



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Allen Gilbert, Emily Goyette, Adrienne Magida

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Stephanie Taylor, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent

Student Representative Present: Benjamin Daut

Also Present: Kathy Segar, Peg Wilmott, and Sheryl Lamberti

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

1.1. All guests were welcomed.

1.2. Agenda Revisions – Alan noticed that the Policy Committee is not on the agenda. He requested that it be on the agenda for every meeting.

1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – Beth Allen sent a thank you note to the board for welcoming her to U-32.

2.0. Allen Gilbert moved and Adrienne Magida seconded approval of the minutes of September 3, 2008 School Board Meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3.0. Reports to the Board

3.1. Finance – The committee met last week to discuss the budget schedule, and the monthly financial reports were reviewed.

3.2. Curriculum – No report at this time.

3.3. Vermont School Boards' Association – Ginny Burley reported that the group discussed the impact of Act 82. All of the schools in our district will be affected if the school budget is an undetermined percentage (perhaps 4.5%) higher than the previous year. There will be a VIT session on October 16 in Montpelier to clarify the details of Act 82. The VSBA is considering a resolution to allow an alternate for full board members. WCSU By-laws are not in alignment with the guidelines.

3.4. Facilities Report – Meets on September 24 at 8:00 a.m.

3.5. Policy – Allen Gilbert reported that the group has continued its work on Administrator Evaluation, and he distributed draft language for the Comprehensive Discipline Plan. There has been a focus on Bullying and Out of School Misconduct, and Allen noted that this is a procedure. There was discussion relative to the role of the administrators in applying the procedure and whether the board should approve it. Normally, procedures are communicated to board members as information only. Keith Gerritt suggested that this topic be on next month's agenda for discussion and any necessary action. Washington County District Attorney Tom Kelley has been rescheduled to meet with the Policy Committee at 7:30 a.m. on September 26 to discuss what legal actions can be taken. Conrad Smith asked to be notified of the meeting when the Policy Committee meets next on Administrator Evaluations.

3.6. Negotiations – The group is moving from mediation to fact finding.

3.7. Student Representative's Report – Ben Daut reported that student councils were talking about U-Band. From the Senior Class, there were suggestions of Spring Day type activities when it's cold out or inviting an outside band performance. The larger group spoke briefly about the late start. Ben asked the board and administrators for feedback on the schedule change. Allen Gilbert reported that the most consistent complaint he is hearing is the shortened passing time from 5 minutes to 4 minutes..

3.8. Administrator's Report – There was no report at this time.

3.9. Strategic Plan – This topic will be discussed at length at the full board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

4.1. Professional Development & Late Start Pilot Program – The premise of the proposal is that there is not enough embedded time for professional development. Professional Development needs to be defined as a resource, and needs to have requisite time allotted for it. The proposed Pilot Program would be at U-32 and would be one late start in each marking period on a U-Band day so that students would miss less class time. Students would arrive at 10:30 a.m., and classes would meet on a shortened basis (about 35 minutes instead of 66). The first late start day would be on November 3. Buses would pick up elementary students first, then U-32 students. The focus of the professional development days would be formative assessment. Stephanie noted that in the revised roles and responsibilities manual, it charges administrators to focus on student assessment. Robbe Brook encouraged the board to move forward with the Pilot for this year. She suggested obtaining measured results at the end of the year. Emily Goyette asked for the vision of how this might work. Keith Gerritt responded that outside speakers would not be utilized; rather that teachers would work together in interdisciplinary teams. Allen Gilbert clarified that the total professional development time for all four late starts would be nine hours. Conrad Smith asked if faculty meetings could be utilized for these topics. Keith Gerritt responded that these topics need more time. Conrad Smith also asked if the board could find out the impact on the community with the delayed start. Keith responded that the delay would be similar to that of a snow day. Conrad Smith asked how the pilot program would be assessed. He requested a clear



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assessment tool. Keith responded that one measure will be the attendance – the staff have advocated for this and will be present. Ben Daut felt that there would not be a significant decrease in student attendance. Allen Gilbert had questions relative to the implementation of the program as soon as November 3. He also questioned whether nine hours out of the year is enough time. He suggested waiting until after the holidays. Keith suggested that the newsletter arrives on October 1 which would give a five-week notice. Waiting until January to talk about formative assessment will not give teachers an opportunity to use this information this semester. Stephanie reported that tools and techniques would be introduced that can be implemented immediately. We could make a difference with student learning right away. Adrienne Magida noted that in her school, they meet with colleagues for one hour and use specific assessments to bring the data back to the next meeting. She indicated that this work was crucial in helping students who nearly met the standard or just barely met the standards.

The board recessed at 6:13 p.m. to reconvene later to continue discussion.

5.0. Action Agenda

- 5.1. Approve Professional Development & Late Start Pilot Program – postponed until meeting reconvenes.
- 5.2. Adrienne moved and Allen Gilbert seconded approval of the 2008-2009 Co-Curricular Advisors. The motion passed.
- 5.3. Adrienne moved and Allen Gilbert seconded approval of the Approve Fall Athletics Coach. The motion passed.
- 5.4. Resignations – None.
- 5.5. Appointments – None.

6.0. Allen Gilbert moved and Adrienne Magida seconded the approval of Board Orders as follows:

September 17, 2008	\$138,502.66	General
September 17, 2008	\$13,517.51	Food Services
September 17, 2008	\$1,891.00	Athletic Officials

This motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

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.

- 4.1. Discussion continued on the Professional Development & Late Start Pilot Program.
- 5.1. Mark Berry moved and Conrad Smith seconded a motion to table the proposal for the Professional Development & Late Start Pilot Program until a future meeting of the Board. Without further discussion except for the listing of further information that the Board would like to have related to the proposal, the motion to table was passed on a voice vote.

- 7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – None.
- 8.0. Board Comments – None.
- 9.0. Anticipated Executive Session for the purpose of discussing student discipline, legal and/or personnel matters – None.
- 10.0. At 9:00 p.m. the Chair proposed to adjourn the meeting; when there was no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosie Laquerre, CEOE
Board Recorder, pro tem
&
Conrad Smith
Board Clerk