



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2008**

PAGE 1

Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Allen Gilbert, Emily Goyette, Adrienne Magida, Mike Stridsberg

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Stephanie Taylor, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Amy Molina, Athletics & Recreation Director; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance Director; Robbe Brook, Superintendent

Student Representatives Present: None

Also Present: Janey Malloy, HS Curriculum Coordinator, Wes Cate, Jeff Rubin, Elizabeth Beatty-Owens, Steve Owens

- 1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.
  - 1.1. All guests were welcomed
  - 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None
  - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – Ginny Burley shared inquiry from former U-32 board member Tom Williams regarding activity on the issue of lowering the drinking age.
- 2.0. Consent Agenda
  - 2.1. **Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2008 school board meeting. Minor edits were made to: 1.1 Reception of guests was expanded to include all guests; 5.1. [Names of authorized signer removed and added was included;] 9.0. Punctuation was added.**
- 3.0. Reports to the Board
  - 3.1. Finance: No Report
  - 3.2. Curriculum: No Report
  - 3.3. V.S.B.A.: Ginny Burley reported on topics under discussion at the V.S.B.A. including the possibility of whether training should be mandatory for school board members. Certain town officers already receive mandatory training. Some training may be available via DVD.
  - 3.4. Facilities Report: Has not met, but will be meeting next week.
  - 3.5. Negotiations: Mark Berry reported that negotiations continue.
  - 3.6. Student Representative's Report: No Report
  - 3.7. Administrator's Report: Keith reported on last week's department head retreat at one of the member's homes. Keith also reported that he had attended a two-day session of the VPA's Activities Standards Committee where they discussed a number of issues that are going on all over the state. All of U-32's administrator's participated in a very successful WCSU administrators' retreat where a primary topic of discussion was the strategic plan. Robbe mentioned that the WCSU strategic plan will be shared at the full board meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Keith Gerritt reported on the start of school for teachers that included 14 new teachers, one new administrator, one paraprofessional, one SAP – Student Assistance Professional, and two new custodians. Keith followed up a question from an earlier meeting regarding the number of students we are transporting from Orange, and whether students that are picked up first are dropped off first or last. Mark Mooney said that last year there were seven riders from Orange, though one of those is not attending this year. We presently have fifteen or sixteen this year. There is no written policy regarding first on, first off for busses. This is not always feasible when there are dead end roads or busses have to turn around. Sometimes students can be left off earlier in the route but we do not guarantee being dropped off in the same order as the morning pick-up. Mark also spoke of how we have planned to accommodate the transportation needs of a wheelchair bound student. As it stands now, this student will not be on a regular bus route. Arrangements are still being worked out so that this student has a good start to the school year. Conrad asked whether a bus that passes a student's home twice, could pick up the student the second time it passes, and drop off the first time it passes their home. Emily Goyette inquired about the funding for the bussing for the Orange students. Keith Gerritt and Lisa LaPlante responded that this is more than offset by the tuition paid by Orange School District. Mark Mooney reported on three great new middle school teachers as well as restructuring of the core groups. Amy Molina reported on the start of the fall athletic season with approximately 250 student athletes. Middle school practices begin next week. First high school games are the end of next week. Lisa LaPlante reported that the elementary school counselors and Katie Babic, our new middle school guidance counselor spent the day together working on aligning the curriculum K-12 in guidance. Guidance will be providing a bus to the college fair on September 18. Stephanie Taylor reported on her first weeks at U-32 and preparation for the beginning of school, planning for in-service, student/parent handbooks, and newsletter. Conrad asked about the current plans for the U-Band. Keith reported that the first three or four U-Bands have been planned, and there are preliminary plans for U-Band through the rest of the first marking period. Keith also put



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2008**

PAGE 2

forward a request for the board to consider for future discussion: having one U-Band each marking period be a late start for students, becoming a professional development opportunity for faculty and staff.

Keith also invited the board to set the date for the board's breakfast for new teachers. The board set Tuesday, September 9 from 7:00-7:45 am.

Jeff Rubin asked if the number of new teachers was unusual. Keith replied that we had 14 new teachers this year. While we had only a few last year, we had eleven the year before.

- 5.4. Elisabeth Beatty-Owens and Steve Owens joined the meeting at this time for the action on approval of tuition waivers for foreign exchange students.

Keith reminded the board that last year they had authorized him and the administration to select up to three foreign exchange students each year. This year we had selected three students, when this new request was received. One of the first three will only be here for the fall semester. If the board approves this request, there will be a total of 3 ½ waivers provided. Conrad inquired about the cost, and the annual tuition of \$11,400 was provided.

**Mark Berry moved and Adrienne Magida seconded a motion to approve the tuition waivers for the four foreign exchange students as requested.  
The motion carried unanimously.**

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Tennis Court Update – Amy Molina provided a handout and summarized the estimated construction expenses, the bid process and the current funds through July 31, 2008. One formal bid was received that included only “finish” work, with the thought that we would utilize volunteer and in-kind donations for site preparations. Currently we have just over \$86,000 in the account and a \$24,000 grant award from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Additional funding sources are being pursued, including a possible \$40,000 grant from the USTA New England. Amy confirmed that our Act 250 permit is in place. Amy provided new information to the board on recent storm water runoff issues and whether we might be required to obtain a storm water permit. Amy and John LaRosa are pursuing information and answers to questions.

Keith also reported to the board that he, Conrad Smith, Casey Harrington, and Dave Burley had met to look again at possible locations for the central office on the U-32 campus. There was discussion on various issues related to parking areas, drainage, and storm water runoff issues.

Amy also reported on the broader issues related to storm water runoff near our building, our neighbors, and on some of our fields.

Ginny Burley reported that an engineer who had inspected the neighbor's water damage would be providing us with a report stating that our storm water runoff had nothing to do with their damage.

Amy said the total needed to complete the tennis courts would be between \$23,000 to \$63,000 depending on whether or not the USTA grant is received.

- 4.2. 2008-2009 Action Plan – Janey Malloy presented the action plan and highlighted each goal and what changed from last year's plan. Keith recognized the excellent work done by Janey and those on the Action Plan Committee. Keith also mentioned that going forward Stephanie will serve as the chair of the Senior Year Committee. It was also noted how our Action Plan reflects the goals in the district's Strategic Plan. Mark Mooney will be co-chairing the Formative Assessment Committee with Carole Freeman, and Lisa LaPlante is tri-chairing the PLP/PGP Committee with two of the elementary principals.

There was discussion regarding accountability or benchmarks; also discussion on boys' underachievement versus girls' achievement; how we know if the steps we take are working to improve student learning; insuring appropriate supports for students to be successful. Some suggestions for clarity were provided.

Jeff Rubin brought up the topic of teaching study skills. Keith responded that study skills are taught and supported in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Conrad Smith suggested the addition of action steps related supports for disadvantaged students. Emily Goyette asked for benchmarks.

4.3. Policy Third Reading

- 4.3.1. Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Check Policy – Allen Gilbert presented this policy and highlighted changes. The board recommended this be tabled and a review requested by Patty Blondin, WCSU Administrative Assistant for HR.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Finance Actions

- 5.1.1. Approve Final Tennis Court Expense: Mike Stridsberg moved and Conrad Smith seconded a motion to table this item.**

**The motion to table carried unanimously.**

- 5.2. Approve 2008-2009 Action Plan: Allen Gilbert moved and Conrad Smith seconded a motion to table this item.  
The motion to table carried unanimously.**



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2008**

**5.3. Approve Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Check Policy:** Allen Gilbert moved and Conrad seconded a motion to table this item.  
The motion to table carried unanimously.

**5.4. Approve Foreign Exchange Student Tuition Waiver Requests:** See action taken above.

- |                                            |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>5.4.1. Kirstine Mattheson - Denmark</b> | <b>Levine Family - Middlesex</b>    |
| <b>5.4.2. York Wagner - Germany</b>        | <b>Peterson Family - Worcester</b>  |
| <b>5.4.3. Felix Wenniger - Germany</b>     | <b>Root Family - Calais</b>         |
| <b>5.4.4. Annika Eilers - Germany</b>      | <b>Beatty-Owens Family - Calais</b> |

**5.5. Approve Residency Tuition Waiver Request:** Mark Berry moved and Mike Stridsberg seconded a motion to approve a tuition waiver. There was discussion regarding the length of the waiver.  
Mark Berry moved and Allen Gilbert seconded a motion to amend the main motion to waive tuition to October 1, 2008 with the provision that that if residency is not established by that date, tuition will be assessed from that date forward.

The amendment carried unanimously.  
The main motion as amended carried unanimously.

**5.6. Approve 2008-2009 Department Heads:** Adrienne Magida moved and Emily Goyette seconded a motion to approve the department heads as presented. Keith advised the board that Emily Smith had stepped down as the foreign language department head.

The motion with the noted change carried unanimously.

**5.7. Approve Fall Athletics Coaches:** Mark Berry moved and Mike Stridsberg seconded a motion to approve the fall coaches as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

5.8. Resignations: None.

**5.9. Appointments:** Adrienne Magida moved and Conrad Smith seconded a motion to approve the following nominations:

- |                               |                                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>5.9.1. Brian Swisher</b>   | <b>0.5 FTE Science Teacher</b>           |
| <b>5.9.2. Janey Malloy</b>    | <b>0.1 FTE Math Teacher</b>              |
| <b>5.9.3. Benjamin Salls</b>  | <b>Custodian</b>                         |
| <b>5.9.4. Peter Daigle</b>    | <b>Custodian</b>                         |
| <b>5.9.5. Beth Allen</b>      | <b>0.6 FTE Health Teacher</b>            |
| <b>5.9.6. Maria Paris</b>     | <b>1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher</b> |
| <b>5.9.7. Rachel Collier</b>  | <b>1.0 FTE Math Teacher</b>              |
| <b>5.9.8. James Chartrand</b> | <b>Paraeducator</b>                      |

The motion carried unanimously.

**6.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the following board orders:**  
August 20, 2008      \$51,211.56      General  
Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda

8.0. Board Comments

9.0. Anticipated Executive Session

10.0. Adjournment: There being no objection the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:00\_p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley J. Fitch  
Administrative Assistant to the Principal