



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007**

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent.

Also Present: Wes Cate, Jeff Rubin.

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

- 1.1. All guests were welcomed.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None.
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.

**2.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Conrad Smith. Discussion followed and changes were recommended.**

- 3.1. Finance report: change July to “July 2006”;**
- 3.6. Administrator’s report: add “school year”;**
- 4.1. Substitute report should read: “current year budget is \$66,000 for substitutes...”**

**This motion carried with the noted changes.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. WCSU Executive Committee – Tom Williams reported on the most recent WCSU Executive Committee meeting. “The roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee” continues to be an item for discussion and Tom Williams would like to put this discussion on the U-32 Board agenda in the future. He reported that central office facility location is under discussion/consideration; U-32 continues to be a popular consideration for location. Robbe Brook reported that a supervisory-union Strategic Plan is under discussion.
- 3.2. Policy Committee – Allen Gilbert reported that the committee is still working on student discipline policies. Nancy Thomas is helping to draft a policy for discipline related to special education. The committee is discussing whether a separate policy for bullying is prudent at U-32.
- 3.3. Personnel Committee – No report.
- 3.4. Co-Curricular Committee – Tom Williams stated that the newly formed Facilities Committee has met with Amy Molina for the first time since board reorganization.
- 3.5. Curriculum Committee – Adrienne Magida reported that the committee was discussing grade point average related to honors courses; also the issue of “pass/fail.”
- 3.6. Facilities Committee – Conrad Smith reported that the committee is looking forward to a draft of a Capital Fund proposal for consideration. Current issues under discussion: energy conservation, “wish list,” middle school outdoor facility areas, parking lot deterioration, and personnel in the area of facilities: all of these things in light of the possibility of revenue shortfall next year due to discussions in the legislature.
- 3.7. Student Representative’s Report – Tom McKone reported on behalf of the student representatives. The students are enthused about another visit from John Halligan regarding bullying issues. Junior/Senior prom is upcoming; there is “Las Vegas.” Andy Huckins-Noss suggested more signage and publicity for the blood drive.
- 3.8. Administrators’ Reports:
  - Keith Gerritt reported to the board about a (tentative/future) student tuition request. He reported that the search committee for Director of Guidance has met twice and will interview three candidates next week; the committee may recommend candidates to move forward as a result of these interviews. Scheduling board interviews with candidates was discussed. The board would like to schedule these at 5 p.m., before the May 16th meeting; the board would like to meet at least two candidates. The board asked to have resumes of candidates in board packets for perusal before the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the process of selecting candidates, i.e., open versus executive session deliberations, community forum.
  - Keith Gerritt explained in detail the “bond interest” item on the Financial Report, as requested previously by the board.
  - Keith Gerritt reported, as requested, on “substitute pay raises.” He referred to the Substitute Teacher Policy; he referred to the latest board action in September 05, regarding substitute pay raises. The board asked for a recommendation from the administration on this issue.
  - Keith Gerritt reported on U-32 participation in the national “Day of Silence” this past Friday. He reported that the senior class is beginning the end-of-year activities leading to graduation!
  - Ginny Burley challenged the students to ride the bus rather than drive to school on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Tom McKone reported on the decision of the “Gay/Straight Alliance” to change its name to “Queer/Straight Alliance.”



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Mark Mooney shared the *Ballyhoo*, the middle school newsletter, with the board, and end of year calendar items relating to middle school. Mark Mooney reiterated to the board that the needs of middle school are often different than those of high school; he stressed that planning time is important, especially team planning time in middle school. Allen Gilbert asked Mark Mooney about gender inequity issues on assessment performance. The issue of homework in middle school was discussed, especially in regard to boys. Keith Gerritt noted that the gender issue is an important item in the school’s Action Plan. The board asked to receive the Ballyhoo in board packets.

Ginny Burley thanked Tom McKone for his work on Project Graduation.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

4.1. Legislative Update – Allen Gilbert reviewed the latest legislative discussions and action regarding education spending. He suggested that board members communicate to local legislators, primarily Bill Doyle and Phil Scott (who have voted in favor of “capping” school budgets.) The board agreed that a collective letter from the board as a whole would be prudent, as well as individual communications from board members. Ginny Burley and Allen Gilbert will work on a draft and email to board members.

**Conrad Smith moved to authorize Ginny Burley to write a letter opposing spending caps. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.**

The board discussed sending copies of said letter to the Times Argus and to local representatives.

4.2. Raising U-32 to the next level – Keith Gerritt circulated and reviewed his summary document, “Raising U-32 to the Next Level.” Discussion followed, especially regarding the issues of PLPs and re-structuring the senior year.

5.0. Action Agenda

**5.1. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the administration’s 2007-2008 ESP staffing recommendation, keeping staffing at status quo. Seconded by Adrienne Magida. This motion carried unanimously.**

**5.2. Keith Gerritt presented memo dated April 24, 2007, regarding a proposed summer meeting schedule. Brief discussion followed. The board agreed on these dates, keeping in mind that the July meeting might not be necessary and/or well attended.**

**Conrad Smith moved to approve the summer meeting dates as proposed. Seconded by Adrienne Magida. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.3. Resignations

**5.3.1. Jessica Kipnes Asst. AD & Athletic Trainer – Adrienne Magida moved to accept this resignation, with regret, noting that the board wishes her good luck. Seconded by Sue Chickering. Discussion: Keith Gerritt thanked Jessica Kipnes for her tenure at U-32 and wished her well. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.4. Appointments – None.

6.0. Allen Gilbert moved to the approve the board orders as presented:

May 2, 2007	\$ 63,529.61	General
May 2, 2007	\$ 19,934.52	Food Services

**Seconded by Sue Chickering, this motion carried unanimously.**

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda:

- June 6th: Role of WCSU Executive Committee;
- June: Transportation routes; district Strategic Plan;
- Fall: Trimester versus semester.

8.0. Board Comments – Adrienne Magida suggested the board do something to recognize teacher appreciation week. The board discussed a drawing for prizes.

Ginny Burley commented on having attended the Spaulding “WIB” (Workforce Investment Board) meeting. She reported on the interest in satellite/ pilot programs, and on U-32 being a site for such a program.

9.0. Executive Session – None.

10.0. There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt  
Board Recording Secretary