



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Tom Williams, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent.

Also Present: Dan Boomhower, Tom Cate, Nancy Disenhaus, Joanne Greenberg.

- 1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.
 - 1.1. Reception of Guests – Ginny Burley welcomed several guests who were present to hear Dan Boomhower’s exit interview.
 - 1.2. Agenda Revisions – Ginny Burley noted that some finance actions tonight will not be necessary since they are the responsibility of the WCSU board, while the following two finance actions will be added: “Bus Savings” and “Capital Fund Designation.”
 - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – The board commented that graduation went really well, the speaker was well received.

Ginny Burley invited Dan Boomhower’s input to the board in light of his retirement after his long tenure at U-32. He spoke about scheduling issues and how they impacted the school’s music and arts programs. Dan also spoke about the need for an increase in time allocated for the position of Technical & Performing Arts Director.

Discussion followed among the board, the administrators, and the teachers present. Ginny Burley asked whether a proposal for a new scheduling model would be available for board consideration soon, so that changes may be made in time for scheduling for 2008-09. Keith Gerritt replied that he did think so, in the fall. Discussion of trimester versus semester, and length of classes, followed.

The board thanked Dan Boomhower for his 30 years of teaching students at U-32.

- 2.0. **Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Tom Williams. Discussion: Sue Chickering pointed out two typos. These being noted, the motion carried unanimously.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. Finance – Allen Gilbert reported from the latest finance meeting, the roof project got the “go ahead” from the state. He noted that this is the last year that projects such as this will get such a large reimbursement from the state. He reported that the fund balance looks “healthy” for several reasons: investment income, special education revenue versus cost, transportation related costs. The Finance Committee would like to put some money from the fund balance into the recently created, voter-approved capital fund. Allen also reported on an action this evening, to deal with additional money left over from this year to be put to next year for projected/ proposed additional busing expenses.
- 3.2. Curriculum – No report.
- 3.3. VSBA – No report.
- 3.4. Facilities Report – Conrad Smith reported that the roof project will start in July. He reported that Amy Molina had spoken to the Facilities Committee regarding the tennis court project and this project does not look financially feasible for this coming school year; hopefully in the following school year. He reported on the plan to have the athletic fields assessed and evaluated; the person who was hoped to have performed these assessments has not been available. Albert Petrella, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, will make one more attempt to schedule an assessment with this person, and if not successful, will look for another person to conduct the fields assessment. Conrad reported on the committee’s effort to create a list for capital fund expenses.
- 3.5. Student Representatives’ Reports – No report.
- 3.6. Administrator’s Report – Keith Gerritt reported that the 8th grade DC trip was a great success. Some discussion followed regarding the staggered arrival of buses at the end of the trip. Keith reported that the high school awards assembly went well; he reported on staff development this week after the completion of student days. Keith also reported that a subpoena had been served related to video camera surveillance. He reported that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was presently reviewing our application to designate U-32 as a school to receive foreign citizen students with temporary residence in the U.S. He reported that the school is going to sponsor a realtor’s breakfast in July.
Tom McKone reported that the student/ parent handbook will be revised in July; a draft available in August; if any board members would like input into the revision he invited them to take a copy of the current handbook and provide input by July 25th. Tom reported on a senior prank. Tom reported on graduation; he reported that 13 students did not graduate; this is a large number, and senior TAs have already met to discuss this incidence. Some discussion followed regarding this issue. 8 students graduated using the Alternative Path to Graduation.

4.0. Discussion Agenda



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- 4.1. Transportation Routes – A board liaison needs to be appointed to approve any changes made over the summer to the transportation routes; the entire board will be asked to confirm the routes in August.
- 4.2. WCSU Strategic Plan – Keith Gerritt reported that a WCSU district-wide Strategic Plan is to be developed with the assistance of Judy Walke, a consultant. A process is in place to develop a strategic plan; a Strategic Plan committee will be formed. Conrad Smith stated his trepidation about developing a strategic plan that reflects a desire for supervisory-wide uniformity. Some discussion followed regarding a strategic plan that had been developed in the past, with the assistance of a consultant, for U-32.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Finance Actions

- 5.1.1. Allen Gilbert moved that the board award the revenue anticipation note of \$3,275,943 to TD Banknorth Vermont at an interest rate of 3.68% for the time period of July 2, 2007, to June 29, 2008. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.1.2. Allen Gilbert moved that the board award the investment bid to TD Banknorth Vermont for the time period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, at a minimum guaranteed interest rate of 5.33% for school operating accounts. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.1.3. Allen Gilbert moved that the board award the FY 2008 fuel old bid to Ultramar at a fixed price of \$2.39 per gallon. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.1.4. Allen Gilbert moved that the board reserve the anticipated sum of \$15,000 in bus fuel savings to cover bus fund expenses in FY 2008. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.1.5. Allen Gilbert moved that the board designate a total of \$250,000 from current funds to the voter-approved capital fund, said amount consisting of the following terms:

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| \$30,000 | Tennis Court Project |
| \$61,300 | Technology |
| \$158,700 | Facilities |

Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

- 5.2. Determine Participation Level in VPA Member-to-Member Program: Keith Gerritt presented the board with an *Annual Report on U-32's participation in the VPA Member to Member Program June 2007*. Tom Williams moved to support Amy Molina's recommendation to decline participation in the VPA Member to Member Program. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.3. Adopt Tentative 2007-08 Bus Routes and Designate Board Liaison to Finalize
 - 5.3.1. Mark Berry moved to approve the tentative 2007-2008 bus routes. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.
 - 5.3.2. Mark Berry moved to designate Tom Williams as a board liaison and to authorize him to give the board's approval to any future changes to 2007-2008 bus routes. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.4. Tom Williams moved to accept with regret the resignation of Cindy Dailey as Office Manager in Guidance. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.
- 5.5. Mark Berry moved to appoint Jessica Hannigan as custodian. Seconded by Tom Williams, this motion carried unanimously.

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

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| June 20, 2007 | \$70,720.96 | General |
| June 20, 2007 | \$8,670.14 | Food Services |

Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agendas: Scheduling / Administrative Assistance / Technical Support

8.0. Board Comments: A reminder of the summer meetings: Aug 8th regular board meeting; Aug 15th board retreat; August 22nd regular board meeting; August 29th WCSU all-board meeting.

9.0. Anticipated Executive Session – None.

10.0. Adjournment – There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary