



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2007**

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Sue Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Tom Williams.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Amy Molina, Athletics & Recreation Director; Janey Malloy, HS Curriculum Team; Nancy Thomas, WCSU Special Services Director/Asst. Superintendent.

Others Present: Lynn Root, Jeff Rubin

- 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 – None.
 - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.
- 2.0. 2. Consent Agenda
 - 2.1. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2007, School Board Meeting. Seconded by Tom Williams. This motion carried unanimously with noted changes.**
- 3.0. Reports to the Board
 - 3.1. WCSU – Nancy Thomas noted that the Executive Committee is working on Roles and Responsibilities and a Strategic Plan.
 - 3.2. Policy – No report.
 - 3.3. Personnel – No report.
 - 3.4. Co-Curricular – No report.
 - 3.5. Curriculum – No report.
 - 3.6. Facilities Report – Ginny Burley reported that the committee had reviewed the status reports on the school's athletic fields; a proposal for improving fields is in the works.
 - 3.7. Administrator's Report – Keith Gerritt, Tom McKone and Nancy Thomas reported on the administrators' "Leadership Academy" in Killington this past week. Keith reported that two themes for U-32 in-service professional development will be "focus on literacy" and "nurturing school climate."
Tom McKone reported on field trips; particularly the Marine Biology trips to Bermuda in first and third trimesters. Tom also reviewed for the board *2006-07 Substitute Expenditure*. He noted the rate difference for paying a substitute the regular rate versus paying for "extended leave."
 - 3.8. Finance – Roof Repairs – The Clerk of the Works reports that the roof job is going fine so far; he noted that a few surprises have been discovered but nothing that might affect the cost significantly. The Clerk of the Works requested and has received a proposal for repairing two additional areas of the roof. These include the gym and two lower auditorium roofs. The cost of the additional work will not exceed the board authorized total dollar amount for the roof project.
Allen Gilbert reported that the year ended with a fund balance that is almost equal to the fund balance that began the year; the board has done very well managing the fund balance.
Substitute Pay: The committee looked at the issue of the "substitute pay" line item – in researching area schools, a discovery was made that U-32's rate of pay for substitutes is lower than neighboring schools. Keith Gerritt is going to further investigate this and come to the board with a proposal.
- 4.0. Discussion Agenda
 - 4.1. Athletics & Recreation Department 2006-07 Annual Report – Amy Molina presented this written report to the board. Discussion followed regarding student participation in sports; specifically, the subject of sports that show a trend of small numbers of athletes and high costs. Ginny Burley asked whether a report could be available for consideration, to show costs per sport (and per athlete) broken down by category, e.g., transportation, equipment, etc.
 - 4.2. Facility Use 2006-07 Annual Report – Amy Molina presented this written report to the board. She also spoke about the difficulty and time-and-labor-intensity of managing the facility. Amy suggested "event staffing." Discussion followed regarding facility use charge/ rate and the policy related to this issue. Discussion followed regarding others using the school building to carry out for-profit ventures. The board suggested that the Facilities Committee look at this report to discuss updating policies and procedures for facilities use.
Sue Chickering asked about the status of the tennis courts; Amy Molina reported that the committee will come together again in the fall and begin to move this project forward.
 - 4.3. 2007-2008 Action Plan Draft – Janey Malloy presented to the board a draft; she pointed out changes in this year's plan. The board thanked Janey for her work.
 - 4.4. Policy First Readings – The board reviewed these policies for first readings. Wording "90 days" is unclear and should be changed to "up to 90 days" in all cases in the two policies. "SAP Counselor" should be defined in Drugs and Alcohol policy, at least the first time in the policy. These policies are moved to second readings for next school board meeting.



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- 4.4.1. Student Conduct & Discipline – F1
- 4.4.2. Drugs & Alcohol – F7

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Adrienne Magida moved to approve the 2007-2008 Action Plan as presented. Seconded by Tom Williams, this motion carried unanimously.

5.2. Tom McKone thanked Allen Gilbert for his editing suggestions on the draft of the Student/Parent Handbook. Adrienne Magida suggested listing staff phone extensions; the extensions will be listed in the next newsletter. **Tom Williams moved to approve the 2007-2008 Student/ Parent Handbook as presented. Seconded by Adrienne Magida. Discussion: The Drugs & Alcohol Policy should have a note stating that a newer version of the policy is in the process of being adopted by the board. This motion carried unanimously, with noted change.**

5.3. Adrienne Magida moved to approve the 2007-2008 Department Heads, as recommended. Seconded by Tom Williams. Discussion: the board asked for points of clarification. Ginny Burley asked the board and administration to consider whether the function of Department Head is worth the additional expense. Keith Gerritt replied that he does feel that this position is valuable and worth the expense, and provided rationale to support the position of Department Head. This motion carried unanimously.

5.4. Tom Williams moved to approve the fall athletic coaches as presented. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

5.5. Resignations – None.

5.6. Appointments: Sue Chickering moved to approve the following appointments, as recommended by the administration. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.

- 5.6.1. **Ralph B. Hunnewell** **Guidance Counselor**
- 5.6.2. **Andrea Bonamico** **Music Teacher**
- 5.6.3. **Tracy D. Martin** **Guidance Office Manager**
- 5.6.4. **Dorothy G. Singleton** **Food Service Worker**
- 5.6.5. **Andrea M. Jette** **Assistant AD/ Athletic Trainer**

5.7. Tom Williams moved to waive tuition for student Ronald Otoo of Ghana. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. Discussion: The board discussed the policy and procedure regarding this issue. Adrienne Magida commented that exchange students enhance the school. This motion carried unanimously; Lynn Root thanked the board. Keith Gerritt discussed with the board the possibility of other foreign exchange students; he noted that many of the advanced courses requested by these students are close to being full already with U-32 students. He asked the board's preference. Discussion followed regarding flexibility in scheduling for these students. The board agreed to two more slots to consider foreign exchange students; after two, each case would be decided individually.

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

June 26, 2007	\$120.00	Athletic Officials
June 29, 2007	\$54,481.70	General
July 6, 2007	\$20,489.64	General
July 18, 2007	\$26,997.65	General
August 8, 2007	\$551,497.01	General

Seconded by Tom Williams, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: Board Retreat – Wed., August 15th 5:30 – 8:30 at Sue Chickering's home.

8.0. Board Comments – None.

9.0. Executive Session – None.

10.0. Adjournment – There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary