



## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Allen Gilbert, Emily Goyette, Adrienne Magida, Mike Stridsberg (arrived at 6:15).

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance Director; Nancy Thomas, WCSU Assistant Superintendent; Carole Freeman, WCSU Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Student Representative Present: Benjamin Daut.

Also Present: Maggie Eaton, Janie Malloy, Jeff Rubin, Stephanie Taylor, Mel Huff, *The Times Argus*.

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

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

**2.0. Conrad Smith moved to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2008 school board meeting. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. Corrections: Allen Gilbert pointed out a few minor edits. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. Finance: Allen Gilbert reported that the Finance Committee met on May 18th. The fund balance has been affected (negatively) by the bleachers expenses and by a decrease in state funding that helps pay for the SAP position. He reported that this year we are over budget in professional development. The committee would like to propose that the board close the construction fund (action item on tonight's agenda.) More discussion at the June 18th meeting will follow, regarding the issue of the Capital Fund.
- 3.2. Curriculum: Adrienne Magida reported that the committee most recently looked at grade distribution by department. Some discussion followed regarding credit for participating in co-curricular activities. Some discussion of add/drop period, of "class rank;" of pass/fail by choice.
- 3.3. VSBA: Ginny Burley reported. The Commissioner of Education is leaving; going to UVM. She invited board members to see her about nomination processes for numerous awards offered by the VSBA. Ginny reported that VSBA continues to discuss governance; she referred to the "Lighthouse Project," which looks at a correlation between boards' practice and students' performance.
- 3.4. Facilities: Conrad Smith reported on the telephone upgrade RFP; Jeff Arey and the Technology team are sifting through the five bids that have been received. Tennis courts: talking about a bid package for this project. Conrad Smith reminded the board that it has promised \$30,000 once \$100,000 has been raised for the tennis court project. Theatre: stage floor and lighting continue to be considered: re-sanding and refinishing of the stage floor is desired. Greenhouse: no estimate of cost for this project yet. Building commission: The commission is complete but Casey Harrington is looking to come up with a list of needs based on the final report. Some discussion followed of the definition of "building commission." Repair of the track is scheduled for the week of June 23rd. Condition of the fields continues to be assessed. Bid specs are being developed for the tractor purchase previously authorized. Supervisory union central office relocation continues to be discussed/considered. Conrad Smith stated that the Capital Budget document is almost complete for the board's perusal. Approximate 2008 Capital budget: \$200,000; expected 2009: \$221,700; expected 2010: \$204,000. Question for the board for the future: how does the board set aside money for the expected capital funds?
- 3.5. Negotiations: Mark Berry reported that negotiations continue.
- 3.6. Student Representative's Report: Ben Daut reported that next year's schedules have been distributed to students. Brief discussion of semester scheduling followed, especially how it might affect AP testing.
- 3.7. Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt circulated the April 30, 2008, draft of "WCSU Strategic Plan 2008-2013." He reported on the 8th Grade Teen Issues day. Keith reported that the Marine Biology class returned from their snorkeling trip to Bermuda, and all accounts of this experience have been very positive. Keith stated that the Branching Out year-end presentations are now under way. Lisa LaPlante stated that AP testing is finishing up this week. She reported on the NECAP Science testing being almost complete; she reported on the 6th grade visits from the five sending schools. Lisa also reported that U-32 will be an ACT site in June 2008 for the first time. Keith Gerritt circulated to school board members "hard copies" of the most recently updated and new policies. Keith Gerritt suggested that the June 18th board meeting be rescheduled due to the 8th grade Step-Up. Some discussion followed regarding June board meeting dates. The board agreed to hold both June board meetings on Tuesdays: June 3rd and June 17th. The board agreed to forego board meetings in July. The board anticipates meeting every Wednesday in August – two regular board meetings, the board retreat and the WCSU Full Board meeting. Keith Gerritt stated that graduation will begin at 7 p.m., not 6:30 as previously stated. The board and administration plan to meet at 6 p.m., before graduation.



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Tom McKone reported that 25 students will be receiving Senior Honors.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. **NECAP Results Presentation:** Maggie Eaton and Janey Malloy began the presentation to the board. Carole Freeman then presented a power point summary of the 2007 NECAP results. Keith Gerritt spoke briefly about “AYP” – Adequate Yearly Progress” as defined by “NCLB” – No Child Left Behind. Janey Malloy shared with the board the Action Plan step (Goal 2) as it relates to the NECAP scores. The board thanked Carole Freeman, Janey Malloy and Maggie Eaton for this presentation.
- 4.2. **Criminal Records Check (CRC) Procedure:** Allen Gilbert spoke briefly about some changes in state law and how it might affect the Criminal Records Check Procedure. He stated some misgivings that some members of the Policy Committee have about this proposed change in procedure. He explained some details of the Child Abuse Registry. Allen Gilbert stated his reservations about due process rights with respect to this issue. Some discussion followed. Ginny Burley asked the board for opinions on this issue. Conrad Smith expressed his concerns about a criminal justice system that, many times, doesn’t work, and therefore the possible injustice in adding this layer. The general consensus of the board is that this is a useful tool that should be used for all employees, present and future, including bus drivers, coaches, etc. Nancy Thomas stated that a draft of this policy/procedure will be available for readings at the board.
- 4.3. **Exit Interview:** Ginny Burley invited Tom McKone to share his comments, observations, advice as he prepares to end his U-32 career. Discussion followed regarding Tom McKone’s 24 years at U-32. The board thanked him.

5.0. Action Agenda

- 5.1. Finance Actions
  - 5.1.1. Approve Construction Fund Close-Out:** Allen Gilbert moved to close the construction fund and transfer funds to the Capital Fund. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.2. 2008-2009 RIF Recall – No action.
- 5.3. End of Year Resignations and Retirements:** Allen Gilbert moved to accept with regret, the following resignations and retirements. Seconded by Adrienne, this motion carried unanimously.
  - 5.3.1. Barbara Cioffi** 1.0 FTE Physical Education Teacher
  - 5.3.2. Emily Johnson** 0.7 FTE Visual Arts Teacher
  - 5.3.3. Judy Klima** 1.0 FTE Visual Arts Teacher
  - 5.3.4. Jamie Jenkins** Maintenance & Mechanic
  - 5.3.5. Victoria Sperrey** Paraeducator
- 5.4. Appointments:** Allen Gilbert moved to approve the following appointment: Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.
  - 5.4.1. Andrea Shea** 0.5 FTE Student Assistance Counselor
- 5.5. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the blanket order.** Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.6. The board on record gave tacit approval to the support of the tennis court project in the amount of \$30,000 once \$100,000 has been raised.**

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

May 21, 2008	\$52,743.62	General
May 21, 2008	\$2,422.50	Athletic Officials

Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda:

- 8.0. Board Comments: Mike Stridsberg shared a plaque won by middle school chess players at the Vermont State Chess Tournament at Camels Hump Middle School.
- 9.0. Executive Session: None.
- 10.0. Adjournment: At 9:10 p.m., without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt  
Board Recording Secretary