

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, S. Hamlyn-Prescott, P. Ingvoldstad, T. O'Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, S. Reber, W. Sander, D. Whitcomb. Absent: K. Roberts. Others: D. Taylor, B. Schaffer, J. Teegarden. C. Hindes, M. Frederick, S. Cano.

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

1. *Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Input*
  - A. **Call to Order – 6:33**
  - B. **Adopt the Agenda**  
**MOTION: W. Sander moved to adopt the agenda, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.**
2. *Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the January 25 Meeting, Acceptance of Administration Reports)*  
**MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to approve the consent agenda, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.**
3. *Directors' Orders:*

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>1/22/2010</i>	<i>\$128,973.82</i>
	<i>1/26/2010</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>
<i>Vocational Building Trades</i>	<i>1/22/2010</i>	<i>\$414.40</i>

S. Hamlyn-Prescott recommended that the board just table approval of directors' orders if she is not available to give information about them. She doesn't see them until the checks go out, so they come to the board for informational purposes only.

The \$68K dated 1/8/10 that was approved last time included wood chips, technology consulting, and audit services. The \$65K dated Jan. 15 included wood chips, Control Technologies (sensors), special ed transport, and Pearson (for Learnia subscription and other charges.) D. Taylor explained that Learnia is the program the high school chose to use to establish baseline data for student assessments in math and language arts. It is a product that offers technology tools that give an opportunity for students to take assessments, similar to AIMSweb for elementary schools. It is for monitoring and interventions, and is part of the commissioner's required actions, but also aligns well to the action plan and SU goals. Also included in 1/15/10 directors' orders were amounts for Hyde Park electric and for food service.

D. Whitcomb asked how many bidders there were for the audit. M. Frederick said the auditors we used were the only ones that bid. Two others said we could contact them if we didn't get any bids. Few auditors are interested in working for schools.

**MOTION: W. Sander moved to approve directors' orders as printed, seconded by J. Eisenhardt.** S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the orders included payments for Augmentative Learning, Cambridge transportation, wood chips, Eden transportation, First Student, She-

riff's dept. for the student resource officer, overhead doors, and Sterling Area Services (special ed staffing and case mgmt.) **The motion was passed.**

**4. *Follow-Up to Commissioner's Report at Carousel Meeting***

S. Reber noted that since the carousel meeting there has also been a legislative breakfast. D. Whitcomb said the legislative breakfast was televised, and he thinks board members need to get DVD's of the broadcast, then look at them and come back. It was hard for him to hear everything at the legislative breakfast. W. Sander agreed. He said not everyone was at the LNSU meeting with the commissioner, and he thinks everyone should take the time to listen to the DVD of the meeting. He was very alarmed with that presentation, as well as the material D. Taylor sent out before the meeting. D. Taylor asked which board members wanted DVD's of the commissioner's presentation, the legislative breakfast, and/or Richard Westman's presentation, and said she would provide them to those requested them.

S. Reber asked, what is it we are hoping to accomplish with this discussion? D. Baker said we all need to put pressure on Montpelier. The governor would like to raise middle class property taxes for school funding. S. Reber asked, is the board interested in adopting some resolution, or just discussing? W. Sander said he would be interested in a resolution. P. Ingvaldstad said he doesn't see how the state can do anything but raise taxes or cut. He thinks we will have to have a tough discussion about where we would encourage our administrators to be looking and planning for the inevitable. S. Reber if we don't like what the commissioner and legislators are saying, we have to offer an alternative. Maybe we could say we'll decide locally what we want to cut. W. Sander said we need to demand justification for their conclusions. Where is the data? S. Reber asked how we would formally do that. (*S. Cano arrived at 6:54.*)

D. Taylor said the Vermont Superintendents Association and the Association of School Business Officials have been monitoring the different proposals. The director of VSA began to try to leverage some change when the report by the consultants came out, because clearly there was some faulty data. Unfortunately, that report is being used as the basis for some legislation. It is past the time for identifying false information. Now we need to monitor legislation and provide testimony or documentation of our opposition. W. Sander said many legislators in this area can be helpful. Lamoille County has a lot of clout; we can be heard. D. Taylor said she tries to meet regularly with our representatives. She has a meeting coming up with Floyd Nease.

B. Schaffer said there is another voice that hasn't necessarily been represented – that of students. He thinks the most powerful voice is the voice of people like the student rep to the school board. There is an amazing core of students at our school who are articulate and ask critical questions. The voice of students packs a punch. He could work with student leaders and other interested students to speak out.

D. Osborn said she thinks more appropriate than speaking out personally would be getting direction at town meeting, and making our vote representative of what the community wants. P. Ingvaldstad said we were elected, and as we were elected hopefully we gave a perception of how we would represent our constituents. We can't ask the community every time something comes up. We need to protect the education of our kids.

S. Cano said she has been working since 1995 on helping Vermont legislators get perspective, and they are inundated with information. She has found that a story about an individual family or child that is representative of an issue is helpful, and she sees they use such stories. Right now Susan Bartlett has a story from HPES, and she is speaking to many people about it.

D. Whitcomb complimented B. Schaffer for his suggestion. He thinks it is a great idea.

D. Baker asked, at the legislative breakfast was there any talk of getting education funding off property tax? D. Taylor said there were a few questions about the rising property tax burden and how difficult it is for those whose incomes are declining or who are unemployed, but no solutions were offered. W. Sander said in the overall state budget, there is about a 15% shortfall in expected revenues. So there will be drastic cuts in education, human services, etc., and the projection for next year is for an even larger shortfall. P. Ingvaldstad said Richard Westman did talk a little about using income tax rather than property tax for school funding. If we go to income tax, resorts and other large businesses might go away. D. Baker said there are a lot more workers than property owners in Vermont.

S. Reber asked, where do we want to go with this? W. Sander cautioned that time is fleeting. P. Ingvaldstad asked, are any hearings scheduled? D. Taylor said she hasn't checked this week. They are on the legislative website. If the board want to request that administration monitor upcoming legislation and, where appropriate, contribute testimony or organize students, they would be happy to do that. D. Osborn asked, would they not be doing that anyway? D. Taylor said yes, but if the board has specific areas of special concern they would like them to focus on, it would be helpful to identify those core priorities. S. Reber suggested it would be good if the board had consensus on 2-3 areas of most concern. D. Baker said anything to do with funding, though she knows D. Taylor and M. Frederick focus on those areas anyway. S. Reber mentioned the transformation notion, changing governance structures, and legislated class size ratios. W. Sander said one proposal is to reduce the whole state to a district for each tech center. That is arbitrary and makes no sense. There is no data to support the idea that bigger districts are more efficient. There is also a proposal to only hire a teacher after 2 teachers leave. Many proposals don't make sense. One recommendation from the Minnesota group tells administrators to make cuts and also improve outcomes.

S. Reber asked, is there any aspect of any of the recommendations people think is a good idea? B. Penberthy said she likes the idea of personal learning plans and offering education so it is available for anyone, through night courses for instance – differentiating instruction and bringing it out of the building. P. Ingvaldstad said, regarding combining of school districts and centralizing them around the tech centers, that he doesn't know if there would be savings in that, or if it can be done. But he thinks maybe we should try to understand what that would mean to us. How much time could be saved if we didn't have all these boards? Could business services be provided by one management system instead of 3, and what would the savings be? There is more to learn about that. D. Taylor said, in relation to redistricting, Peter Peltz talked about another proposal – consolida-

tion within SU's, on a voluntary basis with some incentives. We could put out information to defend against inappropriate proposals, or we could pick ones we agree with and try to shape them to be appropriate for our region. Peltz's proposal might be more amenable to our area. Also, she and M. Frederick have been discussing some legislation currently on the books that causes us to incur more expenses than we need to. We could make recommendations on those pieces of legislation. W. Sander said there are valid arguments toward economies of scale, but it doesn't make sense to generalize that to a need to make 12-14 districts in the whole state. There are many we things we could do anyway, like open enrollment, where money follows the kids, or centralized purchasing, or a mandate that electric utilities give any school the most favored rate. We don't have to reorganize to do these things. He agreed when the commissioner said we have to look at graduation rates more realistically. D. Baker said they have to fix the funding problem. Nothing else will fix the whole picture.

S. Reber said he thinks there is consensus that the board is wary about this legislative session and would like administrators to follow up and keep us informed. P. Ingvaldstad asked D. Taylor if she intends to research potential savings from different approaches we could take. D. Taylor said yes. She said we need to find things that would be beneficial all over, not just in Lamoille North. Also, she could send out a weekly email update. B. Bailey said she thought having students testify would be effective. S. Hamlyn-Prescott said she would like part of what we back to deal with the issues of preventing property taxes from continuing to rise, and legislation deciding on percentage of health care cost sharing. W. Sander said the state could take over health care for teachers. In terms of property tax, he has suggested freezing CLA at last year's level. Everyone recognizes it is not accurate this year. There is some reluctance to freeze it because it will bring in more money if they don't.

P. Ingvaldstad said he would like to ask the administrators to also consider other programming that supports our children. CJP is on the cut list. It is a Lamoille-only program, so it is easy for the governor to decide to eliminate it. He would encourage administrators to consider programs that are not in schools. C. Hinds said he was involved in helping to write the CJP program. We will see significant cuts in social services this year, which will impact all kids whose families are in need. It is frightening to think that if the CJP program is cut, people will still need to deal with the needs of those children. It will probably end up on our doorstep. We have to be mindful of that, because it will impact student programs. Hungry children don't learn as well. S. Cano said she attended a monthly interagency meeting today. Two people from an advisory board that advises the DOE and Human Services commissioners came to collect information about the group's concerns. They discussed that with the proposed cuts to human services and education, in some households the cuts will have multiple impacts. She spoke about the fact that schools in Lamoille County have entered into agreements with local mental health agencies to work in schools on a day-to-day basis, but she's noticing that lack of follow-through in some agencies is starting to create unsafe situations in our schools. We need to draw the line at safety. All those from Human Services and other SU's in Lamoille Valley agreed with that perspective. She also addressed how unmet health needs cause some safety issues. There is a meeting taking place over the next 30 days among Human Services. They've been charged with finding cost-effective ways to deliver ser-

vices. W. Sander said on Sunday, March 7, at 4:00, there will be a forum in this room of 5 democratic candidates for governor. Everyone is welcome.

**5. *Administrative Reports and Action Items***

**A. *High School***

D. Taylor said we were contacted by the superintendent of Orleans Southwest SU to inform us that the Wolcott school board is investigating the possibility of selecting one school as their designated high school. They would like to know, if they approach us, whether we would be willing to accept all Wolcott students. Any decision made tonight will not be binding. She distributed a memo with information about high schools currently attended by Wolcott students, and the number of Wolcott students who currently attend Lamoille Union. C. Hinder said he finds most Wolcott students arrive here well prepared, blend in well, and are successful. B. Schaffer said he is supportive of this. S. Reber asked why Wolcott wants to have one designated school. D. Taylor said they are now subject to varying tuitions. Some are higher than others. It gives them less control over their budget. P. Ingvoldstad asked, why would they not choose Peoples? Their tuition is the lowest, and it currently has the largest number of Wolcott students. D. Taylor said one reason is capacity. Peoples may not have the capacity. P. Ingvoldstad asked, if Peoples loses 65 kids, what will happen to their budget? D. Taylor said Wolcott is exploring their options and collecting data. If there are any concerns raised by communities, they would tell Wolcott. B. Bailey asked, will the public or the board decide this? D. Taylor said she believes the public will, but the board wants to collect information. D. Baker said kids from Wolcott have always come to Lamoille. There used to be a bus from there to Lamoille, and probably double the current number of Wolcott students came here. D. Taylor said we were not asked to discuss transportation. J. Eisenhardt said we used to transport the Wolcott kids. There was consensus that we would take the Wolcott students if asked. In answer to D. Baker's question, D. Taylor said we have room for them.

**B. *Facilities***

It was agreed to put solar voltaic approval for Cricket Hill on the agenda for the next meeting, as requested by M. Spaulding.

**6. *Annual Meeting Planning***

It was agreed to hold a regular board meeting starting at 6:00 on February 6 at CES, immediately before the annual meeting.

The board discussed finding a moderator for the annual meeting. W. Sander asked, is there any reason the chairman can't do it? Or another board member, asked S. Reber. B. Bailey and D. Baker said they thought it should be someone who is not on the board. It was agreed that P. Ingvoldstad would call Carl Powden.

There was discussion about the annual report. Several suggestions were made about possible changes or corrections.

**7. *Administrative Reports and Action Items – Central Office***

**A. *Approve Copier Bid***

M. Frederick said she took a group of office personnel from the elementary schools to test the different copiers. She wanted to make sure we got the best

quality for our money. The lowest cost copier had lower quality, and none felt they could recommend it. It was very clear that everyone preferred Kyocera. Given all factors, even though that copier is more expensive, the recommendation is to lease a Kyocera copier for productivity, quality, and less waste.

**MOTION: W. Sander moved to award the copier bid to Symquest for a Kyocera copier, and J. Eisenhardt seconded.** It was noted that this will be a 3-year lease. **The motion was passed.**

**B. Student Services Report**

S. Cano highlighted several things from the LNSU-wide data that had been included in the packets sent out. The percentage of LNSU students on IEP's is just 1% above the state average. The number of students on IEP's who graduate continues to be stellar. There is a new option for parents to be able to end special ed services, and there have been 4 such cases in LNSU. Two are kids who have had services for a while and probably wouldn't still qualify. All are elementary age. For the last 2 years, board members have been concerned about the fact that 3 times as many LNSU boys as girls are eligible for special ed services. She focused on that for a research project she did. She found that the prevalence of boys is primarily in the developmental delay category. Many are identified as having a communication disability. They were identified with equal frequency at all different ages, with just a few found eligible in kindergarten and right at 5 years 11 months. The summary is that our early intervention system is alive and well. Though we have a high number of little boys with communication delay, there has been a steady decline in the number qualifying for speech and language services overall, so early intervention is effective. Research shows that there is normally this same level of prevalence of boys if you have an active early intervention system.

Then S. Cano went over data from the middle school. At LUMS, 15% of students are on IEP's. The number in the specific learning disability category is declining. The number with speech and language disabilities is down this year, but it's variable. This year there are more 7<sup>th</sup> graders on IEP's and fewer 8<sup>th</sup> graders. She is looking forward to learning more from LUMS staff about what they think the story is. The number of special ed students who spend at least 80% of the day in a regular classroom has gone up. There are still 3 times as many boys as girls on IEP's, but she's not too worried about that. Across LNSU, the ratio is now 2.5 to 1.

S. Cano summarized high school data. The percentage on IEP's is the same as the statewide percentage, 15%. The number with a learning disability is down slightly. The number with speech and language disabilities is on an upward trend. She will be talking to Jen Hulse and others at the school to understand this. We have more state-placed students at the high school level than at other LNSU schools. Many Laraway students have unaddressed speech and language issues. The number with an emotional disability is slightly down. The number with autism is on a steady incline, as it is statewide. The school is well equipped to deal with the needs of students on the autism spectrum. D. Baker asked if S. Cano thinks this is a true steep increase, or if that classification is just being recognized

more. S. Cano said we have been doing work around identifying students with Asperger's syndrome. They are on the autism spectrum, but it is usually not as involved; their problems tend to be more with social issues. Some at the middle and high school are not on IEP's, but on 504 plans. There is an increase in prevalence in general at the middle school and high school because we are doing good work at finding them. She can see the severity of disability of autism in LNSU schools diminish over time. Students are able to be more included in the regular classroom, if there has been good collaboration between home and school. If that does not happen, we end up dealing with safety issues and aggression. She thinks we are becoming more skilled at appropriately addressing children with autism, but overall there is a greater prevalence of children with autism. Some might have been identified as learning impaired or having an emotional disturbance previously. The male:female ratio of high school students on IEP's is 2.1 to 1. The graduation rate continues strong. Most students on IEP's graduate at 18 or 19, which is quite remarkable. P. Ingvoldstad noted the number of LUHS students with emotional disabilities is dropping, but autism is going up. Are students being reassigned from one category to the other? S. Cano said no. Some of the drop in the number with emotional disabilities is because fewer state-placed students are assigned here now. D. Baker said S. Cano had previously said we have more state-placed students. S. Cano said we have fewer than in the past. The number now is the same as in 2004. But we have more than any other SU, and many of them have speech needs.

8. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

W. Sander asked B. Schaffer and J. Teegarden to describe what had been discussed at the curriculum committee meeting. B. Schaffer said he is moving forward with looking at competency-based graduation requirements. That proposal will move to the policy committee, then the full board. J. Teegarden said he is looking at ways to change GMTCC admission requirements to encourage kids to take more math and to make requirements more rigorous. He had a conversation with the committee about how to get that done. The board will hear more about it in the future.

9. ***Executive Session – Personnel***

**MOTION: W. Sander moved to enter executive session concerning a personnel matter, with administrators welcome to remain, seconded by D. Baker, at 8:25.** The board consented out of session at 8:27.

10. ***Executive Session – Contract Negotiations***

**MOTION: W. Sander moved to enter executive session concerning contract negotiations, inviting administration to remain, seconded by D. Baker, at 8:27.** The board consented out of session at 8:38.

11. ***Adjourn***

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:39, and the motion was passed.**

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 2/2/10:

1. **Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcements and Public Input**
  - A. **Call to Order – 6:33**
  - B. **Adopt the Agenda**  
**MOTION: W. Sander moved to adopt the agenda, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.**
2. **Consent Agenda Items (Approval of Minutes of the January 25 Meeting, Acceptance of Administration Reports)**  
**MOTION: D. Whitcomb moved to approve the consent agenda, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.**
3. **Directors' Orders:**

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>1/22/2010</i>	<i>\$128,973.82</i>
	<i>1/26/2010</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>
<i>Vocational Building Trades</i>	<i>1/22/2010</i>	<i>\$414.40</i>

  
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7. **Administrative Reports and Action Items – Central Office**
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