



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2008

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, and Tom Williams.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Jeff Arey, Technology Director; and Lori Bibeau, Business Administrator.

Also Present: Andrew Huckins-Noss, student representative; Mary Ellen Hill, and Wes Cate.

- 1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.
 - 1.1. All guests were welcomed and Ginny Burley began the meeting by acknowledging the death of Rosie Cueto
 - 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None.
 - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.
- 2.0. **Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Tom Williams. Adrienne Magida pointed out that the student representatives were not present at that meeting so they should not be listed as “present.” The minutes were approved with the noted changes.**
- 3.0. Reports to the Board
 - 3.1. WCSU – None.
 - 3.2. Policy – Allen Gilbert reported that the committee has been discussing the athletic training rules.
 - 3.3. Personnel – Mark Berry reported that negotiations are still proceeding. Keith Gerritt suggested that the Personnel Committee should meet soon to discuss administrators’ contracts.
 - 3.4. Co-Curricular – None.
 - 3.5. Curriculum – None.
 - 3.6. Facilities Report – None.
 - 3.7. Negotiations – None.
 - 3.8. Student Representative’s Report – Andrew Huckins-Noss had nothing new to report but invited board members to bring anything to his attention that he might bring to students.
 - 3.9. Administrator’s Report – Keith Gerritt reported that he plans to meet with the student council representatives from each class to talk about: (1) planning and meeting time in next year’s schedule, and (2) Advanced Placement (AP) classes next year.
 - 3.10. Robbe Brook reported that the Central Office is working on January in-service training. She invited board members to take part in this.
 - 3.11. Ginny Burley reported from the VSBA meeting and will distribute handouts to board members. She stated that the VSBA plans to report on the impact on neighboring school districts, of decisions made by local school boards.
- 4.0. Discussion Agenda
 - 4.1. Technology Discussion with Jeff Arey – Ginny Burley asked Jeff Arey to report on the state of technology in the district and at U-32, and on the long-term plan.

Jeff Arey stated to the board that technology has been declared one of the top five focuses of the supervisory union’s strategic plan. Jeff explained the proposed budget items that are related to technology and some discussion followed regarding the need for new computers/equipment to replace old, slow, and/or antiquated ones. There was also a discussion regarding the telephone system(s) and the proposal to replace this system, either by each school, or by the supervisory union as a whole. Some discussion followed regarding the “capital fund” and some technology expenses in the proposed budget which were moved to this.

Ginny Burley stated that creating and planning for a capital fund is a new process for the U-32 board and is a “work in progress.”

Some discussion followed regarding utilization of technology. Are teachers using technology efficiently? How “fast” do computers need to be?

Allen Gilbert asked, in our supervisory union or at U-32, who is in charge of keeping up with state-of-the-art, cutting edge technology? Robbe Brook replied that, in general, the administrative team is in charge of this. Some conversation followed regarding distance learning and “teleconferencing.” Discussion followed regarding the lack of high speed internet at home for many U-32 students and how this impacts their ability to utilize technology related to schoolwork, from home.
 - 4.2. Discuss FY09 Budget Draft #3 – Lori Bibeau presented the board with the latest draft of the budget. Lori explained such budget issues as cost per equalized pupils. Discussion followed regarding budget issues. The subject of the fund balance and capital fund was discussed.

Allen Gilbert suggested that, at some point, the board should have a long discussion about the capital fund and perhaps bring in professional consultation on this issue. The issue of a “wish list” or a “dream list” for the capital



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fund was discussed. The board discussed the number that should be presented to the voters under “capital fund.”

Adrienne Magida thanked Lori Bibeau for her part in preparing and explaining the budget.

4.3. Policy Third Reading – The board reviewed the Search and Seizure Policy F3 for a third reading. A small edit was recommended (remove an extra period) and the policy was recommended for adoption.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Approve FY09 Budget Draft #3 – Allen Gilbert moved to approve FY09 Budget Draft #3 in the total amount of \$12,511,530.00. Seconded by Susan Chickering, this motion carried unanimously.

5.2. Approve U-32 District Warning – Allen Gilbert moved to approve this warning as presented. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

5.3. Approve 2008-2009 School Choice Collaborative Participation – Allen Gilbert moved to approve continued participation in the Winooski Valley Region Public School Choice Collaborative sending ten and receiving 10 students. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried with one “no” vote.

5.4. Adopt Search and Seizure Policy – Adrienne Magida moved to approve this policy. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.

5.5. Approve New Course Proposal – Sue Chickering moved to approve the new course titled “Workplace Readiness.” Seconded by Adrienne Magida. Discussion: Mark Berry suggested that the course name be changed to “employment skills,” however no decision was made to accept the suggestion. This motion carried unanimously as originally presented.

5.6. Resignations – None.

5.7. Appointments – None.

6.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the following board orders:

January 2, 2008	\$48,898.03	General
January 2, 2008	\$645.00	Athletic Officials

Seconded by Tom Williams, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: Handling the capital fund, AP courses.

8.0. Board Comments – None.

9.0. Executive Session – Mark Berry moved to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.

At 8:15 p.m. Adrienne Magida moved, seconded by Tom Williams, that the Board come out of Executive Session. The motion was carried unanimously.

10.0. Adjournment – At 8:16 p.m. without taking further action, the Board adjourned without objection upon the suggestion of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary