



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009

PAGE 1

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

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Stephanie Taylor, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Carol Freeman, WCSU Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Professional Development

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

2.0. Executive Session for the purpose of a discussing student discipline matter

At 6:08 p.m., upon motion of Mark Berry, seconded by Adrienne Magida, and approved unanimously, the Board went into executive session for the purpose of a discussing student discipline matter.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., Mike Stridsberg arrived and joined the executive session.

At 6:42 p.m., upon motion of Mark Berry, seconded by Adrienne Magida, and again approved unanimously, the Board came out of executive session.

Administrator Present: Lisa LaPlante, Guidance Director

Student Representatives Present: Caitlin Couture

Also Present: Linda Couture, Sheryl Lamberti, Lori Martin, Michelle McFadden, Nancy Mercer

3.0. The open meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

3.1. Ginny Burley welcomed those present.

3.2. Agenda Revisions – None.

3.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – Michelle McFadden asked whether a bus route proposal was going to be discussed at this board meeting. Allen Gilbert stated that he has not received information about this proposal. The Board will follow up with Robbe Brook when she returns from break. Lori Martin stated that her concern is about meeting the needs of all students; specifically, she is interested in the AP discussions.

4.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2009 school board meeting. Seconded by Emily Goyette. Allen Gilbert suggested a minor edit. These minutes were approved unanimously as edited.

5.0. Reports to the Board

5.1. Finance – Allen Gilbert reported that the Finance Committee met, and is projecting \$60K less in interest income, but special education revenue is expected to be a little higher than originally anticipated, so these might almost equal out. Allen Gilbert also reported about an issue related to pension benefits costs. He talked about the format for reporting the Capital Fund; also about the SAP grant and a possible loss in funding due to changes in state budgeting.

5.2. Curriculum – No report.

5.3. Policy – Mike Stridsberg reported that the committee revisited a “memorial” policy, with public input, and that he believes the committee is getting closer to having a policy to present to the board by March 18th. Policies which are slated for discussion next: fundraising, home study credits, honor roll, background check policy.

5.4. Facilities & Capital Budget – Conrad Smith reported that the committee had met this morning. He spoke about the tennis court bidding process which is currently underway. The greenhouse is done. He stated that the committee is going to start considering replacing microscopes for the Science Department. Conrad also reported that many things have been done already to take steps toward energy efficiency. The WCSU Executive Committee has approved hiring a design team for the supervisory union relocation. Discussion is underway regarding roles and responsibilities for this project. Conrad Smith reported on the status of the Capital Fund so far this year.

5.5. Negotiations – Ginny Burley stated that this will be discussed later, should an executive session be approved. Some guests present asked for access to the “Fact Finder’s Report.” Their email addresses were gathered to have this report (which is a public document) sent via email attachment.

5.6. Vermont School Boards’ Association – No report.

5.7. Student Representative’s Report – Caitlyn Couture stated that students are wondering when another student-led assembly will take place during U-Band. She asked whether school clocks can be synchronized.

5.8. Administrator’s Report – Keith Gerritt reported briefly on the use of U-Band. He said that clocks will be synchronized right after winter break. He reported on a “Dialogue Night” that took place last night, organized by the new SAP Counselor, Angela Shea. Keith also reported on a presentation planned on March 11th by Michael Nerney regarding the topic of the adolescent brain in relation to “at risk” behaviors. Stephanie Taylor reported that the Pops Concert was wonderful. Lisa LaPlante noted that approximately 8 U-32 juniors and seniors are attending an “Introduction to College Studies” course at CCV. She reported that the Guidance Department is “revamping” its website with the help



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009

PAGE 2

of Deb Wolf, and Jeff and Sydney Rubin. She reported that students have completed course requests for registration for next year.

5.9. Strategic Plan – No report.

6.0. Discussion Agenda

6.1. Alumni Survey – Lisa LaPlante presented to the board two proposals for surveys. Ginny Burley stated that the goal in carrying out this survey is to find out where U-32 alumni are right now, and how well they think U-32 prepared them. Some discussion followed. The board is interested in continuing to discuss and consider this; funding is a big issue. Keith Gerritt will see if the Boosters might help support this financially.

6.2. Policy Second Reading – This policy was moved to third reading

6.2.1. Class Attendance Policy-F25

6.3. Policy Third Readings

6.3.1. Substitute Teachers Policy-D6

6.3.2. Student Medication Policy-F6

7.0. Action Agenda

7.1. Adopt Policies

7.1.1. Substitute Teachers Policy-D6 – Allen Gilbert moved to adopt this policy. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously

7.1.2. Student Medication Policy-F6 – Mark Berry moved to adopt this policy. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously

7.2. Finance Actions – None.

7.3. Approve Spring Athletics Coaches – Adrienne Magida moved to approve this list. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg, this motion carried unanimously

7.4. Resignations – None.

7.5. Appointments – None.

7.6. Emily Goyette moved to approve the administration's recommendation regarding the student discipline matter. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried with Conrad Smith and Mike Stridsberg abstaining.

8.0. Mark Berry moved to approve the following board orders:

February 18, 2009 \$97,474.55 General

February 18, 2009 \$3,232.82 Athletic Officials

Seconded by Emily Goyette, this motion carried unanimously.

9.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – Student survey, Drug and Alcohol Policy, weapons/knives, and policy governance. Some discussion followed regarding the Advanced Placement (AP) / International Baccalaureate (IB) course discussion i.e. where the process currently stands and who is ultimately responsible for making this decision. Lori Martin asked Keith Gerritt how much weight the administration intends to give the committee's recommendation regarding this issue. Keith replied that the committee is given a great amount of weight. Ginny Burley suggested that the minutes to these committee meetings be posted on the school's website. Emily Goyette suggested another evening forum for input regarding this issue.

10.0. Board Comments – Mike Stridsberg complimented the Latin Dinner Dance. Mark Berry thanked the custodial staff for their help on this event

11.0. Anticipated Executive Session for the purpose of discussing student discipline, legal and/or personnel matters

At 8:14 p.m., upon motion of Mike Stridsberg, seconded by Mark Berry, and approved unanimously, the board went into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and to discuss negotiations.

At 8:59 p.m., upon motion of Mike Stridsberg, seconded by Mark Berry, and approved unanimously, the Board came out of Executive Session.

At 9:00 p.m., in open session, Emily Goyette, seconded by Mike Stridsberg, moved to approve the Administration's recommendation in the personnel matter discussed in executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

12.0. At 9:01 p.m., without taking further action, the Chair adjourned the Board meeting, without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary