

Meeting of the
Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District FCC
Minutes of Meeting
November 3, 2025

Board members Present: Belvidere: Bart Bezio; Cambridge: Susan Prescott, Mark Stebbins; Hyde Park: Lisa Jones

Board members Absent: Mark Neilsen

Administrators Present: Cole Hayes, Deborah Clark, Rene Thibault, Dylan Laflam, Bethann Pirie, Christopher Hennessey

Minute Taker: Savannah Droney

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Stebbins at 6:02pm

Approval of Agenda: Bezio made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: N/A

Discuss FY27 Budget Development Schedule: Secondary Level – Possible Action, Possible Executive Session: Clark shared handouts showing preliminary numbers for the general, non-special education assessment for LNSU. There are no indications coming from the AOE of what may happen with the Dec 1st letter, or the average daily weighted membership numbers (student counts). The biggest drivers of the 33% growth in the non-special education assessment are continuation of centralizing services: including a districtwide safety & transportation position, moving the cost of the new security alert system to the SU budget, hiring and on-boarding services and a centralized position to manage enrollment. There is an expectation that these additional centralized positions, in addition to improving fidelity and consistency across all data points, may generate savings in the site-based budgets. The special ed assessment is projected to increase 15%. Last year Jen was working on a new strategy of getting more of our students back into the schools and in classes. This meant more salary cost with an expected corresponding decrease in contracted costs. As in-house services were expected to cost less than contracted services, this year's (FY26) budget represents a sharp decrease in special education expenses. We may be seeing a "correction" or leveling out of cost/benefits under the new service delivery strategies. Special education administration is taking a deeper dive as to what is driving the change and will be meeting with the FCC on the 17th. There is a 2.51% increase overall in the Supervisory Union revenues, and an 11.44% increase in expenses.

At the secondary level, including the facilities and IT budgets, there is an estimated 6% increase in education spending for the high school and middle school. This includes the SU assessment as it is presented tonight. General instruction fund is at a 5.35% increase, information technology looking at a 16.1% increase. Hayes shared why there is an increase. He shared that they don't need a full-time person at every elementary school, which has allowed personnel costs to be moved around. The increase takes in standard contract increases which happen every year (copiers, software, etc.) Cost of materials and devices has increased because of tariffs. There are several things that he didn't include that are needed items but to keep the increase to what it is they were not added. Laflam said that there was a 8% increase in electricity. Facility cut across the board, even at the tech center. There are no huge increases.

All contracts are going up same as IT. Security and safety is going down. Discussion was held on how the cost for the SRO is currently still in the Secondary budget and may need to be reviewed and moved to the SU to become part of the district-wide assessment.

Again, overall looking at 6.07% for the education spending. Nutrition is not centralized but Kelly is. Anyone 18 and younger can get lunch at the cafeteria, even if not enrolled. Bethann noted there has been no increase in FTEs, same at the middle level. The only place she added money is for graduation which is to reflect the actual expenses and projected costs. Looking at building it into a specific line in the budget. The increase is only salaries and benefits which reflects the master agreement. She tried to keep level funding. Lamoille has 86 students enrolled at the tech center. Chris shared the middle level budget, and there are some increases that are warranted \$1000 for bike maintenance, \$1000 to family consumer science as the cost of food is increasing, middle school band instruments have not been upgraded so there is a need for \$1500. The kiln in the art department has failed and the cost is \$6000. Last year he kept the budget level funded as he was just coming in. Dylan shared that the fire alarms need to be replaced, as they have become obsolete. The reserves need to be looked at. Deb noted that there is a reserve that was created when the health benefits changed, allowing a reserve in case HRA usage was higher in any year than what was budgeted. This is now considered over reserved and too limited in purpose as it has never been used. Deb may come back to the FCC and Board to consider re-defining the purpose of the reserve. However, this change may need to be approved by the voters. Elementary principles, and special ed will meet November 17th.

Other Business: N/A

Adjourn: At 7:10pm Prescott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jones. The motion passed unanimously.