

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board
Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting
May 15, 2023**

Board Members Present: Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Susan Prescott, Jan Sander, Denise Webster; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; David Whitcomb (by phone); Hyde Park: Tina Lowe, Lisa Barry, Patty Hayford; Johnson: Mark Nielsen, Monica Stearns; Waterville: Bart Bezio (arrived at 7:00 pm)

Board Members Absent: Cambridge: Christy Liddy, Tommy O'Connor; Hyde Park: Chasity Fagnant; Johnson: Allen Audette, Katie Orost, Angela Lamell

Administrators Present: Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Michele Aumand, Brian Pena, Denise Maurice, Rene Thibault, Blake Nemeth; Dylan Laflam; Randy Burnett from Colin-Lindberg

Minute Taker: Michele Aumand and Sue Trainor

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment: Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Sander made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

LNSU/LNEMUUSD Routine Business: Consent Agenda Items

Minutes of May 4, 2023, Personnel Committee Meeting: Barry made a motion, seconded by Hayford, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders: Fagnant was not present so this item was moved to the next meeting.

Cricket Hill Project/Lamoille Union Campus Improvement Projects. Presentation by Dylan

Laflam and Randy Burnett: Laflam provided the Board with information on the Cricket Hill project and campus improvements that was discussed at the Finance and Capital Committee meeting (see FCC Minutes of May 10, 2023). The engineer and architect answered questions from the Board. They explained that fencing would surround the track. There was a discussion of emergency egress. Signage stating no bikes or skateboards on the track would be in place. In response to a question, Laflam stated that lighting for the track could be an add alternate on any bid. Bleachers would provide seating for 750.

Moving on, Laflam outlined the new building, performing arts space, bathrooms, paving, and roof repair being proposed. Detailed information on the proposal can be found in the FCC Minutes of May 10, 2023. There was a discussion about the benefit of providing space for concessions. The Board discussed a request to add a classroom to the performing arts space. This would reduce the size of the performing arts performances.

Estimated costs for these projects were as follows:

Pre-K Classroom, Playground, Track Lockers and Central Office: \$5 million

Site Improvements: Track and Field and Parking: \$2.5 million

Cold Storage Building: \$125,000

LUHS/LUMS/GMTCC Bathrooms: \$351,000. Removing one of these bathrooms would result in a savings of \$186,000.

GMTCC Roof: \$1,144,950

LUHS Performing Arts Center: \$1,162,500

Middle School Health Classroom (Blue Room): \$62,500

LUHS/LUMS/GMTCC Parking Lot Resurfacing and Sidewalks: \$1million.

Subtotal: \$11,195,000

Add soft costs such as permitting, design, insurance, etc. at 15%.

Total Construction Cost: \$13,900,000 to \$16,100,000.

Laflam noted that if you looked at comparable projects, Burlington was looking at a \$165 million bond which would impact less than 1,000 students. Clark stated the track facility would become a huge community asset for Lamoille County.

Clark stated she had spoken with the Bond Bank about the cost for a 20-year \$14 million bond. The anticipated interest rate in November would be 3.7%. This would add \$1.2 million to the budget. If nothing changed from this year's budget process, the bond would cost \$46 for a \$100,000 home and \$100 a year for a \$200,000 home. Clark noted that in FY25 the MUUSD was slated to pick up some taxing capacity which should help with some of the costs. Clark also said that they were already looking at fundraising opportunities. There could also be funding available from the early childhood education bill.

Nielsen discussed the possibility of students being able to get sports scholarships at major universities with the addition of the track and field.

Discussion about QZAB Funds: Clark explained that years ago the Tech Center had received an interest free loan from QZAB. The money came in after the project was paid for and sat in a money market fund. Every year the interest from that money grew. There was now \$800,000 available. It was dedicated to the Lamoille Union campus and was not restricted in its use. Clark suggested using that money to help in paying for some of the upfront costs of the proposed Cricket Hill/Lamoille Union Campus Improvement projects. Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to utilize QZAB funds to help offset the costs of Cricket Hill/Lamoille Union Campus Improvement Projects. The motion passed unanimously.

Hunsberger then made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to move forward with the Cricket Hill Project/Lamoille Union Campus Improvement Projects. The motion passed unanimously.

Clark stated they would come back to the Board in August with final numbers and develop a warning to go out to bond, with a vote in September. Nielsen suggested having a monthly update on the project at each Board meeting.

Approve Acceptance of Federal Funds (LEAP) & Subgrant Agreements and Assign Agent(s) for Financial Matters: Prescott made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve assigning Mark Nielsen and/or Cat Gallagher as agents for financial matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Acceptance of IDEA-B Funds: Prescott made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to approve assigning Mark Nielsen and/or Cat Gallagher as agents for financial matters. The motion passed unanimously.

GMTCC Computer & Networking Technology Class Expansion Upfit: The Center intended to expand capacity within the Computer Networking Technology (CNT) class. In order to accommodate this expansion, the program would move from T-14 to T-20, purchase six additional work stations, and a large group work area from Office Environments. The GMTCC Administration was requesting that the Board release up to \$25,000 from the GMTCC capital reserve to purchase work stations and a group work area for the expansion of the CNT program. Laflam stated the funds should be paid back in less than three years as it was revenue generating. Prescott made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to release capital reserve funds from the GMTCC dedicated capital reserve in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the expansion upfit. The motion passed unanimously.

LUMS/HS Batting Cage Purchase & Install: Lamoille Union Middle and High School (LUMS/HS) Athletics requested a retractable batting cage to be installed in the middle level multi-purpose room. This would help to protect the floor and finish of the newly renovated high school gymnasium. The total cost of the installed equipment was \$29,500 of which \$10,000 would be

funded through the Athletics budget. The Athletics Department was requesting that the remaining \$19,500 be covered by reserve funds.

The Lamoille Union Middle and High School Administration requested that the Board release up to \$19,500 from the Lamoille Union Middle and High School capital reserve for the purchase and installation of a retractable batting cage to be installed in the middle level multipurpose room. Prescott asked Laflam for what remained as part of the LUMS/HS capital reserve fund balance. Laflam stated there was a balance of \$308,325. Prescott requested a review of the five-year capital reserve plan in a future meeting. Prescott then made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to release capital reserve funds for the batting cage purchase and install. The motion passed with Prescott voting no.

Hyde Park Elementary School - Encumber Remaining Construction Funds for the Following Investments:

HVAC Jace replacement; LED gym light replacement; Gym fan replacements; Casework finishes; Play structure and grounds upgrades and repairs; and IT conduit runs to the mechanical building.

Laflam stated there was roughly \$60,000 that needed to be used by June 30th and he wanted to use the funds to do the work listed above. The order of project importance was as listed above and would be dealt with in that order until funds ran out. Prescott made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to encumber remaining construction funds for needed investments. The motion passed with Cambridge members abstaining.

Johnson Elementary School - Encumber Remaining Pre-Merger Capital Reserve Fund for the Following Investments:

Remove and replace all swings; New exterior walk-in refrigerator and freezer; PreK 6x8 storage shed; and Emergency communications backup generator

Laflam informed the Board there was \$100,000 remaining in the Johnson Elementary School pre-merger capital reserve fund. Some of these items were approved several years ago but the equipment wasn't available at the time so Laflam wanted to bring these items to the Board again to review. The swing replacement would cost \$20,000. The walk-in refrigerator and freezer that was previously approved had cost \$34,500 at the time and now, eighteen months later, it would cost \$52,000. The order of project importance was as listed above and would be dealt with in that order until funds ran out. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to encumber the remaining pre-merger capital reserve funds for needed investments. The motion passed with Cambridge members abstaining.

Other Business: Jan Sander announced that there would be a gathering to honor Bill Sander on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at GMTCC in the CEC. She also mentioned that Martell's in Cambridge held an annual fundraiser in honor of a resident who had passed away and this year that would be Bill. Lisa Barry announced that there would be a Memory Ride in honor of her daughter on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All proceeds would go towards suicide prevention.

Adjourn: Stebbins made a motion, seconded by Hunsberger, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.