

LNSU/LNMUUSD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Board members present: Cambridge –Mark Stebbins, Denise Webster, Nancy Guyette, Susan Prescott, Amy Listenik*; Eden – Jeff Hunsberger, Tiffany Cochran; Hyde Park – Patty Hayford, Tina Lowe, Phil Kiely; Johnson – Mark Nielsen, Monica Stearns, Kyley Hill, Carri Ferrari, Kyle Nuse*; Waterville – Bart Bezio; Belvidere – Stephanie Sweet

Board members absent: Cambridge – Jan Sander; Hyde Park – Lisa Jones

Administrators present: Catherine Gallagher, Deborah Clark, Paula Beattie, Cole Hayes, Rene Thibault, Diane Reilly, Jeremy Scannell, Michele Aumand, Dane VanNosdeln, Kimberly Hunt, Christopher Dodge, Christopher Hennessy, Carrie Bullard, Erik Remmers, Jan Patrick, Bethann Pirie

Others present: some members of the public

*remote attendance

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda and Public Comment

Call to order 6:00

M. Nielsen said the item regarding a letter from the board to legislators could be removed from the agenda. J. Hunsberger moved to approve the agenda with that adjustment, P. Kiely seconded and the motion was passed.

No members of the public wished to comment.

Consent Agenda Items

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the LNSU/LNMUUSD emergency board meeting on January 16, 2026; the LNSU/LNMUUSD board meeting on January 12, 2026; and the Social-Emotional Wellness & Safety Committee and Curriculum Committee meetings on January 12, 2026. J. Hunsberger moved to approve the consent agenda and the motion was seconded and passed.

Board Orders

S. Sweet moved to approve the board orders listed on the agenda, D. Webster seconded and the motion was passed.

Legislative Updates

B. Bezio gave a legislative update. He said Rep. Conlon's redistricting map, which is intended as a starting point to drive conversations, has us together with Lamoille South as one of 27 different school districts with target sizes of 2000 to 4000 students.

H.842 is an important bill around school employee health benefits. It proposes to restructure the Commission on Public School Employees Health Benefits, cap the value of health benefit plans, and give arbitrators more flexibility to take things from both parties' positions. It also proposes contracting with a single third-party provider for health reimbursement arrangements or health savings accounts. VSBA has been advocating for this for years. Health insurance is one of the biggest cost drivers for the Vermont education fund.

S.220, introduced by Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, would cap per pupil spending growth. It is viewed as a temporary measure until Act 73 is implemented.

A new bill introduced in committee, H.640, would add voting student members to school boards. There would be one voting member from each high school grade and one non-voting member from each middle level grade. They would serve full terms equivalent to other board members. They would be appointed by the superintendent.

S.313 is a statement of legislative intent to provide a vision for universal access to career technical education for all Vermont students. It looks to transform the CTE system, proposing flexible models, alignment with workforce needs, sustainable funding, removal of participation barriers, and improved governance.

Data Update

Curriculum director Kim Hunt presented data on academic growth, showing how much growth our students had compared to other students in the nation who took the same test. At the elementary level, 66% of students exceeded the growth of their peers in reading and 71% met or exceeded growth expectations in math. At the high school level, 67% of students demonstrated average to high growth in reading and 64% met or exceeded growth expectations in math.

At LUHS, 30% of 11th and 12th graders take advanced placement exams and 85% of those scored 3 (the lowest passing score) or above. This year there were 106 AP course seats filled. (Some students take more than one AP course.) Since 2021, participation in AP courses has increased from 12 to 47 students.

J. Hunsberger asked if we know how many students actually get college credit as a result of taking AP tests. B. Pirie said it depends on the college. Some colleges give credit for a score of 3; some only give credit for a 4 or 5. It varies even within Vermont and it varies by content area.

C. Gallagher said 5 years ago our students were only making 33% growth in English, math or science.

Policy Review

C. Gallagher said Policy C9, the Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy, was presented to the board for a first reading last month. It is only being updated to change the name of the Director of School Nutrition to the name of the current director.

J. Hunsberger moved to adopt Policy C9 (Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy) as presented, S. Sweet seconded and the motion was passed.

C. Gallagher said Policy C12, the Meal Charge Policy, is no longer recommended or required. It has been absorbed into other policies.

S. Sweet moved to remove Policy C12 (Meal Charge Policy) and the motion was seconded and passed.

J. Scannell said this is a first reading of Policy C70, Use of Restraint and Seclusion. It is proposed in order to better protect students and staff.

Adjourn

J. Hunsberger moved to adjourn at 6:17 and the motion was seconded and passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED