

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 4, 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, Michael Connor, and Tammy Wiggett

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

11   **Community Members in attendance on Google Meet:** Leanne Harple- *The Chronicle*

12   **Call to Order:** David Blodgett, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:21.

13   **Additions/ Deletions:** Addition under New Business: Appoint a replacement for Pat Davis on  
14   the Negotiations Committee

15   **Privilege of the floor:** None

16   **Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** Linda Michniewicz moved to approve the following  
17   items: the minutes of the December 21, 2020 board meeting, written reports, updated FY '21  
18   financial reports, and payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Toni Eubanks and  
19   approved by unanimous vote.

20   **Old Business**

21   **Superintendent Search Update:** Bev Davis mentioned that the search committee was still in the  
22   process of being formed. The teachers were working to appoint 2 teachers and 2 support staff  
23   members. The committee should meet soon to create a job posting. The committee would work  
24   with a consultant from the VSBA to move the process forward.

25   **Debrief of Student Panel Regarding School Culture and Discussion of Next Steps:** Several  
26   board members expressed their appreciation for the students on the panel, who spoke eloquently  
27   and shared many important insights regarding school culture at the previous board meeting. Toni  
28   Eubanks expressed her thoughts that being 'not racist' is not an adequate stance, and that the  
29   board should continue its work become proactively anti-racist in every way possible. Michael  
30   Sanville mentioned his concern over the fact that students expressed it can be difficult to share  
31   political views if those views are different than the perceived views of the teacher. Mr. Messier  
32   reported that he had a conversation with the social studies teachers regarding that issue.

33  
34   When discussing next steps, a long discussion ensued about the best ways to survey the student  
35   body regarding their experiences related to school culture without allowing the questions of the  
36   survey to influence the answers given and data collected. One idea was to begin with a student  
37   suggestion box related to school culture and use suggestions to create the survey. Another idea  
38   was to use the questions asked to the student panel to create a survey. The survey could be given  
39   during Advisory so that all students would have an opportunity to participate. It was decided that  
40   Mr. Messier would compile a list of questions that the students on the panel had been asked and  
41   answered. He agreed to bring the questions to the following meeting so that further action could  
42   be taken.

43 **New Business**

44 **School Choice capacity numbers for the 2021-2022 school year:** Mr. Messier reviewed the  
45 School Choice requirements under Vermont statute and Lake Region's history of implementing  
46 School Choice. He mentioned that originally, Lake Region decided to accept 10 new school  
47 choice students per year with the potential for a total of 40 school choice students attending Lake  
48 Region during any given year. However, due to the fact that the number of students choosing to  
49 come to Lake Region from other schools was much greater than the number of Lake Region  
50 students choosing to attend other schools, the board reconsidered this practice last year in order  
51 to create a more balanced situation and to lessen the pressure school choice students would place  
52 on class sizes and student academic support needs. Last year, the decision was made to only  
53 allow siblings of currently enrolled School Choice students to come to Lake Region. Mr. Messier  
54 agreed to provide more information regarding the number of students interested in School  
55 Choice for the 2021-2022 school year at the next board meeting so the board could set School  
56 Choice capacity numbers for incoming and outgoing students.

57 **Lake Region Member to the Negotiations Committee:** Because Pat Davis was no longer a  
58 member of the Lake Region School Board, the board needed to appoint a member to the  
59 Negotiations Committee. When Gerry Cahill volunteered to serve on the Negotiations  
60 Committee, the board thanked her and agreed to appoint her.

61

62 **Administrative Requests/ Reports**

63 **Winter Activity Outlook:** Mr. Messier reported that Vermont schools had been cleared to begin  
64 non-contact practice for winter sports. The VPA had extended the season into March due to the  
65 late start.

66 **Executive Session**

67 None

68 **Business of the Board**

69 **Career Center RAB Report:** Bev Davis reported that she had reached out to see if it would be  
70 possible to have an alternate serve on the Career Center Director Search Committee, since  
71 Michael Sanville was unable to do so. She had been informed by John Castle that it would be  
72 fine to appoint an alternate. The board agreed to make this appointment at the following board  
73 meeting.

74 **OCSU Board:** Dave Blodgett reported that the OCSU Board had not met since his last report.

75 **Future Agenda Items**

- 76
- 77 • Administrative Salaries
  - 78 • Parking Lot Paving Project
  - 79 • Annual Meeting Planning
  - 80 • School Culture Survey
  - 81 • School Choice Numbers
  - 81 • Appoint Member to Career Center Director Search Committee

82

83 **Upcoming Meetings**

- 84 • Full Board: Monday, January 18, 2021 at 6:15 PM
- 85 • Budget Informational Meeting: Monday, February 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM
- 86 • Full Board: Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:15 PM
- 87 • Full Board: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:15 PM
- 88 • Lake Region UHS Annual Meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM

89 **Adjournment:** David Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 7:55.

90 Respectfully submitted,

91 Tammy Wiggett