brunner stated the buses operated the same as the regular bus. They would need to pay attention to the range of the bus, but as long as the bus was charged between the morning and afternoon runs they should have the capacity. In response to questions from Clark, Brunner replied that the grant would not cover maintenance. Other users of the vehicle stated the maintenance aspects were a huge reason why this program would be good to apply for. The maintenance costs and maintenance requirements were significantly lower. The school district would be required to apply

for the vehicles and the funds would need to be passed to the private fleet. The school district would own the vehicles and lease them to the private company. The district would not need to retire a bus until they received the zero-emission vehicle and Brunner thought there may be a six-month time frame before the older vehicle needed to be retired. In response to a question, Brunner stated it would take more than a year to receive the new zero emission bus.

Brunner was then asked how long it would take to fully charge a bus. He stated that depending on the charger and the size of the vehicle it could be fully charged within three to four hours. There were faster and slower charges as well. Clark asked what the expected length of time the bus could be run at very cold temperatures. Brunner stated 100 miles was the most conservative range mentioned. The next question was how long bus would maintain heat if it were stuck in the winter. Brunner believed that the heat would take less power than driving the bus. Clark asked what the general annual cost of charging the bus was. Brunner responded that it was generally in the range of 20-30% of the diesel cost. Clark asked if there would be a penalty if the district applied for the bus but eventually found it could not be purchased. Brunner said he wasn't aware of any penalties and there were opportunities to delay the purchase if necessary. Clark confirmed it was her intention to apply for the grant.

**Approve ECS 4th Grade Teacher Hire:** Crawford made a recommendation to hire Kristie Bandolon as the Eden Central School 1.0 FTE 4th grade teacher at a salary of \$45,032. Bandolon had a Vermont provisional license. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve GMTCC .5 Community Outreach Coordinator Hire:** Crawford made a recommendation to hire Deborah Lambert as the GMTCC .5 FTE Community Outreach Coordinator at a prorated salary of \$37,768. This was a grant-funded position. Lambert would need to apply for reciprocity from Massachusetts. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve LUMS Interim Assistant Principal Hire:** Crawford made a recommendation to hire Matt Melaugh as the .75 LUMS interim assistant principal at a prorated salary of \$52,500. Matt had a Vermont Level I license. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**LNSU Van Bid:** Clark reported they had gone out to bid and they had demand for and drivers for the additional van. The administration was recommending that the Board move to accept the low bid from Heritage Toyota for the 2022 Toyota Sienna at \$39,551. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Remote Meeting Option for 2022-2023:** Gallagher reported that she had been informed they were not required to provide a remote meeting option going forward. Gallagher asked the Board if they would like to continue to have the option. A motion was made that meetings should be in person, with the option for remote meetings only when deemed necessary and appropriate at the time the original agenda was created and posted. The virtual option must be adequately warned. Therefore, if an in-person meeting was determined not to be feasible after an agenda was posted, that meeting should be cancelled and/or rescheduled. The motion was seconded. A remote call-in for Board members would be available by request to the Central Office, however, each member of the Board was encouraged to attend in person.

**Appoint Authorized Representatives for both LNSU and LNMUUSD for the VEHI/VSBIT Annual Meeting:** Clark informed the Board that VSBIT would be holding their annual meeting on October 21, 2022. The Board needed to either appoint a representative to attend or authorize the Board Chair assign a proxy vote to VSBIT. A motion was made to appoint Mark Nielsen to sign the proxy vote to VSBIT. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.