



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Allen Gilbert, Emily Goyette, Adrienne Magida, Mike Stridsberg

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Stephanie Taylor, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance Director; Robbe Brook, Superintendent

Student Representative Present: Benjamin Daut

Also Present: John Antonucci, Maggie Desch, Mary Ellen Hill, Michelle McFadden

- 1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 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: Mark Berry moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 school board meeting. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. Discussion: several edits were suggested. This motion carried unanimously, with noted changes.**
- 3.0. Reports to the Board
 - 3.1. Finance: Allen Gilbert shared with the board his write up for U-32's annual budget report. He invited comments or suggestions.
 - 3.2. Curriculum: No report; Emily Goyette reported though that the Co-Curricular Committee met today for the first time. She asked the board for any input or suggestions regarding issues this committee should approach. Ginny Burley stated that a program review with dollar amounts would be useful for the board to consider.
 - 3.3. Policy: Allen Gilbert reported that the committee continues to discuss a proposed Memorials policy. Two other policies come before the board tonight for first readings.
 - 3.4. Facilities & Capital Budget: No report.
 - 3.5. Negotiations: Ginny Burley reported that the process is still "on hold" as fact-finder reports have not been received yet. She stated that, after the reports are received, another attempt will be made to negotiate a contract. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Board has the right to "impose" a contract.
 - 3.6. Vermont School Boards' Association: Ginny Burley reported that she attended the VSBA meeting and met with the new Commissioner of Education. Ginny feels that he will be a good advocate.
 - 3.7. Student Representative's Report: Ben Daut reported that exams are over and the second semester began on Tuesday.
 - 3.8. Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt reported on the exam schedule. He also reported that on Thursday night, a community meeting concerning "increasing rigor" took place – with approximately 35 community members present; the board will see a related presentation tonight.

Mark Mooney reported on today's middle school assembly.

Lisa LaPlante reported that course recommendations and scheduling for next year will begin this week. Lisa also reported on a planned field trip to Community College of Vermont; also a visit to Barre Technical Center. Lisa stated that NECAP scores should be going home to parents toward the end of this month.

Stephanie Taylor reported on Monday's district wide in-service.
 - 3.9. Strategic Plan: Robbe Brook reported that the District Administrative Leadership Team will have a retreat to check in on Strategic Planning. She also reported that next Thursday night, all of the Action Plan committees from the schools in the supervisory union will come together to meet.
- 4.0. Discussion Agenda
 - 4.1. Updates on State Funding: The board reviewed a memo from the Governor's Office. Allen Gilbert expressed his disagreement with the governor's education finance proposal. Some discussion followed regarding teacher salaries and retirement.
 - 4.2. Report of "Raising U-32 to the Next Level" Committee re: Increasing Rigor
Keith Gerritt and Lisa LaPlante led a Power Point presentation and discussion about Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB). Discussion followed.
 - 4.3. Post Graduate Survey: Keith Gerritt spoke to the board about a survey of U-32 alumni. Ginny Burley asked the board members whether or not they were interested in pursuing this. Lisa LaPlante will obtain an estimate from the company and more information to share with the board for consideration.
 - 4.4. Policy First Readings: The following policies were moved to a second reading.
 - 4.4.1. Substitute Teachers Policy D6
 - 4.4.2. Student Medication Policy F6



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5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Finance Actions: None.

5.2. Rescind Policy F22: Achievement Testing: Mark Berry moved to rescind this policy. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.

5.3. Resignations: None.

5.4. Appointments: Allen Gilbert moved to approve the following appointments. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously

5.4.1. R. Hayden Thomsen 1.0FTE Science Teacher

5.4.2. Amy Koenigbauer 0.2FTE Visual Arts Teacher

5.4.3. J. Arthur Loose 0.8FTE Visual Arts Teacher

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

January 21, 2009 \$104,358.10 General

January 21, 2009 \$2,187.76 Athletic Officials

Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: "Apartment Program" video; Ginny Burley suggested that the March 4th board meeting include discussion of board governance. She also stated that in the future she would like to have a board level discussion of suspensions and expulsions. Board members asked for information for consideration: data re: how many incidents, how many students return to school. The board would like to discuss how to keep students connected and supported under these circumstances, due process, etc.

8.0. Board Comments: The board sends best wishes for speedy recovery to Peg Wilmott and Ann Wheelock.

9.0. Executive Session: None.

10.0. Adjournment: There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary