



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2006

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Rob LaClair, Vice Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Mark Berry, Susan Chickering, Stuart Savage, Tom Williams, Dot Blake, Principal, Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal, Robbe Brook, Superintendent; and Alison Gauthier, Student Representative.

Also Present: Carole Freeman, WCSU Curriculum Director; Beatrice David, Caroline Grace, Adam French, Sarah Volinsky, Emily Smith and Sheryl Lamberti from the Foreign Language Department; Janey Malloy, Larry Beebe, Julie Kiefer and Chris Ditmeyer from the Math Department.

- 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 – An addendum was presented; action item 5.6 to approve a leave of absence request was added.
 - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.
- 2.0 Consent Agenda
 - 2.1 **Stuart Savage moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2006 school board meeting as written.**
This motion was approved unanimously.
- 3.0 Reports to the Board
 - 3.1 WCSU – Rob LaClair reported on the Article 10 issue. The committee is working on an RFP to move forward with finding different space for the central office.
 - 3.2 Policy – There was brief discussion of the field trip policy that is still under development.
 - 3.3 Personnel – The committee will report in executive session.
 - 3.4 Co-Curricular – Tom Williams reviewed a write up by Amy Molina for meeting Athletic Standards. Allen Gilbert reported on a group of people very interested in, and advocating strongly for tennis courts built within a year, at U-32, rather than risk losing the tennis team.
 - 3.5 Administrator's Report – Dot Blake reported on the death of an 8th grade student this morning. Dot noted that two reports – one to Human Rights Commission, and another, NEASC follow up – both are underway and the latter report will be ready for board review at the next board meeting. Dot also reported that many seniors worked in the community last Friday as part of the Student Community Outreach Project (SCOP). She reported that the search committees have done a great job and have many names to present to the board this evening. Ginny Burley noted that the Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for 1:45 pm on Tuesday, not 1:00 pm.
- 4.0 Discussion Agenda
 - 4.1 Foreign Language Department Program Review – The Foreign Language Department presented “Foreign Language Departmental Review 2005-06.” Teachers introduced themselves and the department chair reviewed the department's stated goals. Some discussion ensued regarding students entering middle school from five sending schools with a wide variety of ability levels and curriculum differences. Financial implications of a wider spectrum, more elementary grade inclusive program, were discussed. Dot Blake also brought up the issue of finding time in the school day at the elementary level, to include foreign language. Some discussion followed regarding languages other than French and Spanish and the teachers reported that “Branching Out” was meeting those needs now. Distance learning was discussed briefly. Ginny Burley asked whether the department found the review process to be helpful and the reply was that it was a very time consuming and daunting task.
 - 4.2 Math Department Program Review – The Math Department presented “Math Department Program Review 2005-06.” Some discussion followed regarding the curriculum of the sending elementary schools, and assessment/placement of 7th grade students. The math curriculum is universal, district wide, in the elementary schools. Carole Freeman and the math department members agreed that, even with the same curriculum, teaching methods can vary greatly and therefore produce different levels of understanding or ability, or assessment outcome. Discussion ensued regarding homogeneous grouping and differentiation of instruction. Allen Gilbert requested that, before any changes were made in math program instruction delivery or curriculum, the board be included in discussion and decision making. Sue Chickering asked for the department to become aware of CCV's “accu-placement” exam and know that all students, after their 4th years, can pass this assessment. Gender differences were discussed at length: differences in assessment results as well as differences in student behavior/classroom climate.
 - 4.3 Special Services & Programs Report – Tim Flynn presented “Special Education and Special Programs: Report to the U-32 School Board June 7, 2006.” Some discussion ensued regarding “9th Grade Academy”. This program is expected to be funded through grant monies again next year but in the coming years may need to be part of the school budget. Discussion followed regarding SRS placement students and students enrolled at U-32 but placed in alternative or outside programs.
 - 4.4 Overview of VELA/ Commissioner's Report – None tonight.



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4.5 Discuss creation of an Ad Hoc Facilities Sub-Committee – The board discussed some members to recommend to this committee; Mark Berry recommended Amy Molina be part of it; Stuart Savage volunteered to serve on the committee; Ginny Burley noted that Jeff Rubin had volunteered to serve on a committee. She stated that through word of mouth the board should get the word out to people to join this committee.

5.0 Action Agenda

5.1 Approve Bid Awards

5.1.1 Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to award the revenue anticipation note bid to TD Banknorth Vermont for the time period of July 3, 2006 through June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$3,328,398.00 at an interest rate of 3.85%.

This motion passed unanimously.

5.1.2 Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to award the investment bid to TD Banknorth Vermont for the time period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 at a minimum guaranteed interest rate of 5.25%.

This motion passed unanimously.

5.1.3 Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve Ultramar as the oil supplier from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 at a fixed price of \$2.64 per gallon.

This motion passed unanimously.

5.2 Resignations – To be discussed in executive session.

5.3 Tom Williams moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the following appointments as nominated:

- 5.3.1 Jessica Smetana 1.0 English**
- 5.3.2 Ann Giroux 0.7 English**
- 5.3.3 Kate McCann 1.0 Math**
- 5.3.4 Emily McLean 0.8 Visual Arts**
- 5.3.5 Jon Antonucci 0.7 Social Studies**

This motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Tom Williams moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve the board orders as presented:

June 7, 2006	\$95,993.10	General
June 7, 2006	\$44,879.99	Construction
June 7, 2006	\$24,183.52	Food Services
June 1, 2006	\$ 1,875.00	Athletics
June 5, 2006	\$ 492.63	Athletics
May 22, 2006	\$ 180.00	Athletics

This motion passed unanimously.

5.4.1 Tom Williams moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve the Blanket Authorization as presented with board order.

This motion passed unanimously.

7.0 Ideas for Future Agenda – Sue Chickering would like to discuss technology requests as well as a guidance survey. Dot Blake noted that Keith Gerritt, the new principal, would attend the next board meeting on June 21.

8.0 Board Comments – Ginny Burley noted that the curriculum committee has drafted a recommendation regarding graduation requirements for review by the policy committee. The committee would like to have this policy revision completed and in place by the next school year.

6.0 Mark Berry moved and Tom Williams seconded a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. This motion passed unanimously and the board entered executive session at 9:00 pm.

Mark Berry moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to end executive session. This motion passed unanimously and the board came out of executive session at 9:42 pm.

5.5 Approve Non-Bargaining Unit Contracts – No action.

5.6 Rob moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve a 2006-2007 leave of absence request from an ESP staff member.

This motion failed with a unanimous vote.

9.0 There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary