

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

Board members Present: Johnson: Mark Nielsen, Kyle Hill, Monica Sterns, Kyle Nuse; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins, Nancy Guyette, Denise Webster, Jan Sander, Amy Listenik; Hyde Park: Lisa Jones, Tina Lowe, Patty Hayford; Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Waterville: Bart Bezio; Jeff Hunsberger

Board members Absent: Cambridge: Susan Prescott; Hyde Park: Phillip Kiely; Eden: David Whitcomb

Administrators Present: Kim Hunt, Catherine Gallagher, David Manning, Deb Clark, Paula Beattie, Betzi Goodman, Christopher Hennessey, Diane Reilly, Erik Remmers, Bethann Pirie, Jan Epstein, Jennifer Hulse, Blake Nemeth, Jeremy Scannell, Cole Hayes, Michele Aumand, Dylan Laflam, Carrie Bullard

Others Present: Eric Hutchins, Danielle Sweet, Carrie Ferrari, Chris Bologna

Minute Taker: Savannah Droney

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

**Approval of Agenda:** There are two changes to the agenda. Policy review for C-4 will come off. Then move the Johnson School Street Lot discussion to after routine business. Stebbins made the motion to approve the agenda with the change, seconded by Bezio. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Eric Hutchins thanked the school board, community members on explaining the budget. He shared concerns of the school changes that are in Vermont legislation currently.

**Reorganization of the Board:** Welcomed Kyle Nuse to the board as a new Johnson member.

**Elect LNSU/LNMMUUSD Board Chair-** Sweet nominated Mark Nielsen seconded by Bezio. The motion passed unanimously.

**Elect LNSU/LNMMUUSD Clerk-** Bezio nominated Stephanie Sweet, seconded by Lowe. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discuss & Approve 2025-2026 Board Meeting Schedule & Date of Annual Meeting-** Currently meets monthly on the second Monday, board agreed to keep it that way. The annual meeting will be February 16, 2026.

**Discuss & Approve 2025-2026 Committee Meeting Schedule/Membership-** Meetings will continue to be held before school board meetings. Nuse is joining safety and wellness committee.

### **LNSU/LNMMUUSD Routine Business**

Consent Agenda Items

**Minutes of February 10, 2025, LNSU/LNMMUUSD Board meeting-** Bezio made the motion to approve the February 10, 2025, minutes, seconded by Stebbins. The motion passed unanimously. Nuse abstained.

**Board Orders-** Bezio reviewed board orders and recommends the board approve the board orders. Sweet made the motion, seconded by Hunsberger. The motion passed unanimously. Nuse abstained.

**Legislative Updates – Possible Discussion:** Bezio shared slides. Education transformation bill came out almost two weeks ago. The proposal does not include details on Pre-K or Career Technical Education. The

current education reform landscape remains very fluid. There seems to be momentum to address education reform over a period spanning multiple years rather than in this legislative session. Expanding school choice is facing strong Democratic opposition and the universal school meals programs has board legislative support, despite the current lack of dedicated funding source. Over 90% of school budgets have passed. Short term: Potential statewide teacher contracts, standardized school calendar, unified school data management, statewide graduation requirements. Long term: Foundation formula, governance, property tax reform, reappraisal and grand list reform, school construction & deferred maintenance. There is discussion to ban cell phones in school.

**Transfer of Johnson School Street Lot to Town of Johnson – Discussion & Possible Action:** Laflam was waiting for legal to come back with the quitclaim deed which they have done. This is to sell the .69-acre lot back to the town for \$10. Nuse made the motion to approve Mark Nielsen, chair of the LNMUSD board, to be the sole duly authorized agent of LNMUUSD to sign the quitclaim deed pertaining to a .69-acre, panel ID# 21-01-98, to the town of Johnson, seconded by Sweet. The motion passed. Cambridge abstained.

**Reduction in Force Challenge by the Association of Position at Johnson Elementary School – Possible Discussion, Possible action, Possible executive session:** Chris Bologna shared thoughts on the reduction at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level at Johnson. He represents the union and wants to keep as many people as we can. He understands but doesn't envy the decision. He wants to keep continuity with all that is going on with Johnson. The person in this position is respected and great. They are meant to be in the classroom. Manning shared that the population of Johnson has declined with kids transferring to other schools in the district. Hunsberger made the motion to go into executive session to discuss at 6:25pm, seconded by Bezio. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 6:37 pm. Bezio stated: In considerations of the 2026 budget analysis, the board has decided to deny this challenge, Hunsberger seconded. Unanimously voted. Cambridge abstained.

**JES Principal Hire – Discussion/Interview, Possible Action, Possible Executive Session:** Dane Vannosdeln is the finalist for the JES principal position. Hunsberger made the motion to accept the recommendation of the hiring committee to approve Dane as the Johnson Principal, seconded by Nuse. Unanimously voted. Cambridge abstained. The Board thanked David Manning for his many years of dedicated service as the JES principal.

**ECS Principal Hire – Discussion/Interview, Possible Action, Possible Executive Session:** Christopher Dodge is the finalist for the ECS principal position. Hunsberger made the motion to accept the recommendation of the hiring committee to hire Christopher Dodge for the Eden Principal, seconded by Sweet. Motion passed unanimously. Cambridge abstained. The Board thanked Betzi Goodman for her many years of work at ECS as a teacher and principal.

**Policy Review:** Gallagher discussed the changes for the second reading.

**B-4, Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees – Second Reading & Possible Adoption-** Bezio made the motion to accept this policy, seconded by Hunsberger. Motion passed unanimously.

**B-5, Employee Unlawful Harassment – Second Reading & Possible Adoption-** Hunsberger made the motion to accept this policy, seconded by Bezio. Motion passed unanimously.

**B-7, Tobacco Prohibition – Second Reading & Possible Adoption-** Nuse made motion to accept this policy, seconded by Bezio. Motion passed unanimously.

**C-8, Pupil Privacy Rights – Second Reading & Possible Adoption-** Hunsberger made the motion to accept this policy, seconded by Nuse. Motion passed unanimously

**D-5, Animal Dissection – Second Reading & Possible Adoption-** Stebbins made the motion to accept this policy, seconded by Lowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Gallagher asked that the Board read and review the following policies before the next board meeting:

**C-2, Student Alcohol and Drugs**

**C-5, Firearms**

**C-7, Student Attendance**

**C-11, Student Freedom of Expression**

**C-15, Students Who Are Homeless**

**C-20, Student Conduct and Discipline**

**Data Discussion-** Hunt shared the NWEA Map scores. The screener is given three times a year. This is not a diagnostic test. Slides were presented overall math growth is in the 49<sup>th</sup> percentile. The reading scores overall are at 43<sup>rd</sup> percentile.

**Other Business:**

Hunsberger mentioned Wednesday night is the Lady Lancer's playoff game at the Barre Auditorium and is also the Winter Concert for the middle and high school.

**Adjourn:** 7:56 pm motion to adjourn by Hunsberger.