



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Tom Williams. Adrienne Magida joined meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance & Counseling Director;

WCSU & Elementary Administrators: Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Nancy Thomas, Director of Special Services; Carole Freeman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Lori Bibeau, Business Manager; Jeff Arey, Technology Director; and Adam Rosen, Rumney Memorial Elementary School Principal.

Student Representative Present: Benjamin Daut.

Others Present: Jan Aldrich, Charlotte Hanna Bassage, Linda Beaupre, Cindy Bruzzese, Wes Cate, and Emily Goyette.

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

Student Discipline Hearing in Executive Session: Upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Allen Gilbert, and approved unanimously, the Board went into Executive Session at 5:37 p.m. to discuss a student disciplinary matter.

At 6:50 p.m., upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Allen Gilbert, and approved unanimously, the Board came out of Executive Session.

Allen Gilbert, seconded by Mark Berry, moved to approve the administration's recommendation in the matter discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

- 1.1. All guests were welcomed. The board welcomed student representative Ben Daut and board members introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None.
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.

2.0. Sue Chickering moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2008 school board meeting. Seconded by Mark Berry, these minutes were approved as written.

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. WCSU: Robbe Brook thanked Tom Williams for his service to U-32 board, as well as WCSU Executive Committee and Cindy Bruzzese for her service to the Rumney Board and WCSU Executive Committee.
- 3.2. VSBA: No report.
- 3.3. Curriculum: No report.
- 3.4. Finance: Allen Gilbert noted that the committee met and several issues on the agenda and action agenda reflect the committee's latest work.
- 3.5. Policy: Allen Gilbert reported that the committee continues to work on the Athletic/Co-Curricular Training Rules.
- 3.6. Personnel: Ginny Burley reported that the committee will have some reporting/discussion during executive session regarding contracts and negotiations.
- 3.7. Co-Curricular: No report.
- 3.8. Curriculum: No report.
- 3.9. Facilities: Conrad Smith reported that several items that came from the Facilities Committee will come before the board tonight. Conrad reported on the status of the tennis court fund raising initiative. He also reported on new items that are being discussed by the committee, e.g. theater lighting needs and some greenhouse-related expenses.
- 3.10. Negotiations: No report.
- 3.11. Student Representative's Report: Ben Daut reported that he had talked with the student council about the bus proposal issue. He said that students are concerned about a later start meaning later dismissal: this would impact after-school jobs and early dismissals for co-curricular events. He asked the board about making up snow days; students are wondering what will happen. Keith Gerritt replied that he had no recommendation to the board at this point regarding making up snow days.
- 3.12. Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt reported that the 5-Year NEASC Report, due March 1st, has been mailed. He complimented Tom McKone and the follow up committee on this endeavor. He also thanked Tom McKone for writing the report.
- 3.13. Lisa LaPlante reported that students toured the Barre Technical Center this past week; she is excited about the students' positive experiences and responses. She also reported that the guidance counselors and staff are partnering with VSAC to take a comprehensive look at the guidance program at U-32.



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- 4.0. Discussion Agenda – Members of the WCSU Executive Board joined the U-32 Board for the first two discussion items.
- 4.1. Bus Combination Proposal: Mark Mooney and Adam Rosen shared *WCSU School Start Time and Busing Proposal, 12/31/07*.
Discussion followed on the issue of bus monitors – paid monitors versus student leader-monitors and about the length of time spent on the bus. Discussion of gas savings/environmental impacts and bus route efficiency followed. Robbe Brook asked for the wishes/input of the U-32 board and the WCSU board regarding this proposal. Sue Chickering requested no bus rides for longer than an hour, and elementary schools assisting in monitoring. Ginny Burley spoke about the complication of a later start time for students translating to more student time lost in the classroom due to early dismissals for, for example, sporting events, and additional cost for subs in the afternoons. She stated that she felt giving students leadership roles, (e.g., bus monitor), should be given more consideration. Cindy Bruzzese stated that the top priority should be what is educationally best for all kids, pre-K – 12. Ginny Burley asked for data, e.g., how many students leave early, at what times, how many staff leave early, etc, for further consideration.
Keith Gerritt suggested that the U-32 board and administrators give this consideration and he thanked Adam Rosen and Mark Mooney for the work they have done to this point.
Jan Aldrich asked about pursuing alternative routes and alternative plans for snow and other weather-related road conditions.
Robbe Brook noted that when the school boards reorganize, Transportation Committee members should be sought.
- 4.2. Central Office Facility Location: Charlotte Hanna Bassage stated that the WCSU Executive Committee would like to present to the U-32 Board information regarding a proposal to relocate the Central Office facility to the U-32 property. The WCSU Executive Committee will present such information at a March or April U-32 board meeting. The U-32 board is willing to consider such a proposal.
- 4.3. Telephone System Replacement Proposal: Jeff Arey answered any questions from board members regarding this proposal. Conrad Smith stated that he is in support of this proposal but he would like to see one of the proposals to be a more “basic” approach. He asked for the U-32 board to see the Request for Proposals before they are published.
- 4.4. Capital Fund Proposals: Keith Gerritt reported that Casey Harrington, the new Buildings & Grounds Director, has proposed purchasing two new pieces of equipment.
- 4.5. Student Conduct and Discipline Policy F1 – Clarification of 10-day suspension provision. The board discussed this issue and the Policy committee will revisit the policy to address the 10-day limitation.
- 5.0. Action Agenda
- 5.1. Finance Actions
- 5.1.1. Approve Fund Balance Transfer of FY07 Donation: Conrad Smith moved to transfer \$500 from Fund Balance to the Physical Education Department. \$500 was donated to the PE department by the Student Council at the end of last year. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.1.2. Approve Borrowing for Roof Project: Mark Berry moved to award the roofing project note in the amount of \$138,000 to TD Banknorth for the time period of February 21, 2008 through February 20, 2014, at a guaranteed interest rate of 4%. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.2. Approve Capital Fund Requests
- 5.2.1. Telephone System Replacement: Conrad Smith moved to approve up to \$85,000 from the Capital Fund for replacement of the telephone system. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried, with one vote against (Tom Williams.)**
- 5.2.2. Buildings and Grounds Equipment Purchases: Conrad Smith moved to approve equipment purchases of approximately \$16,500 from the Capital Fund. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.3. Tom Williams moved to set the tuition rate for FY2008-2009 at \$11,400. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.4. Resignations: None.
- 5.5. End of Year Retirements
- 5.5.1. Tom Williams moved to accept, with regret, the retirement of Larry Beebe. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously. The board thanked Larry Beebe for his contribution to U-32, well beyond the math department. The board will invite Larry Beebe to attend a future board meeting, before the year’s end, for a traditional, informal “exit interview.”**
- 5.6. Appointments: None.
- 6.0. Tom Williams moved to approve the following board orders:**



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January 23, 2008	\$925.00	Athletic Officials
February 6, 2008	\$57,211.65	General
February 6, 2008	\$22,638.62	Food Services
February 6, 2008	\$1,570.00	Athletic Officials
February 20, 2008	\$76,341.21	General
February 20, 2008	\$1,035.00	Athletic Officials

Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda

8.0. Board Comments: Ginny Burley thanked Sue Chickering and Tom Williams for their service to the board.

9.0. Executive Session: Upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Mark Berry, and approved unanimously, the Board again went into executive session at 8:29 p.m. to discuss personnel, student, and negotiation matters.

At 9:05 p.m., upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Mark Berry, and approved unanimously, the Board came out of executive session.

Adrienne Magida moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to offer two-year extensions of administrative contracts to Amy Molina, Mark Mooney and Keith Gerritt and, at his request, a one-year extension to Tom McKone. The motion passed unanimously.

10.0. At 9:08 p.m., without taking further action and without objection, the Chair adjourned the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary