



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

PAGE 1

Student Discipline Hearing in Executive Session – 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Adrienne Magida and Mike Stridsberg. Mark Berry arrived shortly after executive session began.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal.

The Board was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

Upon motion of Adrienne Magida, seconded by Mike Stridsberg, and approved unanimously, the Board went into Executive Session at 5:09 p.m. to discuss a student disciplinary matter.

At 5:50 p.m., upon motion of Mark Berry, seconded by Mike Stridsberg, and again approved unanimously, the Board came out of Executive Session.

Regular Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Allen Gilbert, Emily Goyette, Adrienne Magida and Mike Stridsberg

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Amy Molina, Athletics & Recreation Director; Tim Flynn, Special Services & Programs Director; Robbe Brook, Superintendent, Nancy Thomas, Director of Special Services/Assistant Superintendent.

Student Representative Present: Benjamin Daut.

Also Present: Michael and Cheryl Rus, Robin Hall, Kyle Lawson, Maureen Lawson, Michael John Rus, Cathy Stacey, Randy Herring, Michelle Walker, Liz Snell, Cecilia Puleio, Ali Freeman, Cody Caccicio, Mel Hough, Times Argus reporter

1.0. The Open Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

1.1. All guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

Mark Berry moved to accept the administration's recommendation regarding the student issue. Seconded by Emily Goyette and Adrienne Magida. This motion passed; Conrad Smith voted against; Allen Gilbert recused himself and abstained from the vote.

1.2. Agenda Revisions – None

1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence: Ginny Burley shared a letter regarding a bus issue.

2.0. Conrad Smith moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2008 school board meeting. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg. Corrections: The student representatives were not present at the meeting; under 9.0, approve leave of absence for Randy Brown. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

Conrad Smith asked that, when policies are approved, the updated/ approved policies be sent to board members. Some board members asked to be notified via email when the website is updated to reflect newly adopted policies.

3.0. Reports to the Board

3.1. WCSU: Ginny Burley reported about a letter from the building principals in the supervisory union expressing concern about the circumstances at EMES taking much of the time and resources from WCSU administrators. Ginny Burley would like roles and responsibilities of WCSU Executive Committee to be addressed at a June U-32 meeting. Ginny Burley reported that on Friday the Facilities Committee will meet with Robbe Brook, Lori Bibeau, Charlotte Hannah Bassage, and herself regarding WCSU office space on U-32 grounds.

3.2. Policy: Allen Gilbert reported that the policy committee has been looking at a number of policies in the past weeks.

3.3. Personnel: No report

3.4. Co-Curricular: No report

3.5. Curriculum: No report

3.6. Facilities: Conrad Smith reported from the April 30th meeting: telephone system RFP has gone out, tennis court fund raising is still moving forward, application for zoning permit has been approved, theater/control board proposal and green house proposal under discussion. Keith Gerritt reported on building commissioning. An RFP is published for resurfacing of the track. Discussion of fields, work on the fields, equipment followed.

3.7. Negotiations: Mark Berry stated that negotiations continue.

3.8. Student Representative's Report: Ben Daut reported on the recent trip to France. Cultural Diversity Day Tuesday May 6th. He reported on this morning's student council meeting; the council was discussing brightening up the school: they feel that the atrium looks "sterile." The student council likes the idea of the memorial "tree" plaque.

3.9. Administrators' Reports: Mark Mooney reported on the trip to France. Mark Mooney spoke about the High School Administrator search committee and the timeline. The committee consists of thirteen people: staff, students, and



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

PAGE 2

parents and a board member. Adrienne Magida offered to serve on the committee to represent the board. Keith Gerritt hopes to bring a finalist to the board on June 4th. Mark Mooney reported that, as a result of the U-32 workshop at the NELMS conference, some schools from neighboring states are planning to visit U-32. Tom McKone reported on the program review process; all programs with the exception of science have (or will by June) reported to the board since this initiative.

Keith Gerritt acknowledged that Teacher Appreciation week is underway, nationwide. The administration will host a breakfast on Friday. Board members will let Keith Gerritt know before Friday of any services they would like to offer to staff in gestures of appreciation.

Keith Gerritt stated that at the next board meeting, administrators will give a presentation on the NECAP assessment. Keith Gerritt briefly reviewed the issue of "Adequate Yearly Progress," specifically, U-32's failure most recently to qualify as making adequate yearly progress in the sub-category of "Economically Disadvantaged" as determined by the federal government. Some conversation followed regarding "No Child Left Behind."

Keith Gerritt reported that the results from the 5-year NEASC report have been received and that U-32 has been approved; Keith Gerritt thanked Tom McKone for his efforts.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Student Off-Campus Conduct: Allen Gilbert gave the board an overview of this issue; specifically, hazing, harassment, bullying. Allen Gilbert circulated for consideration a draft from the Policy Committee: "Comprehensive Discipline Plan: Out of School Misconduct."
The board discussed this draft extensively. Board members had varying opinions on how the school should handle out of school conduct. The policy committee is going to continue to work on this document.
- 4.2. Policy First Reading
 - 4.2.1. Harassment of Employees Policy D12: Allen Gilbert noted that this policy has been edited in minor ways, specifically, to include "gender identity."
- 4.3. Policy Second Reading
 - 4.3.1. Vehicular Idling Policy H12
- 4.4. Policy Third Reading
 - 4.4.1. Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco Policy F7a

5.0. Action Agenda

- 5.1. Adopt Policies
 - 5.1.1. **Harassment of Employees Policy D12: Conrad Smith moved to adopt this policy without a second or third reading. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.**
 - 5.1.2. **Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco Policy F7a: Conrad Smith moved to adopt this policy. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.**
 - 5.1.3. **Adrienne Magida moved to adopt the Vehicular Idling Policy H12 without a third reading. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.2. **Approve New Tractor Purchase: Conrad Smith moved to approve purchasing a tractor from the Capital Fund, up to \$43,500. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg.**
Discussion: Keith Gerritt described the rationale for this purchase.
This motion carried unanimously.
- 5.3. **Approve Memorial Request: Mark Berry moved to approve this request. Seconded by Adrienne Magida.**
Discussion: Ginny Burley reviewed what transpired at the prior board meeting regarding this issue. Mike Stridsberg reported on Policy Committee meetings – three since the last board meeting. He reviewed issues that were identified. The Policy Committee realized that creating a policy around this issue would take some time. The recommendation of the committee is for the board to approve this particular memorial request for a two-year period. Mike Stridsberg read aloud the committee's proposal. Conrad Smith made some suggestions to the wording of the proposal. The board reviewed images for the proposed bench. Keith Gerritt advocated that the board adopt the committee's proposal. There was more discussion of the history, development and the purpose of the policy committee (and other committees). Ginny Burley circulated an article from the National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children for consideration when discussing the issue of memorializing deceased students.
Allen Gilbert amended the motion on the floor so that it reads "move acceptance of the recommendation of the policy committee regarding the memorial bench as amended with suggestions from Conrad Smith incorporated into the proposal."
Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion to amend carried unanimously.
The original motion carried as amended.



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

Adrienne Magida stated that she feels the board should move forward, and not move backward and revisit this particular motion in two years. She would like the policy committee to consider a “grandfather clause” as a policy is created around this issue, going forward.

Mark Berry moved to accept the design of the bench and accept the principal’s recommendation regarding location. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. This motion carried unanimously.

5.4. Approve Spring Athletics Coaches: Adrienne Magida moved to approve these coaches. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.

5.5. Approve Supplemental Contract: Adrienne Magida moved to approve this contract. Seconded by Mike Stridsberg, this motion carried unanimously.

5.6. End of Year Resignations: Adrienne Magida moved to accept with great regret, these resignations. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously. Allen Gilbert thanked Tom McKone for his years of service to U-32. The board echoed his sentiments.

5.6.1. Tom McKone

5.6.2. Eric Keck

5.7. Appointments: Adrienne Magida moved to approve this appointment. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.

5.7.1. John Pandolfo

6.0. Mark Berry moved to approve the following board orders:

May 7, 2008	\$76,850.23	General
May 7, 2008	\$21,672.98	Food Services
May 7, 2008	\$1,120.00	Athletic Officials

Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: “Adequate Yearly Progress,” atrium décor.

8.0. Board Comments: None

9.0. Executive Session: Upon motion of Adrienne Magida, seconded by Mike Stridsberg, and approved unanimously, the Board again went into Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

At 9:03 p.m., upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Allen Gilbert, and approved unanimously, Board came out of Executive Session.

In open session, Allen Gilbert, seconded by Mark Berry, moved to support and approve the administration’s action on the discussed personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

10.0. At 9:05 p.m., the Chair adjourned the Board meeting, without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary
&
Conrad Smith
Board Clerk