

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board
Minutes of Meeting
February 13, 2023**

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

Board Members Absent: Cambridge: Tommy O'Connor, Sue Prescott

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Michele Aumand, Jennifer Hulse, Rachel Crawford, Brian Pena, Denise Maurice, Melinda Mascolino, Betzi Goodman, Jan Epstein, Erik Remmers, Mary Anderson, Diane Reilly, Valerie Sullivan, Rene Thibault

Others: Eric Hutchins, Kim Myette; Student Representatives: Jake Moulton, Sophie Hunsberger, Ella Kinney, Ellie Neckers and Julia-Rose Daley

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Announcements and Public Comment: Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Changes were made to the agenda as follows: Student Presentation would take place first, followed by Ratify Master Agreement, an announcement by Gallagher, and Personnel Matter. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

LNSU/LN MUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of January 9, 2023, Special Meeting; Minutes of January 9, 2023, Finance & Capital Committee Meeting, January 9, 2023, Curriculum Committee Meeting and December 5, 2022, and January 9, 2023, Social-Racial Justice Committee Meetings. Sander made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve all of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: Fagnant made a motion to approve all of the attached Board Orders, seconded by Stebbins. The motion passed unanimously.

LUHS Student Presentation: Ella Kinney and Sophie Hunsberger explained to the Board that as a final project last semester they had been tasked with creating a presentation on something that was meaningful to them and what they would like to see changed. They decided to discuss increasing the budget for the Lamoille Performing Arts. Both students outlined the variety of performing arts offered, some of which they participated in, including: choir, band, dance, chorus, and piano. They hoped to get more supplies, equipment and costumes for the dancers. Dressing rooms and designated areas for practicing would be helpful so that the different performing arts programs didn't have to compete for space. The presenters highlighted the teachers and some of the students participating in the performing arts and their accomplishments. Ellie Neckers and Julia-Rose Daley read quotes from students who expressed how much they were benefitting from participating in the programs. Teachers interviewed felt that performing arts allowed students to express themselves in a healthy way. Collectively, teachers wanted to upgrade supplies and equipment in order to enhance performances, as well as expanded space. Teachers stated they would like to offer programs where students didn't have to pay out of pocket. An example was the All State Music Festival that recently took place required that students pay their own money in order to audition. This kept some students from auditioning. Teachers thought a new sound system and sound mixer would enhance the performances. The teachers would also like to offer more classes and look into creating a climate where performing arts was more accepted. The students finished their presentation stating that expanding the budget would improve the program immensely.

Ratify Teacher Master Agreement: Nielsen informed the Board the BNC had met with teachers and the Committee's desire was to raise the lower part of the salary grid. Nielsen stated they were anticipating twenty more teachers leaving this year. The Committee wanted to raise the base and raise the steps in

between. Clark stated that the Year One Salary Agreement was to add \$2,955 to the base which would bring the salary up to \$43,955. This brought the District into a competitive range. The step value was increased by \$156 to \$1,500 and teachers would advance one step. The Year Two Salary Agreement added \$2,250 to the base which would bring the salary up to \$46,205. Again, this would keep the District at a competitive range with District peers. Teachers would advance a step in Year 2. Gallagher stated that this was approaching competitive range. The BNC worked very hard to help the District approach the competitive landscape so that the District could hire and keep the best of the best. J. Sander made a motion, seconded by Moulton, to approve the Teacher Master Agreement for two years.

In response to a question from Orost, Clark stated the cumulative change for Year One was 10.08%. Year Two was 5.77%. The motion then passed unanimously.

Announcement: Gallagher stated it was Board Recognition Month and the middle school had written cards for the Board. It was a thank you on behalf of the teachers and administrators for the support of the Board.

Personnel Matter: Orost made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Board went into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. Orost made a motion to approve the sick leave buyout request of Kim Myette, a long-time employee with extenuating circumstances due to a loan forgiveness program delay, with the understanding this would not set a precedent. Moulton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Books to Principals Written by Former Superintendent, Terry Bailey: Gallagher informed the Board that Bailey, a former Superintendent and former Director of the Lamoille Area Vocational Center, donated books that he had written to each elementary school in the District in honor of Bill Sander. Jan Sander stated that Bill would have been very honored by this offering.

Central Office Updates: Gallagher reported that Johnson Elementary and Hyde Park Elementary had been honored by Secretary French for their work on positive behavioral supports. They were also honored at a state Board of Education meeting. Gallagher then said she had attended a dance competition and a number of basketball games. While she had gone to witness what was happening with students, spectators and referees at these events, she had developed a newfound passion for basketball. She noted that the District's spectators and students were cheering for everyone and were polite and respectful. Gallagher was very proud of the coaches, who were reminding people to be respectful and civil. It was in direct contrast to what she had been hearing happening at other places.

The Annual Meeting would be held on February 20th. Gallagher reported dinner and childcare would be available. However, if anyone was interested in eating or needed childcare, Gallagher asked that they pre-register. Karyl Kent would be providing a farm to school meal of local meat and vegetables.

Clark stated they were wrapping up the audits. The Cambridge audit was done and the Supervisory Union should be done and available next week. Orost asked if there was an update about the Central Office. Clark reported one concept had been reviewed and rejected. The architect was now focusing on getting Eden done.

Thibault encouraged everyone to look at the annual report that was now on the website. Thibault provided the Board with a highlight sheet of the annual report which outlined what the District was asking for.

Principal/Director Updates:

GMTCC: Remmers informed the Board of the Career Challenge Day that had just taken place. GMTCC partnered with Vermont Works for Women who coordinated having female students from the sending schools region in 6th, 7th and 8th grades come to explore the Tech Center for the day. Students from almost all of the eligible elementary/middle schools attended, including a group from Cabot elementary. Students spent 30 minutes in each of the programs doing a project. Remmers then stated they were in the middle of admissions and were currently reviewing 160 applications.

Remmers stated he had gone to the Vermont State House to celebrate Haley Michaud, one of five Vermont Presidential Scholars for Career Technical Education. Michaud was a second-year student in the HVAC program. She received the first place award in the HVAC competition in SkillsUSA last year. Former student Jackie Rose Abramsohn just won the best director and cinematographer award in the Scout Independent Film Festival.

Cambridge: Anderson reported that students were now able to participate in student activities outside of school during the school day such as skiing and riding. It was great to be able to offer this opportunity to students again. Rock climbing was taking place during PE class. Holly Simpson, a resident of Cambridge, was going to be running the Farm to School program. Jeh Kulu had just finished a three-day African drumming residency with the 5th and 6th graders and it was very well received.

Middle School: Maurice informed the Board that they had held the school dance the other night which went fairly well. Student activities such as bowling and skiing had recently taken place and the students were great. Students were practicing to perform in The Addams Family play. Maurice stated that a small group of students would be talking with the State Board of Education, sharing what the school was doing in the area of restorative practices and diversity and inclusion. The faculty met with Mark Scott and Emily Neilson to continue their work on how to address student behavior, in addition to reviewing teacher response and the context in which the behavior was taking place.

Hyde Park: Reilly reported that Emily Neilson and Mark Scott came to Hyde Park as well to discuss brain research. Cambridge teachers and staff came to the school during in-service. Sports for Life was back. Specialists and family volunteers were with the students as they took part in sports outside of the building and while teachers were participating in in-service training. There were 79 students ice skating, 25 students skiing at Spruce Peak, and Craftsbury was offering free use of the trails and equipment. Bowling was also offered. A highlight for Reilly was to be able to go to a principal retreat in Woodstock.

Eden: Goodman reported they had done a fire alarm test on Friday that went very well. There was also a PBIS party. What the two events showed her was that students knew when to be serious and when to have fun. Those were great skills to have. Goodman thanked Mascolino for writing a state grant proposal for cross country skis. Because of that, all K-6 PE classes were able to get out and ski on the property. This Wednesday the engagement team arranged a literacy event. Amy Olsen from Lanpher Library would be reading and offering a workshop with parents designed for Pre-K to Grade 2 children and families. This Friday the elementary music festival would take place.

Belvidere/Waterville: Epstein reported the students at her school went to both Jay Peak and Smugglers Notch to downhill ski, cross country ski, or snowshoe. A PBIS celebration took place today. Students would have access to a variety of music this week, including classical music. Things were going well at the school.

Student Representatives: Neckers informed the Board that the varsity dance group had gone to the Northern Vermont Athletic Conference and placed first in jazz, beating all of the other 7 teams that competed including D1 schools. JV jazz placed 4th, JV hip hop placed 6th, and varsity hip hop placed 4th.

Valerie Grivalsky attended YAPP for ballet and she placed in the top 12 ballerinas out of 256 ballerinas competing in her category. The sports teams were doing well. The JV girls basketball team was undefeated.

Hunsberger reported that Mr. Fredette had helped to open a school store. Students were selling items that they had created. The grand opening was today.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: Moulton made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.