

Meeting of the  
Lamoille North Supervisory Union and  
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 10, 2025

Board members Present: Johnson: Mark Nielsen, Kyley Hill, Monica Sterns; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Nancy Guyette, Denise Webster, Jan Sander; Susan Prescott; Hyde Park: Tina Lowe, Lisa Jones, Patty Hayford; Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Waterville: Bart Bezio; Eden: David Whitcomb  
Board members Absent: Cambridge: Amy Listenik; Hyde Park: Phillip Kiely; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger  
Administrators Present: Rene Thibault, Kim Hunt, Catherine Gallagher, David Manning, Deb Clark, Paula Beattie, Betzi Goodman, Christopher Hennessey, Diane Rielly, Erik Remmers, Bethann Pirie, Jan Epstein, Jennifer Hulse, Blake Nemeth, Jeremy Scannell, Cole Hayes, Michele Aumand, Mary Anderson  
Others Present: Kyle Nuse, Eric Hutchins  
Minute Taker: Savannah Droney

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Nielsen

**Approval of Agenda:** There is a request to alter the agenda to combine the legislative update with the discussion about Governor Scott's proposal for education transformation. The student matter will come before that and remove Administrator updates. Sweet made the motion to approve the agenda with the change, seconded by Bezio. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Eric Hutchins met with our local representatives, and he has concerns regarding Governor Scott's proposal. He can't imagine that voters wanted decisions such as closing schools to be decided by Montpelier. He also doesn't want the work this board has done to be destroyed.

**LNSU/LNMMUUSD Routine Business Consent Agenda Items – Minutes from the SPECIAL LNSU/LNMMUUSD Board Meeting on 1/7/25; LNSU/LNMMUUSD Board meeting on 1/13/25; Curriculum Committee Meeting on 1/13/25** – Webster made motion to approve the above minutes, seconded by Sanders. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Orders:** Bezio has reviewed the board orders and Sweet made a motion to approve, Webster seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Student Matter – Possible Executive Session, Possible Action:** Stebbins made the motion to go into executive session, Webster seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 6:50pm. Bezio stated that the Board has received the report reviewing the harassment, hazing and bullying policies and procedures at Johnson Elementary School. The Board finds there was no improper or omitted policies or procedures. The Board has also received the report reviewing specific allegations of harassment, hazing, bullying and sexual harassment and agrees with the conclusion that policies and procedures were appropriately followed by Johnson Elementary School and district personal. We support the Johnson Elementary School principal and staff as well as district staff and commend them for their hard work and dedication. Motion to accept these findings was made by Sweet, Stebbins seconded. Unanimous vote.

**Policy Review:** Gallagher shared the changes for each policy.

**B-4, Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees – First Reading:** The previous policy had the policy and procedures in one document. The policy and procedures are now separated.

**B-5, Employee Unlawful Harassment – First Reading:** There were lots of changes to this. Removed the terms political affiliation and marital status. It adds crime and victim status to definition.

**B-7, Tobacco Prohibition – First Reading:** Only change is the wording school-sponsored activities to public school-sponsored activities.

**C-8, Pupil Privacy Rights – First Reading:** Separated the policy from procedures.

**D-5, Animal Dissection – First Reading:** If a student wants to opt out of dissection, there is an opportunity for them to learn a different way.

**Continue Discussion Regarding Disposition of the Belvidere Central School Building – Discussion & Possible Action, Possible Executive Session:** Clark put together notes and sent those out to the Board last week. The Board needs to decide if they want to dispose of the Belvidere Central School building. Recently the school has acted as a spot for Pre-K which has moved to Waterville. The cost to operate the building in 2024 was about \$60,000. There is no outstanding debt attached to the building. Per Dylan, the siding would need to be updated if we wanted to keep the building. Clark asked if the board wants to move forward with the disposition building. If the town is interested in the offer, they can move forward with acquiring the building. Bezio thinks it is the right thing to do.

Bezio makes the motion to set in motion disposing of the Belvidere Central School building. Seconded by Sweet. The motion passed unanimously.

Sweet made a motion that Deb or Dylan reach out to the Town of Belvidere for the right of refusal and give them until June 30<sup>th</sup>. If they choose not to move forward with acquiring the building, then the town can move forward with other options. Seconded by Bezio. The motion passed unanimously.

**Superintendent's Update:** The calendar for next year has been sent to the Agency of Education and is awaiting their approval. It looks the same as this year's calendar. In-district transfer applications are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Recruitment for the Eden Central School and Johnson Elementary School principals is looking good. There have been complaints about personnel. We have policies in our handbooks and on the website. If you have a problem with someone, address it with the person. If that is unresolved, go to the building lead. If things don't get resolved with the building lead, it can go to the superintendent. The Board can choose whether to hear a complaint unless the complaint falls under something in statute. Community members can always speak during public comment.

**Governor Scott's Proposal for Education Transformation – Discussion:** Bezio shared slides regarding Governor Scott's proposal. This is the biggest reform that the state has ever seen. As it is currently proposed, we would move to the new governance structure in the 2027-2028 school year. If this goes forward, we would be electing new school district board members in November 2026. The new districts would take over operation on July 1, 2027.

**FY26 Non-Represented Staff Pay Increases - Discussion & Possible Action, Possible Executive Session:** Stebbins made the motion to go into executive session at 7:44 pm, Bezio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 7:58 pm. Webster made the motion to approve the FY26 non-represented staff pay increases of 6%. Stebbins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business/Adjourn:** 7:59 pm, motion to adjourn by Sander.