

**Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
May 13, 2024**

**Board Members Present:** Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Jan Sander, Denise Webster, Amy Listenik; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger, David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Patty Hayford, Lisa Barry, Tina Lowe; Johnson: Allen Audette, Katie Orost, Kyley Hill, Monica Stearns; Mark Nielsen (arrived at 5:36 p.m.); Waterville: Bart Bezio

**Board Members Absent:** Cambridge: Sue Prescott; Hyde Park: Philip Kiely

**Administrators Present:** Catherine Gallagher, Deb Clark, Michele Aumand, Rene Thibault, Betzi Goodman, David Manning, Jan Epstein, Denise Maurice, Bethann Pirie, Diane Reilly, Dylan Laflam, Erik Remmers, Blake Nemeth, Valerie Stevens, Jeremy Scannell, Carrie Bullard, Cole Hayes, Jennifer Hulse

**Minute Taker:** Sue Trainor

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Public Comment:** Acting Chair Orost called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Laflam asked that the Johnson Elementary School upper-level AC item be removed from the agenda. Bezio made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the amended agenda.

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

**LNSU/LNMUUSD Special Board Meeting Minutes, April 9 and April 22, 2024; Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes, April 2, April 18 and May 1, 2024:** Webster made a motion, seconded by Barry, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Orders:** Bezio asked that the Board approve the March 8 through April 5, 2024 Board Orders. Webster made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve the Board Orders. The motion passed unanimously.

**Student Matter:** Orost then requested a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a confidential student matter. Orost invited the parents, Diane Reilly, Jennifer Hulse, and Board members to attend. The Superintendent of Schools excused herself. The Board went into Executive Session at 5:04 pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:36 p.m. Bezio made a motion that with respect to a confidential student matter, the Board adopt a finding that the Administrator's substantiation of a policy violation, and the discipline imposed as a result of such violation, did not constitute an abuse of discretion. Stebbins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Nielsen abstaining as he had arrived late for the meeting.

**Appeal of In-District Transfer Request:** A parent requested that the Board consider her request for her daughter to move from Johnson Elementary School to Hyde Park Elementary School. She hadn't realized there was a deadline for this request. Webster made a motion, seconded by Sweet, to go into Executive Session at 5:38 p.m. to discuss the student matter. Board members were invited to stay.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:45 p.m. Bezio made a motion to deny the in-district transfer request and stick with the original issued policy. Sweet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Cambridge members abstaining.

**Moving Library Books from Belvidere to Waterville:** Epstein reported there was a wonderful collection of library resources currently being unused at Belvidere. Epstein wanted to be able to

bring them all to Waterville. Sweet made a motion, seconded by Hill, to approve moving the library books from Belvidere to Waterville. The motion passed unanimously, with Cambridge members abstaining.

**Lamoille Union Supervisory Building Lease:** Laflam reported to the Board that on March 7th they had opened two bids that had been submitted in response to a recent Request for Proposals for leasing administrative office space. The bids were from one vendor, MSI. One property was located at 52 VFW Drive in Hyde Park and the other was located in North Hyde Park. Both properties lease was for an annual cost of \$108,000 with a 3% annual increase. At this time the Administration was recommending this item be tabled. There was another scenario they were looking into using ESSER funds that would address air quality.

**GMTCC FY 25 CLNA Data Presentation:** Remmers provided presentation materials in writing but kept his comments short due to time. This was the last step in the Perkins V approval process for FY25-26. Every two years a local needs assessment was done and this was a central component when applying for Perkins V funds. Targets were set and measured with academics, post and secondary placement, attainment of college credits, attainment of industry recognized credentials being some of the target areas. According to the AOE, all academic targets were met by GMTCC with the exception of science. Remmers noted that GMTCC had had the benefit of a stable staff over the last few years. Noted within the written presentation was a summary of what GMTCC would be using the Perkins funds for.

**GMTCC Culinary Bistro Renovation, Release of Capital Funds Request:** Laflam explained to the Board that this item had originally been in the GMTCC budget and was removed when looking for reductions to the budget. After reviewing and reducing the scope of the project, GMTCC was requesting that up to \$20,000 be released from the GMTCC capital reserve fund. The updates would include changing the lighting to dimmable LED, partially removing the wall between the dining room and kitchen, purchasing 'grab and go' refrigeration and refreshing the room layout. Bezio made a motion, seconded by Sander, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

**ESSER Funds Bid Proposals:** Laflam explained that these projects were being funded entirely by the remaining ESSER funds that needed to be used for a one-time expense. These were projects that were originally in general fund budgets that were cut or for some of the long-term planning projects that were often set aside due to funding. The total ARP ESSER funds being used would be \$371,084.99. These projects, vendors and costs were:

**LU-GMTCC Roadside Digital Display and Sign:** Vermont Display, Daktronics; \$53,700

**LU-GMTCC Water Treatment Plant Upgrades:** Clear Water Filtration; \$23,888.90

**LU-Hyde Park Secondary Communications, Radio Systems:** Radio North Group for both; \$17,015 for Lamoille Union and \$16,371 for Hyde Park

**LU-GMTCC/WES/ECS Surveillance System:** Minuteman Security Technologies for all three; \$15,590.88 for LU/GMTCC, \$27,338.29 for Eden Central School and \$23,598.48 for Waterville Elementary School

**LU-GMTCC/ECS Central School Door Replacement:** Kelley Brothers of New England for both; \$37,415.82 for LU/GMTCC and \$6,382.57 for Eden Central School

**GMTCC Indoor Air Quality:** Control Technologies for a heat wheel replacement; \$13,875

**LU Heat Recovery Ventilation Units at Central Office:** Control Technologies; \$31,469

**CES Secondary Communications, Radio Systems:** Burlington Communications; \$30,980

**ECS/WES Access Controls:** Minuteman Security Technologies for both; \$22,381.40 for Eden Central School and \$25,078.65 for Waterville Elementary School

Some items would be completed with in-house staff, adding an additional \$26,000. These numbers are already included in the total cost of the request. Hunsberger made a motion, seconded by Stebbins, to approve spending ESSER funds on these projects. The motion passed unanimously.

**JES Biomass:** Laflam explained they had applied for and received a grant of \$150,300 from the School Heating Assistance with Renewables and Efficiency (SHARE) Program to bring a biomass system into the Johnson school. \$20,000 of general fund money would be needed to support the grant and that amount was currently in the school's general fund account. Laflam asked that the Board approve an award of \$169,500 to Messersmith Manufacturing to provide, program and install a new feed system and emission controls on the woodchip boiler system. Of that amount, the school would provide \$19,200 from their general fund. Bezio made a motion, seconded by Nielsen, to approve the request. Cambridge members abstained.

**New Vermont Payroll Tax:** Clark stated there was a new early education payroll tax that would begin on July 1. It would be a 0.44% tax. Employers had the option of asking employees to carry 25% of that cost. That would result in a 0.11% tax for the employee and a 0.33% cost to employers. Districts across the state were doing both. Clark asked the Board to make a motion to require employees to carry the 0.11% of the new payroll tax effective on July 1. Nielsen made a motion, seconded by Lowe, to approve having employees pay 0.11%. The motion carried, with Sander voting against.

**Other Business:** Barry informed the Board that a memorial fundraiser for her daughter would be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> in Hyde Park. Funds would go toward mental health and suicide awareness. Hunsberger reported on the Jam Tones fundraiser to go to Ireland. Clark noted that at the next meeting there would be a transportation contract coming up. The District currently self-insured their dental coverage and had no increases over the last seven years. Clark would be coming forward with a request for a self-insurance set-aside. Tax anticipation notes would be reviewed next month as well.

**Adjourn:** Hunsberger adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.