

1 **Lake Region Union High School Board Meeting**
2 **Lake Region Union High School - Orleans, Vermont**
3 **Meeting Held on Google Meet and In Person**
4 **Monday, January 18, 2021**
5

6 **Board members in attendance in person or through Google Meet:** Dave Blodgett, Toni
7 Eubanks, Michael Sanville, Jennifer Edlund, Gerry Cahill, Jason Racine, Jennifer McKenzie,
8 Linda Michniewicz, and Tammy Wiggett

9 **Administrators/Faculty in attendance in person or through Google Meet:** Andre Messier-
10 Principal, Bev Davis- Superintendent, Dr. Sara Doncaster- LR Music Director, Johanna Pastel-
11 LR Social Studies Teacher

12 **Students in attendance on Google Meet:** Katie Kelley, McKenna Blay, Eric Edlund, Raymond
13 Lemrise

14 **Community Members in attendance on Google Meet:** Leanne Harple- *The Chronicle*, Ed
15 Barber- *Newport Daily Express*, Martha Braithwaite, Randy Williams, Marielle Hess, Darlene
16 Young, Roderick Owens, Louisa Dotoli

17 **Call to Order:** David Blodgett, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 617.

18 **Additions/ Deletions:** None

19 **Privilege of the floor:** None

20 **Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** Jason Racine moved to approve the following items: the
21 minutes of the January 4, 2021 board meeting, written reports, updated FY '21 financial reports,
22 and payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Michael Sanville and approved by
23 unanimous vote.

24 **Administrative Reports/ Requests (part 1)**

25 **Lake Region Music Program:** Dr. Sara Doncaster, Lake Region Music Director gave a
26 presentation regarding the adjustments she has made to the Lake Region Music program in
27 response to COVID mitigation requirements. This included rehearsing outside for as long as the
28 weather would allow. It also included the use of many new technology tools that allow students
29 to record their work, to receive feedback, and to collaborate with other musicians. Dr. Doncaster
30 mentioned that she began to rework the program over the summer in conjunction with the Music-
31 Comp Educators Collaborative. She developed plans to include a focus on Social Emotional
32 Learning and on Social Justice. Her presentation highlighted many of the technology tools that
33 have been helpful, as well presentations of student work and student accomplishments.

34 **Old Business**

35 **Superintendent Search Update:** Dave Blodgett mentioned that the search committee had been
36 formed and the posting for a new superintendent was up on SchoolSpring. The committee would
37 meet with the VSBA consultant soon. The committee would review the applicants and make a
38 recommendation to the OCSU Board. Bev Davis noted that a list of committee members, along
39 with agendas and meeting minutes would be available on the OCSU website.

40 **School Culture:** Mr. Messier reported that he had reviewed the recording of the student panel as
41 requested and spoke to the Student Leadership and Student Newspaper staff about what the

42 school board was working on in attempt to better understand the culture at Lake Region. The
43 students did not believe that a suggestion box would provide the information the board was
44 seeking. The students worked together to create a student survey and shared a draft of the survey
45 with the board. LR student, Eric Edlund, explained their process. They wanted to find out if there
46 were problems related to culture and to what scale. He mentioned that they felt this survey would
47 provide some starting data. LR student, Raymond Lemrise explained that this survey was more
48 generalized and future surveys could be more specific. Katie Kelley mentioned that it took
49 several drafts to fine-tune the wording of the questions. Board members offered suggestions for a
50 few minor changes. Ms. Pastel, Social Studies teacher, reminded the board that it would be
51 important to maintain student confidentiality if other students would be viewing the data, and
52 that having too many opportunities for writing in responses could compromise that. The next
53 step would be for the survey to be given to students during Advisory. Mr. Messier agreed and
54 said the confidentiality of students would be safeguarded throughout the process. Many board
55 members expressed appreciation to the students and Ms. Pastel for their work on the survey.

56
57 **School Choice capacity numbers for the 2021-2022 school year:** Based on available data, Mr.
58 Messier recommended allowing up to 5 new School Choice students to attend Lake Region
59 during the 2021-2022 school year. He recommended prioritizing any siblings of students who
60 currently attend Lake Region through School Choice. This would bring the anticipated total
61 number of School Choice students attending Lake Region next year to 21, and the anticipated
62 number of Lake Region students attending other schools through School Choice to 7 or 8. Jason
63 Racine moved to allow up to 5 new School Choice students to attend Lake Region for the 2021-
64 2022 school year, with preference given to any siblings of School Choice students who are
65 currently attending Lake Region. It was seconded by Michael Sanville and approved
66 unanimously.

67
68 **Annual Meeting Presentation:** Plans had previously been made to hold the Lake Region UHS
69 Annual Meeting in-person in the school gymnasium on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. The
70 board made the following plans for presenting information at the Annual Meeting: Michael
71 Sanville agreed to present the anticipated expenses, David Blodgett agreed to present the
72 anticipated revenue, Jason Racine agreed to present the proposed salaries for school board
73 members, and Jennifer Edlund agreed to present the proposed addition to the Capital Reserve
74 Fund. Michael Sanville agreed to create a slide show. Mr. Messier, Michael Sanville, and David
75 Blodgett also planned to be prepared to present information at the informational meeting, which
76 was to be held on February 1, 2021 at 5:00.

77 **New Business**

78 **Lake Region Representative for the Career Center Director Search Committee:** While the
79 board recognized the importance of having representation on the Career Center Director Search
80 Committee, it was difficult to designate someone who had the time. Dave Blodgett authorized
81 Bev Davis to give his own name to John Castle for the search committee, but would be
82 appreciative if someone else from the board could fill the position, as he is already busy with
83 negotiations and the Superintendent search.

84 **FY '21 Salaries:** Jason Racine moved to authorize a 5% salary increase for Andre Messier and
85 Sharon Gonyaw and a 4% salary increase for Tami Wesoja, Michael Harbec, and Tim
86 Chamberlin's 0.5 FTE administrator contract, all retroactive to July 1, 2020. It was seconded by
87 Michael Sanville and approved unanimously, with Tammy Wiggett abstaining from the vote.

88 **FFCRA:** Andre Messier and Bev Davis explained that leave time related to COVID, which had
89 been provided through the FFCRA had expired. Jason Racine moved to allow all Lake Region
90 employees to use accrued sick leave and personal days for quarantining due to COVID-related
91 concerns. It was seconded by Michael Sanville and approved by unanimous vote.

92 **Financial Management Questionnaire:** Per VSA 16. 242a, the board reviewed the Financial
93 Management Questionnaire. Jason Racine moved to approve the Financial Management
94 Questionnaire. It was seconded by Michael Sanville and approved by unanimous vote.

95

96 **Administrative Requests/ Reports**

97 **Winter Activity Outlook:** Mr. Messier reported that Vermont schools had been cleared to begin
98 limited-contact practice for indoor winter sports. In-house scrimmages could now be held, but
99 games between schools were still on hold. Plans were being made for games held in the future to
100 be streamed, with no fans in attendance. Outdoor activities, such as skiing and snowboarding,
101 could now hold competitions between schools. The VPA had extended the season into March
102 due to the late start.

103 **Planning for the 2021-2022 School Year:** Mr. Messier reported that class sign-ups were
104 underway for the following school year. It was still undecided what the schedule might look like.
105 That would be determined later on in the spring.

106 **Executive Session**

107 None

108 **Business of the Board**

109 **Career Center RAB Report:** The Director Search Committee was being formed and would
110 begin to meet in the near future.

111 **OCSU Board:** Dave Blodgett reported that the OCSU Board had met. They reviewed the search
112 process for a new superintendent. Also, they decided that snow days would be dealt with as they
113 traditionally had been dealt with. Schools would be closed in the event of a snow day.

114 **Future Agenda Items**

- 115 • Parking Lot Paving Project
- 116 • Annual Meeting Planning
- 117 • School Culture

118 **Upcoming Meetings**

- 119 • Budget Informational Meeting: Monday, February 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM
- 120 • Full Board: Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:15 PM
- 121 • Full Board: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:15 PM
- 122 • Lake Region UHS Annual Meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM

123 **Adjournment:** David Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 8:10.

124 Respectfully submitted,

125 Tammy Wiggett