



## SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT MINUTES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Rob LaClair, Vice-Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Mark Berry, Susan Chickering, Stuart Savage, Tom Williams, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent.

1.0 The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ginny Burley.

Thanks to Kristi for the wonderful dinner!

Keith outlined 3 goals: Taking U-32 to the next level; increasing accountability; pursuing the High Schools on the Move initiative.

Discussion of accountability, personnel management, supervision, evaluation, contracts, department heads, mentoring.

How to get meaningful student feedback? Keith is meeting with student BOD rep's before the meetings. We might want more student rep's.

Keith proposed "management by walking around" – being visible, dropping into classrooms, observing, talking to students. Monitoring and informal supervision.

Discussion of guidance. Customer service. Perception. Access and outreach. Nuts, bolts, and mechanics: scheduling, college, vocational, academic, advising. Maintaining high expectations.

Surveys proposed to get feedback about guidance, TA, and support services. Deb Wolf will help.

B.O.D. would like to see more future-thinking – connecting learning to goals, career link. Portfolio that follows students 7-12, linking learning to goals. Vocational training.

Post-grad survey would be helpful – several years out. Did you get what you needed from U-32?

Budget: passing by narrower margins. What can we do to trim the budget? Can adjustments to staffing/duty/substitute use gain us any ground? Field trips. When our enrollment levels off or declines our per-pupil expense will climb rapidly. Challenge: elementary schools with very small classes affect our town tax rates and the combined per-pupil expenses.

Suggestion: Keith (with appropriate U-32 BOD member) will make a round of visits to local boards at their schools, to foster communication.

How can we get more public input into the budget at an early stage?

BOD presence at Open House, Meet Your TA Night.

Other issues: academic rigor; collaboration with Montpelier; middle school within high school; ensuring credibility of alternative options; drop-out/retention rates; socio-economic/gender concerns. Who is falling through the cracks, and where are they going? How can we meet the needs of all students? Joint January in-service with MPS on diversity.

We don't have to automatically continue doing what we've always done. We can sort out the core values.

Guideline for initiatives: can it increase opportunities and help kids without costing more?

2.0 The board retreat adjourned by consensus at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.