



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007**

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Board Members Present: Mark Berry, Ginny Burley, Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Conrad Smith, Tom Williams.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal, Robbe Brook, Superintendent

Others Present: Carolyn Walker and Sam Frank from Red Cross Disaster Services; Deb Burke, Joanne Campisi, Wes Cate, Mark Chaplin, Paula Crossett, Reenie DeGeus, Donna Fitch, Mary Ellen Hill, Julie Kiefer, Barbara Korecki, Sharon Newcomb, Kathleen Pelletier, Jeff Rubin, Carolyn Shapiro, Ann Wheelock, Kathy (Topping) Wiese, Kathie Ball, Heather Magoon, Shane McAndrew, Nancy Mercer, Amy Molina, Kenneth Saxe, Kathleen Segar, Lauren Van Deren and Peg Wilmott.

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Superintendent, Robbe Brook.

Robbe Brook asked for nominations for U-32 Board Chairperson. **Tom Williams nominated Ginny Burley for the position of Board Chairperson. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. No other nominations were offered. Ginny Burley was elected Chairperson unanimously.** At this point Ginny Burley presided over the board meeting.

1.1. Guests were welcomed.

1.2. Agenda Revisions – Ginny Burley noted the addition to the discussion agenda of a March 12th VSBA Legislative Bulletin, and two bills related to education which are currently being discussed.

1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence:

Mary Ellen Hill asked about the status of the roof project. Ginny Burley replied that the initial bid last year was too costly and another request for proposal has gone out again. The project should be completed this summer. Discussion followed regarding air quality. Several staff members spoke regarding air quality. Test samples have been taken and are being analyzed by a lab.

Mark Chaplin spoke about school climate and his disappointment with the school board and administrators. He asked for honesty in regards to the “guidance incident.” Ginny Burley replied and explained the process and the issue of confidentiality. Discussion followed as faculty members, community members and parents presented arguments, concerns, comments regarding school climate and the process involved when administrators are offered a contract or are not offered to renew a contract. A staff member suggested that faculty be involved in the evaluation process of administrators. All guests had the opportunity to comment. A suggestion was made to use public access to televise board meetings. Another suggestion was made to broadcast board meetings on the radio.

2.0. Board Reorganization

2.1. Elect a Chairperson (done previously)

2.2. **Tom Williams nominated Mark Berry as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. Mark Berry was elected unanimously.**

2.3. **Allen Gilbert nominated Conrad Smith to begin serving as Clerk at the time he officially gets sworn. Seconded by Tom Williams. Discussion: Allen explained the duties of the clerk, Conrad agreed to the nomination and he was elected unanimously.**

2.4. **Allen Gilbert moved to set the time and day as per usual: 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Sue Chickering. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.5. **Allen Gilbert moved to establish The Times Argus for official posting. Seconded by Sue Chickering. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.6. **Sue Chickering nominated Tom Williams to the Washington Central Executive Committee with Adrienne Magida as alternate. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.7. **Allen Gilbert nominated Mark Berry to the Washington Central Policy Committee with Tom Williams as alternate. Seconded by Sue Chickering. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.8. **Tom Williams nominated Mark Berry to the Washington Central Negotiations Committee with Ginny Burley as alternate. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.9. **Mark Berry moved to nominate Rob LaClair to serve on the Washington Central Transportation Committee. Seconded by Tom Williams. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.10. **Mark Berry nominated Dan Violette to serve as Truant Officer. Seconded by Tom Williams. This motion carried unanimously.**

2.11. **Mark Berry moved and Allen Gilbert seconded a motion to establish the following board committee memberships:**

2.11.1. **Finance: Allen Gilbert, Ginny Burley, Conrad Smith**

2.11.2. **Policy: Tom Williams, Mark Berry, Allen Gilbert**

2.11.3. **Curriculum: Sue Chickering, Adrienne Magida, Ginny Burley**

2.11.4. **Personnel: Mark Berry, Ginny Burley**

2.11.5. **Co-Curricular: Sue Chickering, Tom Williams, Adrienne Magida**



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2.11.6. Facilities: Conrad Smith, Ginny Burley, Tom Williams

2.11.7. Negotiations: Mark Berry, Ginny Burley

This motion carried unanimously.

Keith Gerritt noted that the Curriculum Committee will need to meet before the April 4th regular meeting. It was agreed that this committee would meet on both March 28th at 5:30 p.m. and April 4th at 5:00 p.m.

Keith Gerritt also noted that the Finance Committee does not need to meet this month. It was agreed that this committee would meet on April 10th at 8:00 a.m.

The board agreed to keep the April 18th regularly scheduled meeting even though it falls during spring break.

3.0. Consent Agenda

3.1. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Mark Berry. This motion carried unanimously.

4.0. Reports to the Board

4.1. WCSU – Robbe Brook reported that the Central Office renewed a two-year lease; also that SoverNet will be the new provider for WAN line service. She spoke briefly about plans for the WCSU Full Board meeting on March 28th.

4.2. Policy – Allen Gilbert reported that Due Process, and Student Suspension & Expulsion are the two policies currently being discussed.

4.3. Personnel – None.

4.4. Co-Curricular – None.

4.5. Facilities Report – None.

4.6. Student Representative’s Report – None.

4.7. Administrator’s Report – Keith Gerritt reported that students are presently taking exams. A group of students attended the Student Leadership Conference with Amy Molina; another group is preparing to attend the New England Music Festival. He reported on various co-curricular teams and performances.

Tom McKone reported on the one-act play being performed this weekend as part of the Vermont Regional Drama Festival; also reported on the French students’ plans to visit Montreal. He noted that the French teachers are beginning to plan a trip to Paris in April ’08.

5.0. Discussion Agenda

5.1. U-32 as Red Cross Emergency Shelter – Keith Gerritt introduced the proposal that U-32 be identified as a regional Red Cross Emergency Shelter. Discussion followed regarding liabilities and the responsibilities involved in being designated such a shelter.

5.2. VSBA Legislative Bulletin - Discussion followed regarding the governance issue. Ginny Burley suggested that board members reply individually to Pat MacDonald on thoughts about the two drafts of bills. The issue of local control was discussed.

6.0. Action Agenda

6.1. Allen Gilbert moved that the board accept the administration’s recommendation to designate U-32 as a Red Cross Emergency Shelter. Seconded by Sue Chickering. This motion carried unanimously.

6.2. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the leave of absence as requested by Paula Emery. Seconded by Tom Williams. Discussion: Ginny Burley asked whether this part-time position negatively affects the department; Keith Gerritt reported that it does not. This motion carried with one abstention.

6.3. Resignations

6.3.1. 2007-08 Part-Time Resignation: Allen Gilbert moved to approve the resignation by Amy Herrick of 0.2 FTE of her contract with a resulting 2007-2008 contract issued for 0.6 FTE. Seconded by Susan Chickering. Discussion: The board asked how many part-time staff members were employed. The board would like a summary of current staffing, e.g., full time versus part time (and what percentage). This motion carried with one abstention.

6.4. Appointments – None.

7.0. Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to the approve the following board orders:

March 7, 2007	\$15,873.42	General
March 14, 2007	\$75,787.79	Food Services

This motion carried unanimously.

9.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – Local control and governance issues.



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10.0. Board Comments – Some discussion followed regarding communications within the school; Ginny Burley apologized for making a comment during the public forum which upset some staff members. Ginny also welcomed the two new board members.

8.0. Tom Williams moved to go into Executive Session at 8:50 for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Seconded by Susan Chickering. This motion carried unanimously.

The board came out of executive session at 10:04 p.m.

11.0. There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary