



## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

PAGE 1

Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Rob LaClair, Vice-Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Mark Berry, Susan Chickering, Stuart Savage, Tom Williams, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Andrew Huckins-Noss, Student Representative.

Also Present: Amy Molina, Athletic & Recreation Director; Craig Mugford, Josh Mugford, Charlie Burbank, Dakota Carrier, Colleen Carrier, Todd Carrier, Jeff Rubin, Mike Russ.

- 1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.
  - 1.1. Ginny Burley welcomed the guests to the board meeting.
  - 1.2. Agenda Revisions – A student representative to the board will give a student report tonight and at future school board meetings.
  - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – There was some discussion about the prospect of having a “cannon” at football games. Some board members and Amy Molina expressed concern with this proposed addition to the football festivities.

**2.0. Allen Gilbert moved and Sue Chickering seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2006 school board meeting. Stuart Savage recommended the following changes: under finance report “*put this in the budget under from fund balance*”, and change “*capitol fund to facilities/capital fund*”. This motion carried unanimously, with the noted changes.**

### 3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. WCSU: Robbe Brook spoke briefly to the board.
- 3.2. Policy: This committee will be meeting Friday to talk about the food program
- 3.3. Personnel: None
- 3.4. Co-Curricular: None
- 3.5. Administrator’s Report: Keith Gerritt reported on what he considered to be a great opening for the school year. He reported on faculty and staff meetings, on student assemblies, and on the memorial service held recently for a student. He noted that the ninth grade class has been encouraged to continue to seek counseling and support to deal with these issues.  
Tom McKone reported that Keith Gerritt had been very present amongst students. He circulated the Student/ Parent Handbook for board perusal. Allen Gilbert asked that the handbook be accessible on the school website.  
Jeff Rubin asked the enrollment statistic.  
Keith Gerritt noted that he and Andy would be meeting before each board meeting to review the agenda, and that Andy would give a student report. The subject of another student representative to the board was discussed and the board encouraged another student to participate.  
Andrew Huckins-Noss reported that the opening of the school year was a positive experience and a smooth transition from the past year, given a new principal. He reported on the student tragedy and that guidance counselors were readily available to kids. He also reported that the ongoing issue of food not being allowed in the atrium continues to be pertinent and asked on behalf of students for a second chance handling this responsibility.

### 4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. VPA Article VIII – Member to Member School Participation: Keith Gerritt introduced the topic for discussion. Colleen Carrier asked for clarification of the “member to member” policy. Keith Gerritt explained briefly. Ms. Carrier stated that she had called the Vermont State Department of Education (she quoted Act 119) and the Vermont Principal’s Association, and that she understood that it was the prerogative of the school board to approve her son’s participation in sports at U-32. She stated her opinion regarding allowing her son, choosing an alternative education, to participate in sports; she likened it to home-schooled children. Some discussion followed, regarding clarification of related issues. The board considered the long-term issue, e.g., this student wanting to play a spring sport, as well as the immediate concern of football. The board expressed that, given the 60-day clause in the VPA agreement, the subject of football was moot for this fall. The board agreed that the co-curricular committee should investigate the Member to Member School Participation and come back to the board with a recommendation re: U-32’s participation in this program. The board agreed that the first of December would be reasonable.
- 4.2. How do we raise U-32 to the next level? Keith Gerritt asked the board to participate in the same process that faculty and staff have, i.e., brainstorming. After extensive brainstorming amongst board members, Keith commended the board and noted that in the next board packet he would include some relevant articles for board perusal and discussion. He noted that in the future, board members would be asked to look over the brainstorm list and decide on one or two or several items on which to focus. He plans to compile the brainstorming lists from students, faculty, parents/community, board. Stuart Savage asked how Keith planned to access non-U-32 parents for input. He



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2006**

PAGE 2

suggested a newspaper article. A suggestion was made to make a link on the website for communication or bulletin board or comments related to this issue.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Vote on Participation in Member to Member School Participation: Passed over.

5.2. Resignations: None

5.3. Appointments: None

**6.0. Mark Berry moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve board orders as presented. Discussion: Mark Berry asked about a \$50 invoice for a class speaker. This motion carried unanimously.**

7.0. Anticipated Executive Session: None

8.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: Sue Chickering asked whether board goals were being developed and asked for discussion at the next meeting. Allen Gilbert noted that, regarding the last board meeting presentation (students exceeding the standards) – he would like to have some follow up information/ discussion. A couple of bus route issues were also discussed.

9.0. Board Comments: Ginny Burley reported on a Children's Forum conference regarding school budgeting issues. She plans to attend and will report to the board. Tom McKone asked whether board committee meetings were going to continue on the same schedule as in the past. Stuart Savage reported that he had sold his house; would be moving in the spring; the board discussed how a replacement board representative is appointed/elected.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt  
Board Recording Secretary