

1                                   **Lake Region Union High School Board Meeting**  
2                                   **Lake Region Union High School - Orleans, Vermont**  
3                                   **Meeting Held on Google Meet**  
4                                   **Monday, March 22, 2021**  
5

6   **Board members in attendance:** Dave Blodgett, Michael Sanville, Jennifer Edlund, Gerry  
7   Cahill, Michael Connor, Jason Racine, Jennifer McKenzie, Toni Eubanks, and Tammy Wiggett

8   **Administrators/Faculty in attendance:** Andre Messier- Principal, Michael Moriarty- OCSU  
9   Director of Instructional Services

10 **Community Members in attendance:** Leanne Harple- *The Chronicle*, Darlene Young,  
11 Roderick Owens, Elizabeth Nelson, Karen Ceraso

12 **Call to Order:** David Blodgett, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:16.

13 **Additions/ Deletions:** Under New Business 6c: add a dollar amount of \$2064.

14 **Privilege of the floor:** None

15 **Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** Jason Racine moved to approve the following items: the  
16 minutes of the March 11, 2021 board meeting, written reports, updated FY '21 financial reports,  
17 and payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Michael Connor and approved by  
18 unanimous vote.

19 **Old Business**

20 **Debrief of Public Comments at the March 11 Board Meeting:** Jennifer Edlund referred to  
21 Martha Braithwaite's suggestion modifying policy and practice related to bullying, hazing, and  
22 harassment. It was mentioned that the policy we currently have in place is mandated by the state,  
23 so the board does not have much leeway in terms of changing it. The board could look at  
24 procedures and practices around restorative work when an incident of harassment takes place.  
25 Roderick Owens mentioned three types of justice: punitive, restorative, and transformative. He  
26 mentioned that punitive responses can create more harm, restorative responses can begin to  
27 repair harm to individuals involved in individual circumstances, and transformative justice can  
28 create positive change in the entire institution. Dave Blodgett provided a reminder that the  
29 board's role is related setting policy and ensuring that the policy is followed, while it is up to  
30 administrators to develop procedures and practice with their staff. Mike Moriarty stated that the  
31 OCSU administrators are working to build restorative practices in each school. Gerry Cahill  
32 suggested forming a subcommittee who could work on school climate and social justice issues  
33 and bring back some suggested action steps to the board. It was the disposition of the board to  
34 form a committee, and Gerry Cahill, Jennifer Edlund, Tammy Wiggett, Michael Connor, and  
35 Jennifer McKenzie volunteered to be on the committee. Roderick Owens, Martha Braithwaite,  
36 and Linda Michniewicz would also be invited to provide information and give input. Jennifer  
37 McKenzie mentioned the importance of allowing the community to comment and be included in  
38 decisions made regarding equity and social justice.

39 Dave Blodgett recommended that OCSU Equity Committee Updates be a standing agenda item  
40 and that the Lake Region Board try to have representation at those meetings. Michael Sanville  
41 moved to make OCSU Equity Committee Updates a standing agenda item at Lake Region board  
42 meetings. It was seconded by Jennifer McKenzie and approved by unanimous vote.

43 Mr. Messier reported that the Student Climate survey would be given the coming Thursday in  
44 classes. He was to share a link to the survey with board members. Karen Ceraso recommended  
45 having an outside entity consult with the board regarding survey results and next steps. Michael  
46 Moriarty explained that an outside entity could perform an audit without bias and provide  
47 findings and recommendations.

#### 48 New Business

49 **Hiring a Non-member Clerk to Take Minutes:** It was mentioned that it is difficult to take  
50 accurate minutes and also participate fully in board discussions. It was the disposition of the  
51 board to look into options for finding a non-member clerk, as well as the cost of doing so. Dave  
52 Blodgett volunteered to speak to Bev and Heather about the possibility and the potential cost.

53 **Potential Future Building Operations Projects:** Mr. Messier provided a list of building  
54 operations projects that are on the horizon. One was installing security glass in the front lobby,  
55 with an estimated potential cost of \$25,000 to \$50,000. It was suggested to look into the  
56 possibility and related costs of installing smaller pieces of glass. Another project was resurfacing  
57 the gym floor, with an estimated potential cost of \$25,000- \$30,000. The floor would need to be  
58 examined to see if it would be possible to sand and refinish it or if it is time to replace it. The  
59 board also briefly discussed the summer paving project and planned to discuss this project more  
60 fully at the next board meeting. Michael Sanville suggested that the board start looking into the  
61 actual costs and getting bids from available vendors as soon as possible. Mr. Messier agreed to  
62 begin the process of finding interested vendors and looking into the costs of these projects.

63 **Hiring a JV Baseball Coach:** Jason Racine moved hire Caleb Sweeney as the JV Baseball  
64 Coach for the Spring 2021 Season at a salary of \$2064. It was seconded by Jennifer Edlund and  
65 approved unanimously.

#### 66 Administrative Requests/ Reports

67 **Winter Activity Outlook:** Mr. Messier reported that the winter sports season would soon reach  
68 its conclusion. The boys basketball team had ended its season. The girls basketball team was to  
69 play Oxbow in the semi-finals. Briana Palmer had placed 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall Gymnast in the state meet  
70 and had placed 1<sup>st</sup> in one event. The snowboard team had placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in one event at the  
71 state meet.

72 **Covid Impact on Operations:** Mr. Messier noted that the administration and staff were awaiting  
73 further guidance from the state but were anticipating a push for more in-person learning for the  
74 end of the year. The staff was beginning to examine the system currently in place to determine  
75 what changes may be necessary to allow for more in-person learning if that is indeed the  
76 recommendation from the state. OCSU was anticipating an increase of federal funds that would  
77 be spent over the next 2 to 3 years to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on students. Mr.  
78 Messier anticipated hiring additional counselors with some of these funds.

79 **International Students for 2021-2022:** Mr. Messier reported that he was anticipating it may  
80 again be possible to host international students in the upcoming school year. The board  
81 expressed interest in pursuing hosting international students for the coming year.

82 **Personnel Committee:** Mr. Messier reported that he anticipated the need to hire a Chemistry  
83 teacher for the following school year. Toni Eubanks, Gerry Cahill, and Jennifer McKenzie  
84 volunteered to serve on the hiring committee.

85 **Executive Session**

86 None

87 **Business of the Board**

88 **Career Center RAB Report:** None

89 **OCSU Board:** None

90 **Future Agenda Items**

- 91 • OCSU Equity Committee Report (added as a standing agenda item)
- 92 • School Culture
- 93 • Parking Lot Paving Project/ Other Potential Building Projects
- 94 • Part-time Seasonal Employees Salary Approvals
- 95 • Exchange Program/ International Students
- 96 • Revision of Policies

97 **Upcoming Meetings**

- 98 • Full Board: Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:15 PM
- 99 • Full Board: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:15 PM

100 **Adjournment:** David Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 7:54.

101 Respectfully submitted,

102 Tammy Wiggett