

Meeting of the
Lamoille North Supervisory Union and
Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District EMERGENCY Board
Minutes of Meeting
January 16, 2025

Board members Present: Johnson: Carri Ferrari, Mark Nielsen; Cambridge: Jan Sander, Susan Prescott, Denise Webster, Nancy Guyette, Mark Stebbins; Hyde Park: Patty Hayford, Lisa Jones, Tina Lowe, Phillip Kiely; Belvidere: Stephanie Sweet; Eden: Jeff Hunsberger, Tiffany Cochran; Waterville: Bart Bezio

Board members absent: Johnson: Monica Stearns, Kyle Nuse, Kyley Hill; Cambridge: Amy Listenik

Administrators Present: Deborah Clark, Catherine Gallagher, Rene Thibault, Dylan Laflam, Jan Epstein, Christopher Dodge, Dane Van Nosedeln, Diane Reilly

Others Present: Jason Martin

Minute Taker: Savannah Droney

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Nielsen at 5:00pm.

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

Public Comment: N/A

Annual Meeting Warning and Budget Review – Discussion & Possible Action, Probable Executive Session: Gallagher explained that Clark was sent new CLA numbers that could change some of the presentation that was given at the Board meeting on Tuesday night. There are concerns about ACT 220. There could be penalties that come from high spending. Bezio looked at other districts, which have recently been made public. Lamoille North doesn't seem to be in line with our neighbors. He is suggesting the board be more conservative. Clark has run numbers to give other options. Gallagher shared the suggestion, that should the Board wish they can rescind the current warning and re-warn the FY27 budgets with growth per LTW ADM spending at the elementary schools at 4.31%, and 5.74% growth in spending per LTW ADM at the secondary schools. Gallagher is asking for the board to give a target. Bezio stated he is in support of 4.31% which represents a savings of \$479,725 at the elementary schools. Webster asked what the current percentage of increase was now, Clark stated 7.69% per LTW ADM at the elementaries; this is the value the voters will see on the articles from the current warning. Changes at the SU would be reduced the secondary value to 5.74%; currently warned at 6.17%. Hunsberger asked what the impact was. Clark stated it is 4 to 6 FTEs. There are 2 positions at the SU level. All line items will be looked at again. Nielsen shared his thoughts, he would like to have this as the best option, so that other resources are not cut later. Jones stated she is in favor of going with 4.31%. Ferrari asked about why the number needs to go down, Clark explained. Gallagher, Clark and many board members support the reduction. Hunsberger made the motion to rescind the current warning and accept lowering the increase to per LTW ADM spending at the elementaries to 4.31%, and the secondary to 5.74% seconded by Bezio. These need to be separate votes as Cambridge doesn't vote on the elementary budget. Hunsberger asked to amend the last motion and will separate the articles. Hunsberger made the motion to rescind the current warning and accept lowering the elementary rate to 4.31%, seconded by Bezio. The motion passed, Cambridge abstained. Hunsberger made the motion to rescind the current warning and accept lowering the secondary rate to 5.74%, seconded by Webster. The motion passed unanimously.

Gallagher stated multiple people reached out after the meeting about the budget. She wants to make sure everyone is asking questions at the board meeting as it is the board's decision.

Adjourn: Hunsberger made the motion to adjourn seconded by Sweet, at 5:22pm.