



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 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: Lisa LaPlante, Guidance & Counseling Director

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

- 1.1. Reception of Guests – None present.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions – Add 5.4. Approval of additional fall coaches
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.

2.0. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Sue Chickering. Discussion: Under 3.7, the Leadership Academy was in Killington, not Montpelier. Tracy Martin – Guidance Office Manager; Hunnewell is misspelled; strike one “again” in 4.2; change tennis court to tennis courts. **The minutes were approved as edited with one abstention.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. Finance – None.
- 3.2. Curriculum – None.
- 3.3. VSBA – Ginny Burley reported that she had just come from a VSBA meeting. She reported briefly on John Nelson’s statement regarding public education in Vermont.
- 3.4. Facilities – Will meet again on the 30th.
- 3.5. Administrator’s Report – Keith Gerritt reported that a Sunday event is planned at U-32 in the first weekend in November; this is a one time only exception. Some discussion followed regarding the Administration’s and the Board’s practice to keep Sundays free from scheduled events, to give students, staff (and the building) a day off weekly. Keith Gerritt reported that the administration now requires criminal record checks (CRC) for any adults who chaperone overnight school trips. Some discussion followed regarding guidelines as a result of findings from CRC. Conrad Smith asked for an update on this issue in the next month or two. Keith Gerritt also shared a request from a student for tuition waiver to attend U-32 for his senior year. The board will consider this request during the action portion of the agenda.

Tom McKone reported that the Marine Biology trip to Bermuda will take place in the spring rather than both the fall and spring, due to declining enrollment in the course. Tom also reported on the WCSU Opening Day Superintendent’s meeting this morning; Peg Wilmott and George Olson were recognized for 35 years in education in the supervisory union; the keynote speaker, poet Taylor Mali, was excellent.

Lisa LaPlante reported that she is initiating a “Guidance Advisory Council.” She asked school board members to consider volunteering to serve on the council. Lisa also reported that the WCSU guidance staff K-12 met Tuesday to look at a district-wide guidance curriculum.

Keith Gerritt reported that the estimated enrollment from this past spring is almost exactly as predicted. He stated that Lisa LaPlante and the guidance department have worked hard over the summer to rectify some scheduling issues that existed prior to her arrival on July 1st. Mark Berry asked about students who had no lunch scheduled in their day; Keith Gerritt reported that for the time being, students who have no other opportunity to eat lunch will be allowed to eat during a class; he noted that this is less than ideal. This issue has been ongoing and is hoped to be remedied next year.

Mark Berry asked whether an initiative to attract other students from outside districts could be considered. Discussion of declining enrollment followed. Discussion of foreign exchange students followed.

Ginny Burley reported on her recent attendance at the Regional Advisory Board for the Technical Center. She spoke about neighboring programs, regionalization and potential pilot program sites.

Mark Berry suggested sending the U-32 newsletter to sixth grade families in the supervisory union, at least twice a year.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. WCSU Strategic Plan – Keith Gerritt circulated a handout in preparation for the August 29th full board meeting to collaborate on a supervisory union wide Strategic Plan.
- 4.2. Substitute Pay Rates – Keith Gerritt introduced a proposal for substitute pay rates for 2007-2008. He spoke about the implications of such a proposal.
Robbe Brook reported on SubHub online training; she purchased 25 slots in this program; she noted that substitutes who are not licensed, but participate in this training, will get paid an additional \$5 per day. Discussion followed regarding the issue of substitutes.
- 4.3. Policy Second Readings



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4.3.1. Student Conduct and Discipline – F1: Sue Chickering suggested an edit to the third paragraph to reduce redundancy. Some discussion followed regarding some legal language. #3: “10 school days” should read “up to 10 school days” in all instances. #5: change word order of “recommend for expulsion any student” to “recommend any student for expulsion.”

4.3.2. Drugs and Alcohol – F7 – No comments on this draft.

The policies will move to a third reading and adoption at the next meeting.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Approve Substitute Pay Rates: Tom Williams moved to approve substitute pay rates as proposed. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.

5.2. Resignations: Allen Gilbert moved to accept with regret the resignation of H. Herbert Durgin, Jr. Seconded by Sue Chickering, this motion carried unanimously.

5.3. Appointments: Tom Williams moved to approve the appointments of Elizabeth Jaworski and Victoria Baker Sperrey as recommended by the administration. Seconded by Sue Chickering. Discussion: Keith Gerritt shared nomination forms for the two recommended appointments. This motion carried unanimously.

5.4. Approve Fall Athletics Coaches: Sue Chickering moved to approve the additional fall athletics coaches as recommended by the administration. Seconded by Tom Williams, this motion carried unanimously.

5.5. Approve Tuition Waiver: Sue Chickering moved to approve a tuition waiver for Corey Huddleston as recommended by Keith Gerritt. Seconded by Mark Berry. Discussion: Allen Gilbert asked about protocol in this situation. Some discussion followed. This motion passed with one opposed.

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

August 22, 2007 \$85,065.66 General

Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – Ginny Burley suggested that Negotiations Committee report regularly and be listed on the agenda under “Reports to the Board.” Sue Chickering suggested discussing revenue/expenses.

8.0. Board Comments – Conrad Smith asked how to publicize the higher substitute pay rate, to increase the pool as was the goal. Several board members commented positively on the U-32 newsletter. Tom McKone gave credit to Kristie Ferguson and Tammy Hoermann.

9.0. Anticipated Executive Session – None.

10.0. There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary