

1 **Lake Region Union High School Board**
2 **Public Informational Meeting**
3 **Lake Region Union High School - Orleans, Vermont**
4 **Meeting Held on Google Meet and In Person**
5 **Monday, February 1, 2021**
6

7 **Board members in attendance in person or through Google Meet:** Dave Blodgett, Toni
8 Eubanks, Michael Sanville, Jennifer Edlund, Gerry Cahill, Michael Conner, and Tammy Wiggett

9 **Administrators/Faculty in attendance in person or through Google Meet:** Andre Messier-
10 Principal, Bev Davis- Superintendent, Heather Wright- OCSU Business Manager

11 **Community Members in attendance on Google Meet:** Susan Guillmette, Debbie Brunelle

12 **Call to Order:** David Blodgett, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those
13 attending at 5:00.

14 **Board Presentation:**

15 **Public Comment:** Susan Guillmette expressed how upset she was that she wouldn't be able to
16 vote because the board had voted to have an in-person LRUHS Annual Meeting, which she did
17 not feel was safe, given the pandemic. Dave Blodgett spoke on behalf of the board and
18 explained that the board felt it would be safe for people to attend, with masking and social
19 distancing in the gymnasium, and that the board felt it was important to allow the public a chance
20 to hear a presentation of the proposed budget and to make comments and ask questions before
21 voting. Susan Guillmette expressed her disagreement with this position and left the meeting.
22

23 Dave Blodgett gave a brief overview of the year at Lake Region. He highlighted the paving
24 project completed during the summer of 2019, fall extra-curricular activities, in which 43% of
25 student body participated, Women's golf championships, Division 2 finals, and science tests
26 results, with 50%+ of the students meeting proficiency, as compared to state average of 42%. He
27 discussed an incident involving edible marijuana and increased concerns about vaping. He
28 mentioned that at last year's annual meeting, voters expressed concern about how LR board
29 members are elected since the elementary districts merged, but an investigation into this matter
30 confirmed that the elections are being held according to the law. He mentioned that voters
31 approved doing a project to improve drainage on left side of school but board delayed that
32 project due to budget concerns related to the pandemic. Also, because of the pandemic, end-of-
33 season winter sports events were cancelled, as was prom and the traditional graduation
34 ceremony. US News and World Report recognized Lake Region as #9 in VT. Staff all worked
35 really hard over the summer to plan for school reopening, using a hybrid model, and spent about
36 \$41,000 in air quality improvements, of which \$37,000 was reimbursed from COVID-relief
37 grant money. The board also approved a solar lab and maker space, both paid with grant funds.
38 The board made some temporary changes to graduation requirements due to the closure. The
39 board has been working to learn more about equity initiatives at the school.
40

41 Mike Sanville shared his screen and reviewed some talking points about the budget. This
42 included an overall increase of 2.21% (or 3.16%, including the request to add \$65,000 to the
43 Capital Reserve Fund). He shared a list of cost drivers, which included salary increases, health

44 insurance cost increases, an increased Special Education assessment, increased transportation
45 costs, and food service support. He shared a percent increase for each as well as the dollar
46 amount increase. He reviewed the capital reserve balance and request for additional funds. He
47 reviewed the anticipated revenue, including the carry forward amount, tuition projection, and
48 equalized pupil count.
49

50 After asking if there were questions or comments, Dave Blodgett thanked those in attendance
51 and adjourned the meeting at 6:00.

52

53 Respectfully submitted,

54 Tammy Wiggett

55