

Meeting of the
Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District FCC
Minutes of Meeting
December 1, 2025

Board members Present: Johnson: Mark Nielsen; Cambridge: Mark Stebbins; Hyde Park: Lisa Jones, Patty Hayford; Belvidere: Bart Bezio

Administrators Present: Cole Hayes, Deborah Clark, Dylan Laflam, Christopher Dodge, Carrie Bullard, Dane Van Nosdeln, Jerme Scannell, Diane Rielly, Jan Epstein, Kimberly Hunt, Robin Genetti

Attending Virtually: Cambridge Board Member: Susan Prescott; Administrators: Kim Hunt, Robin Genetti

Minute Taker: Savannah Droney

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Nielsen at 6:00 p.m.

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

Public Comments: N/A

Discuss FY27 Budget Development Schedule: Elementary Level – Possible Action, Possible Executive Session: Clark handed out an updated budget and explained some changes such as SROs up to the Supervisory line, and the new position at SU. The over-all assessment increase is 16.5%; 40.5% increase at general level and special education at a 7.5% increase. Clark explained that this year to better represent the SU assessment in the correct operations categories (i.e. Student Services, Instruction) she has worked with Lynda to create department specific assessment accounts at the school level. This way those services provided at the SU level are not all lumped together under “administration”. Stebbins asked about the miscellaneous revenue line in FY26 that isn’t repeated in the FY27 budget, and what it was for? Clark stated that with all the work done by Jen last year to bring Special Ed services back in-house, there was a large saving in the budget. GMTCC doesn’t participate in the Special Ed assessment, therefore they couldn’t benefit from the large savings being generated. This one-time lump sum adjustment moved some of those savings from the special ed assessment to the general costs assessment, allowing GMTCC to also benefit. This is not repeated in the FY27 budget. Clark handed out the elementary school’s budget noting a 10.42% increase in over-all spending, and “bottom line” increase to education spending of 12.63%.

Nielsen asked each administrator to discuss their budget goals. Epstein (Waterville) doesn’t need to add or lose a teacher. She didn’t increase any lines except, added \$500 to food, and field trips transportation. Outside of personnel costs are down slightly. Laflam shared that one of the increases for Waterville is flood insurance. Waterville is now in a flood plain with a \$12,000 increase to their property insurance costs. There are 78 students at Waterville. Rielly (Hyde Park) has the largest increase and shared the back history. Hyde Park has a lot of teacher longevity and increased enrollment. In FY23 the enrollment was 178, and for FY27 it is projected to be 226. The current number of students is 225. Smallest class is 26 students and that is Kindergarten. Last year she cut 2 coaches from her budget. She has not replaced the other coach. One coach was moved to a teacher. She wants to add 2 general ED Paras. Nielsen shared concerns about cutting positions in the past, and he asked administration to ask for what they need so

children can learn. VanNosdeln (Johnson) explained that like Waterville he worked to level fund as much as possible excluding the personnel line items. He increased \$500 towards professional development, and \$1000 to transportation. Dodge (Eden) expressed similar budget work as Waterville and Johnson; on all non-personnel items he worked to reduced costs or reallocate funds to areas that have been historically under budgeted. He would like to add technology instruction. This would be an FTE of .2, technology integration teacher; 1 day a week. He included supplemental work agreements for teachers for working in the summer. He has added 1.0 FTE for an onsite staff substitute. This would move the money from on-call substitutes to this new on-site position. He also added funds for summer reading for students. There are 112 students at Eden. Stebbins asked about the .2 staffing position. Hayes has had thoughts about this position, maybe it can be a 1.0 position shared between the MUUSD elementary schools. Jeremy Scannell (Special Education) explained how they are continuing the work that Jen envisioned and laid out in the current year's budget. He shared the internal behavioral support positions have been hired and they have cut contracts with outside organizations. They continue to work towards more time in the Tier 1 classroom: keeping students in our schools and not referring them out. These outside agencies have long wait times and are more expensive than in-house personnel, with less efficacy. The FY27 budget reflects investing in a system that is going to be best for students. There has been discussion about fazing some students out of support; they are seeing good payoffs for this. They have been successful in staffing the BI positions. Jones asked about substitute teachers not having the training and was wondering about having BIs that are able to move around, or cover. Clark received the December 1, Tax Commissioner's letter. The statewide adjustment is down to 70%, from 72.36% this time last year. The yield is up slightly from the current year. The current estimated district rate shows an increase of \$59.31 per \$100,000 of property value, or 3.85%. However, other than Eden, whose CLA went up by only .5%, all the other MUUSD towns are looking at approximately 10% increases to their after CLA tax rates, while Belvidere is looking at approximately a 13% increase. Depending on what the board wants to do, Deb can find about \$160,000 at the SU level by dropping one position to parttime, and eliminating the investment in the Safety and Transportation Manager and associated other expenses. This would drop the district rate by .65%. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of cuts to move the post CLA rates much. All the current presented budgets assume using all surplus. The reserves are okay; the Elementary capital reserve is still a bit low. Facilities did cut a floating position this year. Health insurance rate increases may come in lower than what is in the budget, but it is not finalized yet. Nielsen feels we are in a good place. The committee is recommending sending the budget to the board as-is, before making any cuts. Clark will give a quick rundown of the current budget at the next full board meeting on December 8.

Other Business: N/A

Adjourn: At 7:05 p.m., Nielsen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hayford. The motion passed unanimously.

Tentative next FCC meeting Dec 15, depending on the board meeting.