

1 **Lake Region Union High School Board Meeting**
2 **Lake Region Union High School - Orleans, Vermont**
3 **April 6, 2020**
4

5 **Board Members Present in Person or by Phone:** Gerry Cahill, Dave Blodgett, Jennifer
6 Edlund, Tammy Wiggett, Toni Eubanks, Linda Michniewicz, Pat Davis, and Jason Racine

7 **Administrators Present in Person or by Phone:** Andre Messier- Principal, Bev Davis-
8 Superintendent

9 **Faculty/ Staff Members Present in Person or by Phone:** Chris Wentworth-Drivers Education
10 Teacher, and Tim Chamberlin- Director of Guidance

11 **Community Members Present in Person or by Phone:** In Person: Ed Barber- *Newport Daily*
12 *Express*

13 **Call to Order:** David Blodgett, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:15.

14 **Rules and Procedures:** Andre Messier noted that he would serve as moderator and help with the
15 conference call technology. He explained the rules and procedures for such a board meeting
16 involving a conference call.

17 **Additions/ Deletions:** Addition: Appoint 3 members to the OCSU Board.

18 **Privilege of the floor:** None

19 **Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** Jason Racine moved to approve the following items: the
20 minutes of the March 23, 2020 board meeting, written reports, updated FY '20 financial reports,
21 and payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Toni Eubanks and approved by
22 unanimous vote.

23 **Old Business**

24 **Code of Board Ethics:** The Code of Board Ethics was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that
25 each board member should sign this document and return it to Central Office when able to do so.

26 **Lake Region Representatives to the OCSU Board:** Jason Racine moved to nominate Jennifer
27 McKenzie, Pat Davis, and David Blodgett as representatives to the OCSU board. It was
28 seconded by Linda Michniewicz. Pat Davis moved to close nominations and direct the clerk to
29 cast one ballot for the three nominees. It was seconded by Jennifer Edlund and approved by
30 unanimous vote.

31 **New Business**

32 **Hiring Foundations Lead:** Jason Racine moved to hire Erin Knight as a .5 FTE teacher, as the
33 Foundations Lead for the 2020-2021 school year, with salary placement as determined by the
34 Negotiated Agreement. It was seconded by Pat Davis and approved by unanimous vote.

35 **Discussion of Drivers Education Program:** The board discussed challenges facing the Drivers
36 Education Program with teacher, Chris Wentworth, Guidance Director, Tim Chamberlin, and
37 Mr. Messier. It was pointed out that scheduling issues make it difficult to increase the number of
38 students who are able to take Drivers Education during a given semester and during the summer.
39 The board agreed that Mr. Messier and Mr. Wentworth should explore ways to increase the

40 number of students who are able to participate with the understanding that this could come with
41 an added cost.

42 **Administrative Requests/ Reports**

43 **COVID- 19 Update:** Mr. Messier provided an update regarding the school’s response to the
44 COVID-19 crisis. In-person school in Vermont has been closed for the remainder of the school
45 year, and schools have been directed to provide a continuation of learning remotely to students.
46 He mentioned several inequities that make this difficult for students. Many students do not have
47 adequate internet service, and many have been burdened with added family responsibilities.
48 Many are feeling the toll of social-emotional challenges and have lost access to supports that
49 typically make education more accessible.

50 Mr. Messier noted that questions remain regarding grading, reporting, and graduation
51 requirements. He mentioned that he would be looking for board input regarding decisions related
52 to these matters. It was decided to hold special board meetings on Mondays when no regular
53 board meeting was scheduled in order to keep the board updated and allow the board to give
54 input on matters during the COVID-19 School Closure.

55 Mr. Messier noted that a Facebook Page had been created in order to get accurate information
56 out to the public. He also noted that COVID-19 would have a huge impact on school funding in
57 the future.

58 **Paving Project:** Mr. Messier noted that the posting for bids for the planned paving project
59 would go out, but that the board would not be obligated to move forward. He suggested the
60 board could look at the financials in mid-May and decide whether or not this was a good time to
61 move forward with the paving project.

62 **Solar Learning Lab:** Mr. Messier reported that he was still waiting for bids on the Solar
63 Learning Lab project. Unfortunately, the Titles funds that make this project possible must be
64 spent prior to June 30, 2020. Otherwise, they will be lost. Mr. Messier noted that it may be
65 difficult to get the project completed under this timeframe, given the current challenges.

66 **Executive Session**

67 None

68 **Business of the Board**

69 **Career Center RAB Report:** Bev Davis reported that she and Tim Chamberlin had attended the
70 Career Center RAB meeting in March. A new Heavy Equipment teacher had been hired and was
71 working with the current teacher. The advisory board had also looked at preliminary enrollment
72 numbers for the following school year. They were in the process of working on a strategic plan,
73 which included the goal of attracting more students.

74 **OCSU Board:** None

75 **Negotiations:** Dave Blodgett reported that negotiations were currently stalled because of the
76 ‘stay at home’ order, and both sides were interested in finding a reasonable format that would
77 allow negotiations to move forward.

78 **Future Agenda Items**

- 79
- Continued discussion about salary increases for administration

- 80 • Pay for seasonal and part-time employees, and pay for summer school instructors
81 • Update on Remote Learning

82 **Upcoming Meeting**

- 83 • Special Meeting- Monday, April 13, 2020 at 6:15
84 • Special Meeting- Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:15
85 • Full Board- Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:15 PM

86 **Adjournment:** David Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 7:56.

87

88 Respectfully submitted,

89 Tammy Wiggett