



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

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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; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Nancy Thomas, Assistant Superintendent & Special Services Director

Student Representative Present: Benjamin Daut

Also Present: Sally DeCicco, Tracy Martin, Jeff Rubin

- 1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.
 - 1.1. Ginny Burley welcomed all the guests present.
 - 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None.
 - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – Ginny Burley shared a letter with the board from a U-32 parent. The context of the letter: Assessment results and the school’s response to support students. Keith Gerritt responded to the letter; he stated that he had received the letter earlier and responded to the parent then as well. Discussion followed.
- 2.0. **Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2008 school board meeting. Seconded by Adrienne Magida. One correction was noted in section 4.1.; Allen Gilbert suggested adding the following phrase to the section 4.2.: “Also discussion on boys’ underachievement versus girls’ achievement.” The minutes were approved with the noted edits.**
- 3.0. Reports to the Board
 - 3.1. W. C. S. U.: Ginny Burley reported on the progress in WCSU Roles and Responsibilities document and the WCSU Strategic Plan. Ginny reported on the ongoing discussion of Central Office location to the U-32 Campus. She also stated that WCSU Annual goals have been adopted by the WCSU Executive Committee. Ginny Burley encouraged board members to attend the Full Board meeting on September 17th.
 - 3.2. Strategic Plan: Keith Gerritt reported on recent discussions regarding Strategic Plan. He also reported that he has shared his annual goals with the U-32 Learning Community; one of the goals is Implementation of the Strategic Plan.
 - 3.3. Policy: Allen Gilbert updated the board on the Policy Committee’s plan for this year. Discussion followed regarding “cyber bullying.”
 - 3.4. Personnel: No report.
 - 3.5. Co-Curricular: No report.
 - 3.6. Curriculum: Adrienne Magida reported that the committee had just met. The initial discussion this year centered around the roles and responsibilities of administrators versus board members regarding curriculum development and curriculum issues.
 - 3.7. Facilities Report: Conrad Smith reported that the new phone system is installed, working well, and came in under the estimated cost. Keith Gerritt reported that the Barre Town Recreation Committee has approved U-32 to utilize their tennis courts again next spring.

Conrad Smith reported that the greenhouse should be complete in October. The track has been resurfaced, and under budget. Athletic fields continue to be assessed and maintained. Entry doors have been installed; a new driver’s education vehicle (a VW Jetta) has been purchased. A brief discussion followed regarding the need to replace the special education van this year.

Conrad Smith displayed a map of the U-32 grounds to facilitate discussion of Central Office facility. He invited feedback from the board. The committee plans to present its map and its findings/discussions to the WCSU Facilities Committee. Jeff Rubin suggested that the board include the public and community in the discussion process as it moves along. Ginny Burley suggested an article in “Bus Stop.” Discussion continued regarding whether the idea of central offices being within the existing school building should be further considered. Mark Berry asked for more specific information about classroom usage in the building. Keith Gerritt stated that he will present a “cogent” argument at a future board meeting to support his statement that the classrooms within the building are not available for office space.
 - 3.8. Negotiations: No report. The committee will meet on September 4th.
 - 3.9. Student Representative’s Report: Ben Daut asked the board whether the theatre lighting board would be purchased this year (before March.) Keith Gerritt replied that it would.

Ben distributed a copy of his current schedule to the board. He shared the feedback from the Student Council meeting this year regarding the new scheduling. Discussion followed.



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- 3.10. Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt reported that this beginning of the school year has been the best that he's experienced at U-32. He stated that having a staggered start for the students is a very valuable tradition. Mark Mooney reiterated that the beginning of the year for middle school has been a very positive experience this year. He reviewed the timeline and work that has been done in the past year to prepare for such a positive transition.
Stephanie Taylor spoke about a very positive start, too, from the perspective of a new high school administrator.
- 4.0. Discussion Agenda
- 4.1. Policy First Readings
- 4.1.1. Policies to be rescinded - G10, G10b through G10i
The board moved these policies to second reading. The board agreed to rescind a policy using the same process as adopting a policy; that is, three readings followed by board action. These policies are available for review on the U-32 website.
- 4.2. Policy Third Reading
- 4.2.1. Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Check Policy: Allen Gilbert moved to take this policy off the table (from last board meeting) and consider it for adoption.
- 5.0. Action Agenda
- 5.1. Approve Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Check Policy: Allen Gilbert moved to adopt this policy. Seconded by Mark Berry. This motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.2. Approve Department Head and Fall Athletic Coaches: This item will be acted upon after executive session.**
- 5.3. Resignations: Adrienne Magida moved to accept this resignation with regret. Seconded by Allen Gilbert. This motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.3.1. Roxanna MacMartin Paraeducator**
- 5.4. Appointments: Mike Stridsberg moved to approve these appointments. Seconded by Mark Berry. This motion carried unanimously.**
- 5.4.1. Marieka Larrabee Food Service Worker**
- 5.4.2. Jessica Massey Food Service Worker**
- 6.0. Mike Stridsberg moved to approve the following board orders:
September 3, 2008 \$74,454.19 General
Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.**
- 7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: None
- 8.0. Board Comments: None
- 9.0. Executive Session: At 8:01 p.m., upon motion of Mark Berry, seconded by Mike Stridsberg, and approved unanimously, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.**
- At 8:21 p.m., upon motion of Adrienne Magida, seconded by Mark Berry, and approved unanimously, the Board came out of executive session.**
- At 8:22 p.m., in open session, Adrienne Magida moved, seconded by Mark Berry, to approve the final department head and fall athletic coaches contracts as presented.
The motion passed unanimously.**
- 10.0. At 8:23 p.m., without taking further action, the Chair adjourned the Board meeting, without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary
&
Conrad Smith
Board Clerk