



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006**

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

Also Present: Jeff Rubin

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley. Ginny circulated a copy of an article in a counseling magazine that mentioned Kate Wilson, U-32's Director of Guidance & Counseling.
  - 1.1 Guests were welcomed
  - 1.2 Agenda Revisions: Stuart Savage noted that, under 5.1.1, "scope of the project" should be added to roof project timeline discussion.
  - 1.3 Public Comments and Correspondence: None
- 2.0 Consent Agenda
  - 2.1 **Stuart Savage moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2006 school board retreat.**  
**The motion carried.**
  - 2.2 **Stuart Savage moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2006 school board meeting. Allen Gilbert noted a few changes in vernacular to clarify some items.**  
**This motion carried with the noted changes.**
- 3.0 Reports to the Board
  - 3.1 Finance: Stuart Savage reported on a few items on the August 06 Financial Report. He noted that in two areas: interest earnings, and student tuition, additional revenue is expected. Some discussion followed regarding some teaching positions that were not originally budgeted, but added once students' schedules were finalized. The board and Robbe Brook asked that, when enrollment numbers are available, a breakdown showing tuition students, exchange students, etc. be made available.  
Stuart Savage also reported on the roof project: John LaRosa, Clerk of the Works, and Albert Petrella, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, met with the Finance Committee regarding cost issues:
    - 1.) The Vermont Department of Education has ruled that the vapor barrier can remain in place even though some asbestos is present because it is completely encapsulated.
    - 2.) Only half of insulation will be wet and in need of replacementStuart Savage also reported on two methods of dealing with roof needs. The recommendation of the Finance Committee, with Albert and John LaRosa, is to proceed with the "existing methodology."
  - 3.2 Curriculum: No report tonight.
  - 3.3 Vermont School Boards' Association: Stuart Savage reported that the primary focus, besides new officers, is the Commissioner's proposal to consolidate school districts, which he hopes will allow for "consistency and collaboration across the board." Stuart noted that the commissioner insists that this proposal does not necessarily lead to smaller schools consolidating and thereby eliminating some; that in fact it might help the smaller schools remain in existence. Ginny Burley reported on the concept of local advisory boards versus local and individual elementary school boards.
  - 3.4 Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt reported on the "High Schools on the Move" project. He noted that the group from U-32 came away from the initial meeting enthused and with high hopes for this.  
Keith Gerritt reminded the board that tomorrow night is Open House and he will give an opening speech in which he will address the issue of "how to take U-32 to the next level." He stated that an input box will be in use and he invited the board members to help throughout the evening, to monitor.  
Keith spoke about various committees that are under development:
    - How to take U-32 to the next level
    - Daily schedule of classes
    - Survey committeeKeith also reported on a partnership/movement with Montpelier High School – another aspect/participant of this movement is the VYACC – "School to Earth"  
Tom McKone noted that his administrative assistant has broken her ankle. He also mentioned that a banner that was created on September 11<sup>th</sup> four years ago, on the first anniversary, continues to be hung every year during the month of September to commemorate this date. Tom McKone circulated the October newsletter for the board's perusal and he spoke of various problems that have arisen in the production and circulation of the newsletter.  
Jeff Rubin asked Keith Gerritt for some clarification regarding the survey committees that are being recruited/developed.



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3.5 Student Representatives' Reports:

Karia Young-Eagle reported re:

- 1.) Students wanting more "creativity," e.g., more artwork on the walls, murals
- 2.) College issues/stress – she does not perceive that the guidance department is proactive in this area
- 3.) Classmates' unhappiness with the Opening Assembly as it related to her grade.

Andrew Huckins-Noss reported re:

- 1.) Homecoming plans
- 2.) The bell system
- 3.) Sixth band classes being cut short by sports games.

4.0 Discussion Agenda

- 4.1 2006-07 School Board Goals: Ginny Burley brought Sue Chickering's concern that the board talk about goals, especially the subject of socioeconomic or gender inequities in the school. Allen Gilbert spoke about a goal of reviewing/ auditing all policies (wellness/ nutrition being one); Rob LaClair: transportation issues; and Mark Berry: Guidance review. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.
- 4.2 Continuing Discussion – How do we raise U-32 to the next level? Keith Gerritt led the board through an exercise reviewing the brainstorming list from the previous board meeting and attempting to uncover a "top five" from this list.

5.0 Action Agenda

5.1 Finance Actions

**5.1.1 Stuart Savage moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the timeline and scope for the roof project.  
This motion carried unanimously.**

**5.1.2 Mark Berry moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to establish a two or three member board Facilities Committee. Discussion: Jeff Rubin asked whether this committee should include a person, e.g., from the community, with more expertise in the area. Ginny Burley stated that a charge for the committee should be ironed out and agreed upon: 1) overseeing development of capital fund, 2) maintaining the assets over time, 3) review of management plan for the facility.  
This motion carried unanimously.**

**5.2 Mark Berry moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve fall athletics coaches as presented:  
This motion carried unanimously.**

5.3 Resignations: None

5.4 Appointments: None

**6.0 Mark Berry moved and Tom Williams seconded a motion to approve the board orders as presented to the board. Discussion: One payment, \$8000 to Berlin Elementary was removed from the board orders pending further clarification.  
This motion carried, with the noted change.**

7.0 Tom Williams moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a student legal issue.

This motion carried unanimously and the board entered executive session at 7:30 pm.

Allen Gilbert moved and Stuart Savage seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session.

This motion carried unanimously and the board came out of executive session at 9:05 pm.

**Allen Gilbert moved and Stuart Savage seconded a motion to table any action in the matter under consideration, and to direct the school's counsel to gather more evidence needed to make a determination in the matter.  
This motion carried unanimously.**

The board determined to hold a *Special Meeting* on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 5:30 pm at the Washington Central Supervisory Union office.

8.0 Ideas for Future Agenda: Mark Berry asked for policy conversations to be included on the next board agenda.

9.0 Board Comments: None

10.0 Adjournment: There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary