

1 **Lake Region Union High School Board Meeting**
2 **Lake Region Union High School - Orleans, Vermont**
3 **March 9, 2020**
4

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

8 **Administrators Present:** Andre Messier- Principal, Bev Davis- Superintendent

9 **Community Members Present:** Ed Barber- *Newport Daily Express*

10 **Call to Order:** Board chair, David Blodgett, called the meeting to order at 6:18.

11 **Additions/ Deletions:** None

12 **Privilege of the floor:** None

13 **Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** Jason Racine moved to approve the following items: the
14 minutes of the February 19, 2020 board meeting, written reports, updated FY '20 financial
15 reports, and payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Pat Davis and approved.

16 **Old Business**

17 **Review and Discussion of Lake Region UHS Annual Meeting:** A major point of discussion
18 was that the articles in the meeting notice did not allow for back and forth discussion or for a
19 question and answer format. This seemed to frustrate many attendees and limit discussion. With
20 the board's desire to provide transparency, it was suggested that the board consult with Bill
21 Davies next year in order to craft articles in a way that would allow for more questions and
22 discussion as information is being presented.

23 It was noted that, with the exception of one attendee, those in attendance supported the idea of
24 board members being elected by the members of their perspective towns. Bev Davis reminded
25 the board that OCSU's attorney advises the board to wait until the VT Supreme Court acted
26 regarding Act 46 before moving forward with changing the election procedure. The court was
27 expected to act over the summer, which would leave time for the board to work on changing the
28 voting procedure before next year if Act 46 is upheld.

29 **New Business**

30 **Discussion of Superintendent's Recommendation for salary increases for the principal,**
31 **assistant principal, and administrative office manager for the FY '21 year:** Toni Eubanks
32 moved to enter Executive Session at 6:30 to discuss contract and personnel issues. It was
33 seconded by Jason Racine and approved.

34 The board exited Executive Session at 6:40. It was decided to continue the discussion regarding
35 the salary increases after more information has been made available.

36 **Receiving New Students through Act 129 for the 2020-2021 School Year:** Michael Sanville
37 moved to set the cap for new students from other Vermont public schools to attend Lake Region
38 by the parameters established through Act 129 for the 2020-2021 school year at 4 students and to
39 limit those attending to siblings living in the same household as current school choice students. It
40 was seconded by Jason Racine and approved.

41 **Transfer of Students from Lake Region through Act 129 for the 2020-2021 School Year:**
42 Jason Racine moved to set the cap for Lake Region resident students to transfer from Lake
43 Region UHS to other Vermont public high schools by the parameters established through Act
44 129 for the 2020-2021 school year at 36 students. It was seconded by Pat Davis and approved.

45 **Waiving of Tuition for Cultural Exchange Students:** Jason Racine moved to approve waiving
46 tuition for up to four cultural exchange students for the 2020-2021 school year. It was seconded
47 by Pat Davis and approved.

48 **Administrative Requests/ Reports**

49 Mr. Messier gave an update regarding COVID- 19 and its impact on schools. He mentioned that
50 he was being updated on a regular basis by the Agency of Education and Bev Davis. The
51 custodial staff was being extra-vigilant with sanitization procedures. It was unclear whether or
52 not the trip to Belize, which was planned for April break, would go forward.

53 Mr. Messier mentioned that the driveway paving project had been approved at the Annual
54 Meeting, and that he was in the process of preparing specifications so that the project could be
55 put out for bid. His goal was to have bids turned in by May 1, 2020, so that they could be opened
56 on May 16, 2020.

57 Mr. Messier noted that two bids had been received for the solar learning lab, and he was looking
58 for a third. The project was to be completed using Titles funds. He also mentioned that there
59 were federal grant funds that would be used to purchase tools and equipment for the school's
60 maker space. The funds must be used by August.

61 Mr. Messier provided an update regarding winter and spring sports. He noted that the Girls
62 Basketball team had earned a spot in the Semi-finals and would play Oxbow in Barre. Four
63 Indoor Track students qualified for the New England meet. Pitchers and Catchers were to begin
64 practice in the coming week. There would be no tennis, as no coach had been found.

65 Mr. Messier noted that the person hired to work in the kitchen had decided to decline the
66 position. Interviews for the position would be held in the coming weeks.

67 **Executive Session**

68 None

69 **Business of the Board**

70 **Career Center RAB Report:** Michael Sanville reported that the Career Center Regional
71 Advisory Board was to meet on the following Wednesday.

72 **OCSU Board:** No Report. The LREMS Annual Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March
73 10th.

74 **Future Agenda Items**

- 75 • Continued discussion about salary increases for administration
- 76 • Board retreat planning
- 77 • Pay for seasonal and part-time employees, and pay for summer school instructors
- 78 • Discipline Report
- 79 • Reduction in force notices
- 80 • Drivers Education Program discussion

81 **Upcoming Meeting**

- 82 • Full Board- Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:15 PM
83 • Full Board- Monday, April 6, 2020 at 6:15 PM
84 • Full Board- Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:15 PM

85 **Adjournment:** David Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 8:03.

86

87 Respectfully submitted,

88 Tammy Wiggett