

Meeting of the  
Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 14, 2024

Board members Present: Johnson: Katie Audette, Allen Audette, Monica Stearns, Kyle Hill, Mark Nielsen; Waterville: Bart Bezio; Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Cambridge: Nancy Guyette, Mark Stebbins, Amy Listenik, Susan Prescott, Jan Sander, Denise Webster; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger, David Whitcomb; Hyde Park: Tina Lowe, Phillip Kiely, Lisa Jones

Board members Absent: Hyde Park: Patti Hayford

Administrators Present: Cole Hayes, Jennifer Hulse, Deborah Clark, Bethann Pirie, Rene Thibault, Catherine Gallagher, Jeremy Scannell, Blake Nemeth, Paula Beattie, Dylan Laflam, Jan Epstein, Erik Remmers, David Manning, Chris Hennessey, Diane Reilly, Betzi Goodman, Michelle Aumand, Kim Hunt

Others Present: Community Member

Minute Taker: Savannah Droney

Meeting was called to order at 5:59pm by Nielsen

Approval of Agenda- Clark asked to add a discussion on adult meal charge accounts and possible action. Bezio made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Sweet. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: No public Comment

LNSU/LNMUUSD Routine Business:

Consent Agenda Items – approve minutes for September 30, 2024, LNSU/LNMUUSD SPECIAL meeting, September 9, 2024, LNSU/LNMUUSD Board Meeting, September 16, 2024, LNSU/LNMUUSD Personnel Committee meeting. K. Audette made the motion to approve September 30, September 9, and September 16 meeting minutes. Sander noted that her name was spelled incorrectly. Bezio seconded the motion with the changes made to correct Sander’s spelling. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Orders – Bezio recommended that the board approve the board orders from July 12 through August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Hunsberger made the motion to approve the board orders from July 12 to August 9, seconded by Sweet. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Updates –Bezio shared slides, the final report of the VSBA task force on collaboration to benefit all students which was released on September 11, 2024. Major recommendations are:

1. Data expansion and maintenance of a comprehensive and accurate data dashboard.
2. Improve the capacity of the Agency of Education to meet statutory responsibilities.
3. Utilize the district quality standards to improve function of the State Board of Education.

Act 183 requires the commission to prepare and submit a written report containing its preliminary findings and recommendations, including short-term cost containment considerations on or before December 15, 2024.

Slides were also shared on FY Education Fund Revenue Sources. Vermont is heavily reliant on property taxes funding education. Other slides shared were on policy ideas to control cost drivers, policy ideas to reduce property tax rates, and policy ideas to reduce district spending. Hunsberger asked to have the slides emailed to the Board.

Adult Meal Charges: Clark stated that Kelly Shortsleeve, the new director of school nutrition, was looking at receivables and there are currently 165 total adult meal charge accounts with balances. The issue is there are a lot with outstanding balances. One account is over \$300. Clark recommends any accounts that have a balance over \$30, then no more charging is allowed until it is paid. Invoices do go out regularly. Clark will reach out to the individuals that have a balance. There should be a policy written. There currently is a charge policy for student accounts. These adult balances were carried over the summer. There was a suggestion to send invoices out monthly. Clark asked for a motion to follow up on accounts higher than \$50 and include no more charging if over \$50. Sander made a motion, seconded by Webster. The motion passed unanimously.

LNMUUSD Snowplow Bids: Per Laflam, there were six bids received this year. Tyler Kind Excavation, James Irving LLC, JMP Excavation, King Property Maintenance, JL Audy LLC, and Vermont Outdoor Services. Laflam recommends accepting the 2025-2027 for JL AUDY LLC for Lamoille Union, GMTCC and the Supervisory Union central office and Vermont Outdoor Services for Hyde Park Elementary, Waterville Elementary, Belvidere Central, and Eden Central Schools. Bezio made a motion to approve Laflam's recommendation, seconded by Jones. The question was asked, how much have we been paying? Per Laflam, Vermont Outdoor Services are down 30% from last year. The LU/GMTCC costs did increase this year. All references came back good. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Review: Gallagher explained the updates on the policies. This is a first reading. They were emailed out. The board can review and bring any questions to the next meeting.

Volunteers and Work Study Students, B-2, First Reading & Possible Discussion – model policy updated to be a little less restricted in the kind of checking we need to do. We need to do offender registries and finger printing. This has been lessened because this is not in statute. It is up to the board to decide if they want to keep the old policy or update to the new policy with recommendations.

Transportation, C-3, First Reading & Possible Discussion – added piece about partial and total transportation. Buses pick up in hubs in towns and will then take the students to the school. Gallagher encourages the Board to adopt. We can establish rules and designated stops for other factors deemed appropriate. It does say we may furnish transportation, it's not required.

Participation of Home Study Students, C-6, First Reading & Possible Discussion – now have procedures, the board doesn't need to adopt procedures. Students can take up to 40%, but not more, of academic courses through the school if they are a registered home study participant. They can participate in flexible pathways, early college programs, and extracurricular activities.

Discussion of LNSU Plan for Multilingual Learners (LNSU LAU plan): Hunt shared slides on the Lau Plan. Guidance from the AOE, there was an increase in the percent of students proficient in the cohort that were in 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Spring 2024. In many of our communities, economically disadvantaged students are doing nearly as well as their non-disadvantaged peers. Our progress monitoring (MAPS) predicted

which students need the most help. Math scores are below literacy. Unlike previous statewide assessments, we don't have release items or progress monitoring from Cognia that shows test questions for us to compare to.

Lau Plan is named after a Supreme Court case decision in 1974, which resulted in the requirement for public school districts to provide equitable access to high-quality education for students who are English Learners by outlining actionable steps to meet specific goals in the form of a plan.

Lau plan describes what a school district will do: identify English learners, design an effective program reflective of their needs, employ appropriate personnel with specialized knowledge to serve the needs of EL students, align the instructions of English Learner students to state and local content standards, provide ongoing authentic assessment. Increased in recent years from 7 to 14 to 18. 18 students means that we have 13 students receiving active service, five are officially being monitored.

FY26 Budget Development Update: Clark stated the FCC will be meeting on Monday, October 21, 2024, with building administrators. This is only a discussion. Any requests should be brought to that meeting. K. Audette would like to discuss closing the smaller schools. Clark stated there would need to be a vote twice with a 75% majority vote of the board 12 months apart. It is too late for FY26. Next month, the Board can hear the data and decide if they want to move forward with this. The Board agreed they would like to hear the numbers on what the effect of closing would be and combining schools.

Receive Document Regarding Internal Financial Controls Pursuant to 32 VSA 163(11) and T.16, 242a: Clark stated that the Board has two months to review this document and ask questions. She will ask again in December. It doesn't go to the State, but is a requirement.

School Safety: Thibault shared that the Lamoille North Safe Schools night is October 28, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:30 pm.

Centegix – Discussion & Possible Action, Possible Executive Session – motion to go into executive session was made by Sweet, Hunsberger seconded at 6:42 pm. The motion passed unanimously. The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:54 pm.

Goals: The Board goals and committee responsibilities were passed out and should be final.

Community Feedback Survey: Good news, we have received 287 responses to date. The most we have seen in the past is about 50. Keeping opening for another week and will have a full report available.

JUUL Settlement: A couple of years ago, LNSU/LNMUUSD entered a class action suit against JUUL. Last year, the district received a check for \$7,500. We just received another one this year for \$7500. This money will go towards fighting substance use.

Committee Lists: Committee lists are set, contact Michele Aumand if anything needs to be changed.

Principal/Director Updates: Each principal/director spoke about their goals for the year.

Other Business: Thibault asked for a head count of people coming to the Safe school event. The QR code and an email with the Community feedback survey was shared. The group was asked to complete if not already done.

Hunsburger shared that the BFA/LU football team is 7-0. There is an upcoming Musical, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, on 11/7, 11/8, 11/9. GMATV is working on Lancer TV.

Jones shared that there will be a fundraiser on November 10<sup>th</sup> in memory of her daughter Hannah Ferland. It is a paint and sip from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Hyde Park VFW. The money raised will go towards mental health and suicide prevention.

7:42 pm Hunsberger made motion to adjourn.