



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009

PAGE 1

Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Emily Goyette, Clerk; Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Conrad Smith and Michael Stridsberg (arrived at 6:50)

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Stephanie Taylor, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Lisa LaPlante, Director of Guidance

Student Representatives: Ben Daut and Caitlyn Couture

Others Present: Nikita Buley, Lori Martin, Peg Wilmott, Mary Ellen Hill, Jeff Rubin, Sydney Rubin, Ethan Marshall, Nancy Tucker, Deb Bogart

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

1.1. Reception of Guests: Ginny Burley welcomed those present.

1.2. Agenda Revisions: None

1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence: None

2.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2009 school board meeting. Seconded by Conrad Smith. Discussion: A few edits for clarification were suggested. The minutes were approved unanimously with noted edits.

3.0. Reports to the Board

3.1. Finance: Allen Gilbert circulated the document *Education Fund Outlook*. He talked about a few budget issues.

3.2. Curriculum: No report

3.3. Policy: Allen Gilbert reported that the committee has been looking at policies related to curriculum, e.g., Curriculum Adoption & Coordination, also Selection of Materials. The policy committee continues to review policy aspects of administrator evaluation. Allen Gilbert also noted that the Personnel Recruitment policy related to employees, volunteers, work-study is being reviewed.

3.4. Facilities & Capital Budget: Conrad Smith reported briefly.

3.5. Negotiations: No report

3.6. Central Office Building: No report

3.7. Vermont School Boards' Association: Ginny Burley reported on the most recent VSBA meeting.

3.7. Student Representative's Report: Ben Daut reported that students have concerns about the security issues; this will be discussed later in the meeting. Caitlyn reported on the most recent U-Band assembly.

3.8. Administrator's Report: Lisa LaPlante reported that scheduling is under way; also NECAP administration. She reported that the "Rising 7th Graders" have been visiting. She reported that 15 new 9th graders will come in the fall; many are from the towns of Orange and Washington.

Stephanie Taylor reported on Branching Out end of year presentations.

Keith Gerritt reported on "Trash on the Lawn Day," an event organized by the Green Team. He reported that the school seems to be doing a great job on composting but could improve in the area of recycling. Keith also reported that the recent blood drive was very successful.

Keith Gerritt reported on a meeting he and Stephanie Taylor attended with the new Commissioner of Education. A group of fifteen building level administrators shared their views on the subject of NECAPs. Their meeting will be podcast on the VPA website.

3.9. Strategic Plan: Robbe Brook reported that a Tech Plan for 2009-2012 will go to the WCSU Administrative Team tomorrow. Some discussion followed regarding the new position for 2009-2010, Technology Integrationist.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

4.1. Drugs & Alcohol Policy Discussion: The board discussed this draft briefly. This policy stays at the "second reading" phase; it is not yet ready for the third reading and/or action.

4.2. Field Trip Costs: Stephanie Taylor presented the board with *Overnight Field Trip Comparison*. Stephanie clarified that these are the "non-budgeted" field trips. Discussion followed. The board would like to compare a more exhaustive list of field trip expenses, along with athletic expenses, to consider covering field trips in next year's budget.

4.3. Discussion of Article "Why We're Still 'At Risk'": Mr. Gerritt shared his comments on this article. Discussion followed regarding current evolution of best practice versus "pendulum swinging," the value of standardized assessment, and current topics, for example, "distance learning." Ginny Burley thanked Keith Gerritt for this discussion/thought provoking item and suggested that the board spend more time on such activities.

4.4. Policy Reading

4.4.1. Administrator Evaluation Policy: Allen Gilbert shared this draft with the board for first reading. This policy is moved to second reading.

5.0. Action Agenda



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009**

5.1. Finance Actions

5.1.1. Approve Blanket Authorization: Adrienne Magida moved to approve this blanket authorization to allow summer payments. **Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.**

5.2. **Approve New Front Door Monitor Position:** Keith Gerritt presented this proposal. He talked about the history behind this proposition. Some discussion followed, including the reaction of the student council as well as others present at the board meeting. Some students suggested using a “swipe card” instead; some discussion followed. Mary Ellen Hill stated that the Association’s position is that this should not be a non-bargaining position – she suggested the cost of salary, should this position be part of the ESP (around 25K, maximum.) Keith Gerritt stated his rationale behind suggesting that this position be non-bargaining. He proposed the salary of 29K for the first year. Keith Gerritt stated that in the discussions he’s had with staff around this issue, the option of hiring a front door monitor position was the one that had general support. Some board members felt that this is a “reactionary” proposition. **Allen Gilbert moved to table this issue until the next regularly scheduled U-32 board meeting. Seconded by Mark Berry. Further discussion: What information would the board like for the next meeting, in order to come to a decision? Nothing specifically. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.3. **Resignations:** Allen Gilbert moved to accept, with regret, the following resignations. **Seconded Mike Stridsberg. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.3.1. Angela Shea Student Assistance Counselor

5.3.2. Amy Herrick 0.7 FTE English Teacher

5.3.3. Emily Smith 0.7 FTE Foreign Language Teacher

5.4. **Appointments:** Mike Stridsberg moved to approve this appointment. **Seconded by Emily Goyette, this motion carried unanimously.**

5.4.1. J Arthur Loose 0.7 Visual Arts Teacher

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

May 20, 2009	\$157,360.09	General
May 20, 2009	\$2,980.00	Athletic Officials
May 20, 2009	\$1,836.05	Food Services

Seconded by Emily Goyette, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: Technology Integrationist presentation, board professional development

8.0. Board Comments: None

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

At 8:40 p.m. Mike Stridsberg moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters. **Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.**

At 8:55 p.m. Conrad Smith moved to come out of executive session. **Seconded by Emily Goyette, this motion carried unanimously.**

Allen Gilbert moved to accept the principal's recommendation regarding summer driver education teacher remuneration. **Seconded by Mike Stridsberg, this motion carried with four votes in favor and two against.**

10.0. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary