



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

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

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Stephanie Taylor, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Vice-Chair, Mark Berry.

1.1. Guests were welcomed.

2.0. Executive Session: At 6:04 p.m., upon motion of Allen Gilbert, seconded by Adrienne Magida, and approved unanimously, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss student disciplinary matters.

At 6:59 p.m., upon motion of Allen Gilbert, seconded by Adrienne Magida, and again approved unanimously, the Board came out of Executive Session.

Additional Administrators Present: Nancy Thomas, Director of Special Services/Assistant Superintendent; Lori Bibeau, WCSU Business Manager

Student Representative Present: Ben Daut

Also Present: Rep. Janet Ancel, Sen. Ann Cummings, Sen. Bill Doyle, Rep. Tony Klein, Rep. Pat McDonald, Ted Brady & Maggie Gendron, Senator Leahy's Office; Casey Harrington, Buildings & Grounds Director; Jan Aldrich, Beth Allen, Ed Deegan, Vera Frazier, Jonathan Goddard, Charlotte Hanna Bassage, Lori Martin, April Peet.

3.0. The open meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice-Chair, Mark Berry.

3.1. Reception of Guests – Introductions were made and Mark Berry welcomed those present

3.2. Agenda Revisions – None.

3.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – Superintendent Robbe Brook presented Mark Berry with a certificate for having served on Berlin Elementary and U-32 school boards for 15 years

4.0. Adrienne Magida moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2009 school board meeting. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. Discussion: Allen Gilbert suggested an edit to the minutes. This motion carried unanimously, with the noted edit.

5.0. Reports to the Board

5.1. W. C. S. U – No report.

5.2. Policy – Allen Gilbert reported that the committee is discussing awarding credit from non-U-32 courses, e.g., correspondence courses. He reminded the board of the policies that are being read at tonight's meetings. The policy regarding "memorials" will be brought to the board in the very near future.

5.3. Curriculum – Adrienne Magida reported on the committee's latest discussions.

5.4. Personnel – No report.

5.5. Negotiations – Robbe Brook reported that the "Fact Finder's Report" has been received.

5.6. Facilities – Conrad Smith reported that the committee recently discussed the tennis court project, and the relocation of the WCSU facility; the committee continues to examine the Capital Fund on a monthly basis. Keith Gerritt thanked Buildings & Grounds Director Casey Harrington for his efforts to find ways to keep a tight budget in facilities

Casey Harrington spoke to the board about the latest developments and findings regarding the tennis court project. He reported on some pre-existing drainage issues that have been discovered in the preliminary investigations for this project. Casey also explained that the present estimate for the tennis court project includes the drainage issue as well as a parking lot improvement (involving additional spaces) that had been discussed earlier.

Some discussion followed regarding the board's intentions, should it decide to put this project out to bid; i.e., is the board in favor of moving forward with this project?

5.7. Co-Curricular – None.

5.8. Student Representative's Report – Ben Daut reported that he asked students their feelings on U-32's current approach to AP testing; he said the general feedback from students is that they are happy with the current state.

5.9. Administrator's Report – Keith Gerritt stated that the Student Council has written a letter of apology to National Life for the recent events at the Crystal Ball. Mark Berry suggested that the students write a letter of thanks as usual (as well.) Keith Gerritt reported that a presentation to the board on NECAP results is expected in April.



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5.10. Strategic Plan – Robbe Brook reported that the Strategic Planning committee met last week with the Action Plan committees from each school. She reported on the administrative team’s recent meeting to check in on Strategic Plan.

6.0. Discussion Agenda

6.1. Discussion with Legislators – Charlotte Hanna Bassage welcomed the legislators present and opened discussion. Representatives from Senator Leahy’s Office began the discussion. Discussion with the legislators present followed on the topic of education funding.

6.2. Policy First Readings

6.2.1. Class Attendance Policy F25 – Allen Gilbert presented this to the board for first reading. Emily Goyette asked for a copy of this policy to suggest edits, as she finds the wording as it stands cumbersome. Allen Gilbert made a motion to move this policy to second reading. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg, this motion carried unanimously.

6.2.2. Honor Roll Policy G9c – Adrienne Magida moved to table this policy. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg, this motion to table carried unanimously.

6.3. Policy Second Readings – Allen Gilbert moved these two policies to third reading. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg, this motion carried unanimously.

6.3.1. Substitute Teachers Policy D6

6.3.2. Medications Policy F6

7.0. Action Agenda

7.1. Set Tuition Rate for FY 2009-2010 – Adrienne Magida moved to set the FY 2009-2010 tuition rate at \$12,191.00. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.

7.2. Approve Bid Process for Tennis Courts – Conrad Smith moved to approve the bid process. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. This motion carried with Emily Goyette opposed.

7.3. Resignations – None.

7.4. Appointments – None.

7.5. Allen Gilbert moved not to amend the administrative actions taken in the two student discipline cases heard earlier this evening. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried; Mike Stridsberg abstained from the vote.

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

February 4, 2009 \$79,272.94 General

February 4, 2009 \$2,855.50 Food Services

February 4, 2009 \$33,755.84 Athletic Officials

Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

9.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – None.

10.0. Board Comments – The board will hold a special meeting next Wednesday, February 11, 2009, anticipating that this meeting will be in executive session.

11.0. Anticipated Executive Session for the purpose of discussing student discipline, legal and/or personnel matters – None.

12.0. Adjournment – There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary