

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Special Meeting  
April 9, 2024**

**Board Members Present:** Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Jan Sander, Sue Prescott; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger; Hyde Park: Philip Kiely, Patty Hayford, Lisa Barry; Johnson: Allen Audette, Katie Orost, Kyle Hill, Monica Stearns, Mark Nielsen; Waterville: Bart Bezio

**Board Members Absent:** Cambridge: Christy Liddy, Denise Webster; Eden: David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Tina Lowe

**Administrators Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Jennifer Hulse, Rene Thibault, Betzi Goodman, David Manning, Jan Epstein, Denise Maurice, Diane Reilly, Dylan Laflam, Erik Remmers, Blake Nemeth, Jeremy Scannell, Paula Beattie

**Others in Attendance:** Representatives of the Town of Johnson and the Johnson Library regarding the Library Proposal item

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Stebbins asked that the agenda be amended to add the appointment of a Cambridge representative to the Board. Orost made a motion, seconded by Sweet, to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment.

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

**Minutes of March 18, 2024, Special Meeting; Minutes of March 12, 2024, Special Finance and Capital Committee Meeting and Curriculum Committee Meeting:** Kiely made a motion, seconded by Bezio, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Orders:** Bezio made a motion to approve the February 2<sup>nd</sup> through February 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Orders. Sander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Johnson Selectboard Library Proposal:** Laflam introduced Tom Galinat, Johnson's Town Administrator. Galinat explained that the Town Library had been closed following the flood and had temporarily moved into the Mason Lodge. The Town believed it was time to relocate the library out of the flood plain.

Legion Field became the best possible solution. Within Legion Field there was a small sliver of LNMMUUSD property, which was where the alumni house once stood. That land was deeded from the Town of Johnson to the School District in 2015. The Town was now interested in purchasing this lot back.

The property would extend from Sterling Road to the property line which was at the back of the current bandstand. The proposal was that the Town be able to purchase the land for \$1 with a right of first refusal back to the School District in the event the Town no longer used or maintained the land. The proposal would provide six to eight parking spaces reserved and maintained by the Town for the school during school hours.

Galinat reported locating the library at this location would be a benefit to the school as well. Having the library in walking distance would open up possibilities for afterschool programming. Laflam reported that he and Manning supported the proposal and noted there were a lot of pros to the idea. Galinat stated this could also be a nearby evacuation site. Additionally, the Town would take care of all of the closing costs and attorney's costs.

Hunsberger asked if engineering had been done on the bridge. Galinat stated it had. In response to a question from Orost, Laflam and Galinat stated that the 1.25 acre would be divided by Sterling Road and only the left side of the parcel would be used. Galinat stated a title search still needed to be done and

they were coming to the Board asking for permission to continue to move forward with this process. Audette made a motion, seconded by Hill, to move forward in the process of transferring the property to the Town for the purpose of the library.

Orost asked if the Town had received the grant to pay for this. Galinat stated the grant had not yet been received but even without the grant the Town would move forward with the property transfer, with the understanding the Town would take over the parking lot maintenance. In the long run, Johnson needed to move off the river. Securing real estate was step one in that effort.

Orost asked about parking. Galinat stated there would be six to eight spots reserved for parking. There was not a lot of overlap between library activities and school activities. Laflam stated that typically three teaching staff and three kitchen staff used the lot daily. Parents used the lot mainly to drop students off. Typically, students were dropped off before the library opened. Laflam said it would reduce the grounds budget slightly. Manning added that the strip of land being discussed was not well used by the school and the school wouldn't lose much usable space. Manning also noted that there were quite a few families that accessed library programs regularly and it would be a benefit for those families to have the library close by rather than having to cross Route 15. Hunsberger stated he had heard from teenagers about how helpful the library was to them and he agreed that it would be in a much more convenient location for students.

The goal for the next Board meeting was to have the title search and deed prepared. The Board approved the motion, with Sander, Prescott and Stebbins abstaining.

**Appointment of Cambridge Representative to the Board:** Stebbins requested that the Board approve Amy Listenik to the Board. Listenik was the only one to express an interest since the last Board meeting. Stebbins made a motion to approve Amy Listenik's appointment to the Board, seconded by Bezio. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approve FY25 Revised Elementary Budget Informational Meeting and Vote Warning:** Clark discussed the Vote Warning. This budget was for Pre-K through Grade 6 for Belvidere, Eden, Hyde Park and Waterville. The language would read: "Shall the voters of the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District #058A (Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) approve the school board to expend \$15,995,730, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?" This was a reduction of \$357,000, an amount that the Board adopted at the last meeting. Sweet made a motion, seconded by Kiely, to approve the Warning and the date of the Informational Meeting. The motion passed, with Sander, Stebbins and Prescott abstaining.

**Student Information System (SIS) Bid:** Clark informed the Board that the student information system housed student data. The current system had served the purpose at the very early stages at the high school as a report card as well as holding disciplinary data. It then expanded out to the middle and elementary schools. It was not a good system and not managed with fidelity. The old data was hard to extract and didn't work well with the upgraded State of Vermont data collection system. Additionally, there was no longer any support offered from the company.

Within the last month, the District found that there was a one-year extension for the liquidation period of ESSER funds. This extension allowed the District to complete projects as long as they were under contract. All of this could be funded this year with ESSER. A great deal of research had gone into the final recommendation of going with Infinite Campus. It was a comprehensive and integrated system and it would work with the State of Vermont system. Everyone had buy-in on Infinite Campus. Clark explained that while the numbers were more expensive on the annual cost of \$57,282 compared to the two other vendors, Power School with all the add-ons and third-party accessories would cost \$56,000 annually. The annual costs would be rolled into each budget after FY25.

Hunsberger made a motion to accept Infinite Campus at an implementation cost of \$56,540 and an annual cost of \$57,282 for a total cost of \$113,822, seconded by Stebbins.

Clark confirmed that other districts using this system had been contacted. Additionally, the current Student Information Manager had used it previously. The product would allow all parent paperwork to be done online. Clark stated that personnel data would be included in the system which would streamline ID badges. Laflam reported that, on the safety side, each personnel file would have a photo attached to it. The photos would be helpful if there were a security issue somewhere and confirmation of an individual was needed.

Maurice stated the system worked well with mobile devices. Gallagher noted that she had recently been at a country-wide Superintendent conference and all of the schools had gone with Infinite Campus several years ago. Orost confirmed that Power School and Schoology would be eliminated. The company was working to have the system in place by fall. Maurice stated that staff that had attended meetings on the SIS were impressed by what one package could provide.

The motion then passed unanimously.

**Approve LUHS Spanish Teacher Hire:** Beattie reported that Caresse Whyte would be retiring at the end of this year. The recommendation was to hire Angela Keller at a salary of \$61,205. Keller had a Masters of Education in English as a Second Language. She had ten years of experience. Pirie had informed Beattie that the students at LUHS loved her. Kiely made a motion, seconded by Sweet, to approve the hiring of Angela Keller. The motion passed unanimously.

**Administrator Contract Renewal:** Nielsen stated that the subcommittee requested that Gallagher be offered the opportunity to remain as Superintendent, noting she was the right person for the job. Kiely made a motion, seconded by Barry, to extend Catherine Gallagher's contract for five years. The motion passed unanimously.

**Labor Relations:** Gallagher asked that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with legal interpretation. All members in attendance were asked to stay except for the minute taker. The Board went into Executive Session at 6:33 pm. The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:46 p.m.

**Other Business:** Gallagher spoke to the Board about the conference she had attended in Chicago. Gallagher expressed appreciation for how well the Board worked together. Thibault discussed the fact that Gallagher had been nominated as the Vermont delegate to the National Superintendents Association. Thibault also reported that he had developed a budget flyer that Board members should share in their communities and reminded everyone to vote on April 16th.

**Adjourn:** Prescott made a motion, seconded by Orost, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.