



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Rob LaClair, Vice-Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Mark Berry, Susan Chickering, Stuart Savage.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal, Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal, Carole Freeman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Student Representatives Present: Alanna Webb, Andrew Huckins-Noss.

Others Present: Jon Winston, Jim Huckins-Noss, Ed Deegan, Carolyn Shapiro, Kim Martin, Jeff Rubin and Nancy Mercer.

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 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. Consent Agenda

- 2.1. Allen Gilbert moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2007 school board meeting. Sue Chickering brought a correction. The motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes as revised.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. Finance – None.
- 3.2. Curriculum – None.
- 3.3. Vermont School Boards' Association – Stuart Savage brought a report on Public School costs, prepared by Vermont Business Round Table, and asked Keith Gerritt to provide copies to all board members. He also reports on statewide compliance with the "harassment statute," also discussion underway regarding numerous emails from the Department of Education.
- 3.4. Facilities Report – None.
- 3.5. Student Representative's Report – Alanna Webb spoke about students' concerns about vending machines not being turned on early enough in the afternoon.
- 3.6. Administrator's Report – Keith Gerritt reported on the 8th graders visiting the State Capitol; he also reported on the in-service day earlier in the week. He reported that the 10th grade biology students had sponsored the viewing by the faculty of the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" in the afternoon of in-service, with introduction and discussion facilitated by a dozen of these students. Keith also reported that the U-32 HSOM Study Group had attended the final meeting of "High Schools on the Move" which as usual was productive and positive.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Branching Out Reflection – Carolyn Shapiro presented the board with an overview of the Branching Out Program. Some discussion followed regarding this program, its budget, how costs are met, "in kind" donations, etc.
- 4.2. Assets Survey Presentation – Carole Freeman gave a brief background of this survey; Kim Martin shared data via power point slide show. Discussion followed. Ed Deegan spoke of a joint effort underway to bring a YMCA to central Vermont
- 4.3. Policy Second Readings – Ginny Burley invited comments on the following policies:
 - 4.3.1. Limited English Proficiency Students – F19 – Sue Chickering asked whether the teachers of this are involved in the development of the policy. She also suggested that "Limited English Proficiency" be changed to "English Language Learners." Some discussion followed. The board agreed to change the wording in the policy to reflect that.
 - 4.3.2. Integration of Home Study Students in Programs and Activities – F23 – Alanna Webb expressed that she had been home schooled and she appreciates this effort. Suggestions were made regarding wording. It was agreed to state "General Guidelines for Home Study Student Participation at U-32." (heading under "policy.")
 - 4.3.3. Local Action Plan Policy – G8 – No comments on this reading.
- 4.4. Policy Third Reading
 - 4.4.1. Nutrition & Fitness Policy – F28 – The board required that this policy show legal references at the end, also to add: in the introduction, "U-32 will comply with all federal regulations regarding nutrition in the school." Tom McKone asked for a point of clarification with this new policy that will change current practices. There was some discussion regarding "healthy alternatives". This policy was held for a fourth reading.

5.0. Action Agenda

- 5.1. Finance Actions – None.
- 5.2. Policy Adoption – Nutrition & Fitness Policy – F28 – No action taken.



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5.3. Rob LaClair moved and Stuart Savage seconded a motion to approve continued participation in Winooski Valley Public School Choice Collaborative. Discussion: Administrators stated that this school choice student collaborative has been very close to a “one for one” trade.
This motion carried with one vote against.

5.4. Resignations – None.

5.5. Allen Gilbert moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the following appointment:

5.5.1. Theresa Cahill Custodian
This motion carried.

5.6. Allen Gilbert moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to take the Student Concern that was earlier tabled, “off the table.”

This motion carried unanimously.

Mark Berry moved and Allen Gilbert seconded a motion to uphold the administration’s recommendation on this matter. Discussion: Ginny Burley gave background information regarding this issue (for those who were not present for earlier presentation/ discussion.) Much discussion ensued about the clarity of the criteria and the fairness of the grading system.

This motion passed with Stuart Savage and Sue Chickering abstaining.

Allen Gilbert suggested that the Curriculum Committee look at this issue in addition to which courses are included in students’ GPA.

6.0. Allen Gilbert moved and Stuart Savage seconded a motion to approve the board orders as follows:

January 8, 2007	\$685.00	Athletic Officials
January 16, 2007	\$950.00	Athletic Officials
January 17, 2007	\$18,691.28	Food Services
January 17, 2007	\$56,530.10	General

This motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Executive Session – None.

8.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – The board discussed when to invite legislators to a board meeting – the first February board meeting was agreed upon. Legislators, select board members, town clerks, invited for a discussion about education funding, etc. The board agreed to place an ad in the paper as well as the U-32 newsletter to inform the community of this opportunity.

9.0. Board Comments – Ginny Burley noted that she had gone to a forum discussion about the Commissioner’s “White Paper” and found it not to be well organized or useful. Sue Chickering stated that VHFA has a statistical report on their website that is very interesting and relevant to declining enrollment projections. Rob LaClair stated that a Barre City school board member had approached him asking whether U-32 would be interested in seeking further collaborative efforts.

10.0. There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary