



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

PAGE 1

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; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance & Counseling Director; Nancy Thomas, Assistant Superintendent/Director of Special Services

Student Representative Present: Benjamin Daut

Also Present: Janey Malloy, Nancy Mercer, and Michael Levine

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

- 1.1. All guests were welcomed and introductions were made.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions: Add approval of new course proposals, and resurfacing of the track to the Action Agenda.
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence: Ginny Burley brought to the attention of the board a letter to the editor in local newspapers by Ed Deegan.

2.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2008 school board meeting. Seconded by Adrienne Magida. One word edit to 1.3 should read: “she had.” The minutes were approved unanimously as edited.

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. WCSU: No report
- 3.2. Policy: Allen Gilbert reported that the committee worked on F7 and F7a, which are on the discussion agenda this evening. The committee intends to start looking at policy H12 on Vehicular Idling; also D1 which looks at background check policies and procedures.
- 3.3. Personnel: No report
- 3.4. Co-Curricular: No report
- 3.5. Curriculum: Adrienne Magida reported that the committee met just before tonight’s board meeting. The committee looked at current staffing and course requests from students. The committee discussed the number of students that are requesting electives like art and tech ed., and the fact that underclassmen may not always be able to get into certain electives. Over the course of their high school careers, all students are able to choose these electives. The committee reviewed new course proposals.
- 3.6. Facilities Report: Conrad Smith reported that the committee had met in the morning; some items of discussion: new floor waxing/cleaning equipment, greenhouse grant, zoning application for tennis courts, telephone system, theatre equipment. The major topic of discussion was the 2008-2009 Capital Budget. Ginny Burley stated that the facilities committee wants to be pro-active in the planning of the relocation of Central Office on the U-32 property. She also reported that the committee has begun to discuss the desire to memorialize students and the need to create some sort of policy related to this. The committee recommends that the board authorize the resurfacing of the track.
- 3.7. Negotiations: No report
- 3.8. Student Representative’s Report: Ben Daut reported that he had met with student council; some topics discussed were AP courses, student email addresses and web/network access. Some discussion followed regarding AP courses; Keith Gerritt stated that more conversation around this subject is forthcoming, including a community forum planned for next year.
- 3.9. Administrator’s Report: Lisa LaPlante reported on the 6th grade visits to U-32 as well as the “Making it Count” assemblies for high school students. Keith Gerritt reported that Cultural Diversity Day is being planned for May 6th. Keith also reported that a delegation went to the NELMS conference and presented a workshop on the middle school’s town meeting. CAD–Compost Awareness Day was yesterday. Keith Gerritt invited the board to help him celebrate National Teacher’s Day on Tuesday, May 6. The Stage 32 production of *The Wiz* is next weekend! Tom McKone reported that U-32 has made substantial progress in getting more students to school on time more often.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Drop-Out Rate: Lisa LaPlante presented information about Dropout and Completion Rates. Allen Gilbert stated that, for students that increase the dropout rate or decrease the completion rate, he would be interested to hear the specific story behind each student; the board agreed that the statistics can be deceiving. Allen Gilbert stated that it would be interesting to hear the stories, up until the age of 22, of students who didn’t graduate.
- 4.2. Harassment, Bullying, and Cyber-Bullying: Conversation ensued about cell phones, “texting” and harassment or bullying using this technology.
- 4.3. Policy First Reading



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4.3.1. Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco Policy – F7a: Allen Gilbert introduced the draft of this policy and there was a brief discussion. This policy will move to a second reading at the next board meeting.

4.4. Policy Second Reading

4.4.1. Student Conduct and Discipline Policy – F1: This policy is moved to third reading at the next board meeting.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Approve 2008-2009 Staffing: Adrienne Magida introduced the staffing proposal, which is “level staffing” as per the budget development. Adrienne Magida moved to accept the staffing recommendations as presented. Seconded by Emily Goyette, this motion carried unanimously.

5.2. End of Year Resignations: Mark Berry moved to accept the resignations as listed. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg. Discussion: Keith Gerritt reviewed this list. Conrad Smith asked for the board and administration to consider a long-term goal of having a smaller number of part-time teachers. This motion carried unanimously.

5.2.1. David Nicholson 0.5 Student Assistance Counselor

5.2.2. Janey Malloy 0.1 Math

5.2.3. Joanne Greenberg 0.1 Social Studies

5.2.4. Barry Kopecky 0.1 Social Studies

5.2.5. George Olson 0.1 Social Studies

5.3. Appointments: Adrienne Magida moved to approve the following appointments. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg. This motion carried unanimously.

5.3.1. Sheryl Ferris 0.1 School Nurse

5.3.2. David Nicholson 0.5 School Counselor

5.3.3. Amy Herrick 0.1 English

5.3.4. Jessica Smetana 0.1 English

5.3.5. John Antonucci 0.2 Social Studies

5.3.6. Kate McCann 0.1 Math

5.4. Adrienne Magida moved to approve the two new course proposals as presented. Seconded by Emily Goyette, this motion carried unanimously.

5.5. Conrad Smith moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$18,000 – from the Capital Fund – for resurfacing of the track this summer. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

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

April 2, 2008 \$159,584.18 General

April 2, 2008 \$25,618.56 Food Services

Seconded by Adrienne Magida this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: Evaluation process for administrators and directors; Mike Stridsberg asked to revisit the fundraising policy.

8.0. Board Comments: Ginny Burley reminded the board of the 8th grade fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner on Friday night. The board thanked Lisa LaPlante for her hard work.

9.0. Executive Session: None

10.0. Adjournment: At 8:40 p.m., without taking further action and without objection, the Chair adjourned the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary