



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Emily Goyette, Clerk; Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida (arrived at 7:30), Conrad Smith and Michael Stridsberg (arrived at 7:30)

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Stephanie Taylor, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance Director; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Carole Freeman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Student Representatives: Ben Daut and Caitlyn Couture

Others Present: Maggie Eaton, Janey Malloy

1.0. Call to Order: Ginny Burley called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

- 1.1. Reception of Guests: Ginny Burley welcomed the guests.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions: None.
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence: None.

2.0. Consent Agenda

- 2.1. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009 school board meeting. Seconded by Emily Goyette. Comments: one edit was suggested. The minutes were approved as edited with one abstention: Ginny Burley.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. Finance: Ginny Burley reported on the latest Finance Committee meeting. Bus contract is on the agenda for later tonight. U-32 is still seeking an auditor since the most recent auditor had to step down.
- 3.2. Curriculum: Ginny Burley reported on the latest Curriculum Committee meeting. Some discussion regarding administration of NECAP: giving students the choice of which teacher to take the exam with; suggestion that all teachers are required to take part in administering the assessment, with late start of school day on exam days for students who do not take the assessment.
- 3.3. Policy: Allen Gilbert reported that the committee continues to discuss: Home School Credit policy; Drugs & Alcohol policy; Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Check policy; Administrator Evaluation; Fund Raising policy.
- 3.4. Negotiations: Ginny Burley reported that some new developments have occurred; this will be discussed in Executive Session.
- 3.5. Facilities & Capital Budget: Conrad Smith reported that the middle school parking lot/storm water permit issues in the middle school parking lot area have been "put on the back burner" while the zoning permit was allowed for tennis court work in the upper fields area. Microscopes purchase was approved to be carried out, at latest, this summer.
- 3.6. Central Office Building: Conrad Smith reported that the decision has been made to go "modular" versus "stick built" for this building. Conrad also reported on other systems decisions that have been discussed and made regarding this building.
- 3.7. Vermont School Boards' Association: Ginny Burley asked for board comments regarding the VSBA Governance Reform Proposal.
- 3.8. Student Representative's Report: Ben Daut reported that the student council has concerns about the proposed Memorials Policy. He shared a letter from the student council. This will be discussed later on this evening's agenda.
- 3.9. Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt reported on the "Drop Down" activity today which students initiated (in reference to the War in Iraq.) Keith reported on recent QSA activities. He also followed up on the recent incident at U-32 related to safety and security. He reported some ideas that were made as a result by the Safety and Security Committee: reconfigure the front office and reception area for more visibility; upgrade of radio system; install more secure system for front doors; mandatory ID badges; improved/enhanced outdoor security camera system. Mark Mooney reported on the very successful Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the 8th grade DC trip. Lisa LaPlante reported on upcoming Vermont Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC) program. Stephanie Taylor reported on chaperoning the 8th grade dance.
- 3.10. Strategic Plan: Robbe Brook reported on one of the areas of focus: Formative Assessment. She reported that administrators have been meeting once a month as study groups.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. U-32 2008 NECAP Assessment Results Presentation: Carole Freeman presented *U-32 2008 NECAP Assessment Results*, with a PowerPoint presentation. Allen Gilbert asked about the 8th grade results and whether it is possible to look at the results "disaggregated." Carole Freeman reported that it is possible to look at them in that light but that the administration does not share the specific results to compare. Some discussion followed regarding 7th grade being a big "transition" year at U-32 with some students coming from small schools to a relatively large middle school. Allen



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Gilbert commented again about the disparity of scores between boys and girls. He reminded the board and administration that we have identified this as a problem in the past and it does not get better. Conrad Smith asked for a more focused look at groups of students who are achieving poorly on these assessments.

- 4.2. V.S.B.A. Governance Reform Proposals: The board discussed this document. Allen Gilbert and Conrad Smith identified several points with which they disagree. Ginny Burley said that she would request clarification from the VSBA regarding the state of this proposal, the impetus, etc. Conrad Smith asked her to pass along that some U-32 board members have concerns with the document.
- 4.3. Policy Third Reading: Allen Gilbert responded to the Student Council's concerns about existing memorials. He explained that the policy committee had grappled with "grandfathering" existing memorials.
 - 4.3.1. Memorial Policy – H11

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Adopt Memorial Policy – H11: Allen Gilbert moved to adopt this policy. Seconded by Mark Berry. Discussion: Keith Gerritt thanked the Policy Committee for its hard work on this policy. This motion passed unanimously.

5.2. Finance Actions: None.

5.3. Award 2-Year Extension for Transportation Services to First Student, Inc.: Allen Gilbert moved to award this contract. Seconded by Mark Berry. Discussion: Allen Gilbert asked for a few points of clarification. Mike Stridsberg asked if this extension is granted, are the other transportation proposals that were being discussed closed for discussion for now? Robbe Brook: Yes. This motion carried unanimously.

5.4. Resignations: None.

5.5. Appointments: Allen Gilbert moved to authorize the following appointments: Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

5.5.1. Amy Koenigbauer 0.3 FTE Visual Arts Teacher

5.5.2. Katherine Walker 0.2 FTE Math Teacher

Allen Gilbert moved to authorize Conrad Smith, in addition to Ginny Burley, to sign facility related contracts. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

Robbe Brook stated that letters of intent were distributed to teachers across the supervisory union today.

6.0. Emily Goyette moved to approve the following board orders:

April 15, 2009 \$67,469.26 General

Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: Fund Raising policy; Administrator Evaluation policy; and G1 Curriculum Adoption policy (having Carole Freeman present for this discussion.)

8.0. Board Comments: Mark Berry – any ideas for graduation speakers?

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

At 8:45 pm, Mark Berry moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing legal (negotiations) matters. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg, this motion carried unanimously.

At 8:59 pm, Mark Berry moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

10.0. Adjournment: Without taking further action, the board adjourned by consensus at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary
&
Emily Goyette
Board Clerk