



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Andrew Huckins-Noss, Student Representative.

Also Present: Charlotte Hanna Bassage, WCSU Executive Committee Chair, Mary Ellen Hill, 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 – Robbe Brook stated that Don Hirsch, a former board member at Rumney Elementary School, whose child has begun 7th grade at U-32, wanted to pass along to the board how pleased they are with the start of the school year and how well Rumney School had done to prepare his son for middle school.
- 2.0. **Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Sue Chickering. Discussion followed. Sue Chickering suggested edits: Section 3.5 change to: “this issue has been ongoing and is hoped to be rectified...” in section 4.2 should read “...not licensed, but participate in this training, will get paid an additional \$5 per day.” The board approved this motion unanimously with noted changes.**
- 3.0. Reports to the Board
 - 3.1. WCSU: Adrienne Magida reported on the issue of foreign language and the board discussed briefly.
 - 3.2. Policy: No report.
 - 3.3. Personnel: No report.
 - 3.4. Co-Curricular: No report.
 - 3.5. Curriculum: Adrienne Magida reported that the committee had discussed awarding high school credit to middle school students for high school courses. The committee proposes to reflect high school coursework on a transcript, but not to award high school credits. Discussion followed regarding the subject of accelerated learners and how to meet individual needs; also, the issue of expectations for students in their senior year.
 - 3.6. Facilities: Ginny Burley reported on a proposal regarding facilities/landscaping needs, keeping in mind the issue of environmentally friendly options for, e.g., pesticides and herbicides. A straw poll reflected that the board wishes to pursue a “green” approach. Some discussion followed regarding ways to pursue this issue. Discussion followed regarding the issue of the bleachers: Keith Gerritt stated that the board will soon be faced with the decision whether to repair the existing bleachers, or to invest in new replacements. Some discussion followed regarding inspecting such things as bleachers, for safety.
 - 3.7. Negotiations: Ginny Burley stated that the committee has met already and study groups have been created to look at such items as “time” and “pay,” for open discussions to lead into negotiations.
 - 3.8. Student Representative Report: Andrew Huckins-Noss introduced himself to board members; he reported on this year’s school opening. He reported that the discussion regarding unified district-wide curricula was interesting; he related that issue to the issue of preparing U-32 high school students for college. He spoke about Advanced Placement courses and the need for U-32 to offer more that follow the AP curriculum. He suggested that some students might want to attend some U-32 Curriculum Committee meetings. Some discussion followed regarding advanced placement courses. The board talked about U-32’s “High School” profile that is provided to colleges for consideration of U-32 students. The board asked for this profile to review at the next board meeting.
 - 3.9. Administrators’ Reports:
 - Opening Activities: Keith Gerritt reviewed the opening of school activities. Keith presented to the board the two themes which the school would focus on this school year: “Focus on Literacy” and “Nurturing School Climate.”
 - Scheduling Issues: Board members asked Keith Gerritt about bus and scheduling issues. Keith Gerritt stated that the biggest issue he sees is “too many freshmen with only four classes.”
 - Allen Gilbert asked Keith Gerritt about his plans/ focus for Open House on September 20th.
 - Criminal Record Check: Keith Gerritt followed up on the issue of Criminal Record Checks (CRC): The administration’s plan is to ask adult chaperones for overnight trips to undergo a CRC, and the school will pay for the cost. The results/details of the CRC go to the Superintendent, and then she and the principal together decide on a case-by-case basis how to follow up on any discovery. Sue Chickering suggested that the “Guidelines for Chaperones” be edited to include this procedure.
 - Residency: Keith Gerritt asked for board members’ assistance in determining residency of U-32 students and asked that, as has been past practice, board members review the lists provided. Ginny Burley stated that the town clerks are supposed to receive similar lists to check over.
 - Enrollment: Keith Gerritt reported that as of the second day of school, 860 students were enrolled at U-32; this is a drop of 25 students.



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Tom McKone reported on the senior class this year and the class council members.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Role of the WCSU Executive Board: Charlotte Hanna Bassage shared the draft WCSU Roles and Responsibilities, Manual for Administrators and Board Members. The board discussed this draft. Ginny Burley recommended that board members provide input to Charlotte Hanna Bassage, and that the U-32 Curriculum Committee consider the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment portion of the document and provide input.
- 4.2. Policy Third Readings: Ginny Burley asked for any comments on the two policies: F1 Student Conduct and Discipline, and F7 Drugs and Alcohol. Conrad Smith spoke about the wording in F1 regarding “continuing.... behavior.” Committee members agreed that the word choices had been based on state model policies and legal counsel. Allen Gilbert pointed out a “period” that should be removed from some subtitles in one policy.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Adopt Policies

5.1.1. Allen Gilbert moved to adopt Policy F7 Drugs and Alcohol. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.

5.1.2. Allen Gilbert moved to adopt Policy F1 Student Conduct and Discipline. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously

5.2. Approve Tuition Waiver: Mark Berry moved to approve the tuition waiver that had been previously discussed at the August 22 board meeting and unofficially approved. Seconded by Adrienne Magida; this motion carried with one member opposed.

5.3. Resignations: None.

5.4. Appointments: None.

6.0. Mark Berry moved to approve the board orders as presented:

September 5, 2007 \$141,330.10 General

September 7, 2007 \$525.00 Athletic Officials

September 5, 2007 \$14,871.99 Food Services

Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: Allen Gilbert spoke about a book “Odd Girl Out” and he recommended that board members read this book and that TAs read it as well. Some ideas were discussed such as book discussion groups. Brief discussion followed: board members agreed that this issue should be placed on a future agenda for discussion: Bullying, cyber-bullying. Sue Chickering asked for legal counsel when considering and discussing such issues.

8.0. Board Comments: None.

9.0. Anticipated Executive Session: Mark Berry moved to go into Executive Session at 8:25 for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Seconded by Allen Gilbert, this motion carried unanimously.

The board came out of executive session at 9:17 p.m.

10.0. Adjournment: Conrad Smith moved and Adrienne Magida seconded a motion to adjourn. The board adjourned by consensus at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary