

1                                   **Lake Region Union High School Board Meeting**  
2                                   **Lake Region Union High School - Orleans, Vermont**  
3                                   **March 23, 2020**  
4

5 **Board Members Present:** In Person: Gerry Cahill, Dave Blodgett, and Jennifer Edlund. By  
6 Phone: Tammy Wiggett, Toni Eubanks, Michael Sanville, Linda Michniewicz, Pat Davis,  
7 Jennifer McKenzie, and Jason Racine

8 **Administrators Present:** In Person: Andre Messier- Principal, By Phone: Sharon Gonyaw-  
9 Assistant Principal, and Heather Wright- Business Manager

10 **Community Members Present:** In Person: Ed Barber- *Newport Daily Express*, By Phone:  
11 Robin Smith- *Caledonian Record*

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

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

16 **Additions/ Deletions:** None

17 **Privilege of the floor:** None

18 **Reorganization of the Board:**

19 **Board Chair:** Jason Racine nominated Dave Blodgett as Board Chair. The nomination was  
20 seconded by Jen McKenzie. Pat Davis moved that nominations cease and the clerk cast one  
21 ballot for Dave Blodgett. The motion was seconded by Jason Racine and passed by unanimous  
22 roll call vote.

23 **Board Vice-chair:** Jason Racine nominated Pat Davis as Board Vice-chair. The nomination was  
24 seconded by Toni Eubanks. Jason Racine moved that nominations cease and the clerk cast one  
25 ballot for Pat Davis. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Edlund and passed by unanimous roll  
26 call vote.

27 **Board Clerk:** Jason Racine nominated Tammy Wiggett as Board Clerk. The nomination was  
28 seconded by Toni Eubanks. Pat Davis moved that nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot  
29 for Tammy Wiggett. The motion was seconded by Jason Racine and passed by unanimous roll  
30 call vote.

31 **Negotiations Committee Members:** Pat Davis and David Blodgett were appointed by the board  
32 to continue in their roles of Negotiation Committee members.

33 **Truant Officers:** The Orleans County Sheriff's Department was appointed by the board as  
34 Truant Officers.

35 **Meeting Schedule and Location:** Jason Racine moved to accept the Meeting Schedule as  
36 presented with the following revision: changing the March 8, 2021 meeting to March 11, 2021. It  
37 was seconded by Pat Davis and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

38 **Locations to Post Meeting Agendas:** The board agreed that meeting agendas would be posted  
39 on the LRUHS website, the LRUHS office, public libraries within OCSU, Town Clerk's offices  
40 within OCSU, and at the Elementary Schools within OCSU.

41 **Newspaper of Record:** *The Chronicle* was appointed by the board to be the Newspaper of  
42 Record.

43 **Review of Code of Ethics:** It was decided that this should be a future agenda item, since the  
44 code was not included in the packet of materials for this meeting.

45

46 **Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** Jason Racine moved to approve the following items: the  
47 minutes of the March 9, 2020 board meeting, written reports, updated FY '20 financial reports,  
48 and payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Pat Davis and approved by unanimous  
49 roll call vote.

#### 50 **Old Business**

51 **None**

#### 52 **New Business**

53 **Plan for Spring Board Retreat:** This item was passed over due to the Governor's Stay at Home  
54 Order. It was unclear when the board might be able to hold a retreat.

55 **Reduction in Force Notice:** Jason Racine moved to issue a Reduction in Force notice to  
56 Interventionist, Nicole Roy. It was seconded by Pat Davis and approved

57 **Reduction in Force Notice:** Jason Racine moved to issue a Reduction of Force notice to Tyler  
58 Perry to .5 FTE from the current .67 FTE. It was seconded by Jennifer Edlund and approved.

#### 59 **Administrative Requests/ Reports**

60 **COVID- 19 Update:** Mr. Messier provided an update regarding the school's response to the  
61 COVID-19 crisis. He explained that under the governor's order to dismiss schools until at least  
62 April 6, the school was operating with very few people present in the building. The office staff  
63 were taking turns, with one person in the office from the hours of 8-3. The custodial staff were  
64 working, but maintaining appropriate distance from one another. Staff members with high risk  
65 for illness had been directed to stay home. Teachers had access to the building and were using a  
66 digital schedule to insure that only a small number of teachers would be present at the same time.  
67 There was a system in place so that custodians could sanitize areas of the building that had been  
68 accessed. High traffic areas were being cleaned regularly and often.

69 Mr. Messier reported that the staff were doing a great job helping students adjust to remote  
70 learning. Mrs. Gonyaw and the school resource officer had delivered paper materials to students  
71 who did not have internet access. He mentioned that he had asked staff to monitor workload and  
72 expectations during this stressful time. He asked that teachers connect personally with kids and  
73 attend to their well-being.

74 Mr. Messier mentioned that food services were available to students. Meals were being  
75 distributed throughout OCSU at the elementary schools. They were working to create a system  
76 for home delivery. He mentioned that schools were also directed by the governor to provide child  
77 care for the children of essential workers. OCSU would host a child care site at the Irasburg  
78 School.

79 **Discipline Report:** Sharon Gonyaw provided a discipline report to the board. She mentioned  
80 that improved communication between herself, Mr. Messier, and the staff seemed to be having a

81 positive impact. She mentioned there had been a decrease in phone violations and in class cuts.  
82 There had been no incidences involving weapons, and the number bullying investigations had  
83 decreased. She mentioned that tobacco and vaping devices continue to be of concern.

84 She explained that she worked intensely with students who needed support with low attendance  
85 to find out what the barriers might be and to develop contracts regarding attendance. This was  
86 having a larger impact than detentions.

87 She mentioned that the presence of a school resource officer was very helpful. She mentioned  
88 that he worked to build relationships with students and to provide a sense of security.

89 **Executive Session**

90 None

91 **Business of the Board**

92 **Career Center RAB Report:** None

93 **OCSU Board:** David Blodgett reported that the OCSU board would meet at the conclusion of  
94 this LRUHS board meeting.

95 **Future Agenda Items**

- 96 • Continued discussion about salary increases for administration
- 97 • Review of Board Code of Ethics
- 98 • Pay for seasonal and part-time employees, and pay for summer school instructors
- 99 • Update on Remote Learning
- 100 • Drivers Education Program discussion

101 **Upcoming Meeting**

- 102 • Full Board- Monday, April 6, 2020 at 6:15 PM
- 103 • Full Board- Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:15 PM

104 **Adjournment:** David Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 7:38.

105

106 Respectfully submitted,

107 Tammy Wiggett