



## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

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

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance & Counseling Director; Robbe Brook, Superintendent.

Student Representatives Present: None.

Also Present: Wes Cate, Ed Deegan.

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

- 1.1. All guests were welcomed.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None.
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.

**2.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2008 school board meeting. Seconded by Tom Williams. This motion carried unanimously.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. Finance: Allen Gilbert shared his draft of Directors' Budget Report 2008-09. Keith Gerritt reported that at the last finance committee meeting, the monthly financial report was reviewed.
- 3.2. Curriculum: Has not met.
- 3.3. Vermont School Boards' Association: Ginny Burley reported that the commissioner and the chair of the state board reported on, and VSBA members discussed, the present and future state of education in Vermont. She stated that the statewide calendar proposal did not pass. Some discussion followed regarding the issue of "local control."
- 3.4. Facilities Report: Has not met.
- 3.5. Negotiations: To be discussed in executive session.
- 3.6. Student Representative's Report: No student representatives present.
- 3.7. Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt reported that trimester two home reports have gone home. Auditions are underway for the spring musical, "The Wiz." Biology students from Brian Slopey's classes are teaching elementary school students this week. Keith reported that he will be attending an information meeting on a new statewide initiative sponsored by the Department of Education. This is a two-year pilot program, focused on the high school – the goal is training leadership teams, based on a model out of Texas. Keith Gerritt will report to the board at the next meeting.

Lisa LaPlante stated that the course recommendation process for the 2008-2009 school year is complete; this year for the first time this was done online. She stated that, hopefully by Friday, each TA will receive a list of course recommendation/requests for their students. She thanked Jeff Arey for his assistance. She also thanked the staff for working together as a team even when confronted with some glitches in the process.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Off-Campus Non-School Sponsored Activities: Keith Gerritt shared a Burlington Free Press article regarding Facebook. He posed to the board: students know how to use technology, but do they know the implications of their use of technology? Some discussion followed regarding co-curricular activities and the agreements that students sign when they join these activities. Conrad Smith brought up the difference between, e.g., cyber-bullying and Facebook evidence that a student is drinking: that cyber-bullying is an offense that impacts others as well. Some discussion followed around the subject of "victim-less crimes." Wes Cate asked about the idea of having every student sign contracts or agreements – not just athletes – Conrad Smith replied that education is a right so every student can't be made to sign such a contract. Do these contracts even work? Are they legally valid? Philosophical discussion followed. Conrad stated that he would like the administration to deal with safety in the school, and education. He would like to create a divide between those issues and other, outside issues. Adrienne Magida stated that the driving impetus should be what is in the best interest of the kids.  
Ginny Burley asked, what direction does the board want to give the policy committee? Allen Gilbert spoke about the board's liability when it comes to enforcing policies. Sue Chickering asked what Amy Molina's recommendation is regarding this issue. She would like Amy to have some input in the policy committee's discussion. Ginny Burley stated that the board does not have a clear mandate; it seems to be "either tighten up the policy/procedures, or get rid of them."

Allen Gilbert asked Keith Gerritt what is planned for educating students on internet savvy and safety. Keith replied that some in-service time will be used for educating staff; a parent/community forum is planned (no date yet); and a series of student meetings to discuss these issues.



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5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Finance Actions: None.

**5.2. Approve Leave of Absence Request: Keith Gerritt proposed this request. The board agreed that this should be discussed in executive session.**

5.3. Resignations

5.4. Appointments

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

<b>January 16, 2008</b>	<b>\$78,976.19</b>	<b>General</b>
<b>January 3, 2008</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>Athletic Officials</b>
<b>January 16, 2008</b>	<b>\$2,225.00</b>	<b>Athletic Officials</b>
<b>January 16, 2008</b>	<b>\$19,718.01</b>	<b>Food Services</b>

**Seconded by Tom Williams, this motion carried unanimously.**

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: None presented.

8.0. Board Comments: Ginny Burley stated that she had served as a judge at a Montpelier High School debate this past weekend. She would love to see U-32 have a debate club.

9.0. Anticipated Executive Session: Upon motion of Mark Berry, seconded by Conrad Smith, and approved unanimously, the Board went into Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Then, at 8:47 p.m., upon motion of Adrienne Magida, seconded by Tom Williams, and again approved unanimously, the Board came out of Executive Session.

In open session, Mark Berry, seconded by Tom Williams, moved to approve an extended leave of absence for an ESP employee for the balance of the academic year in accordance with the provisions of the ESP Contract. The motion passed unanimously.

10.0. At 8:50 p.m., without taking further action, upon motion of Allen Gilbert, seconded by Tom Williams, and approved unanimously, the Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt  
Board Recording Secretary  
&  
Conrad Smith  
Board Clerk