



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2006

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Board Chair, Rob LaClair, Vice-Chair, Allen Gilbert, Clerk, Mark Berry, Sue Chickering, Stuart Savage, Tom Williams.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent.

Student Representatives Present: None.

Others Present: Jeff Rubin

1.0. Call to Order – Ginny Burley called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

1.1. Reception of Guests: Ginny Burley welcomed Jeff Rubin.

1.2. Agenda Revisions: Tom Williams suggested the addition of Facilities Committee to the Reports to the Board.

1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence:

2.0. Consent Agenda

2.1. Allen Gilbert moved and Sue Chickering seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2006 school board meeting. Stuart Savage recommended a change in wording of the Finance Committee Report.

3.0. Reports to the Board

3.1. WCSU – Rob LaClair reported that the board had a very long and productive meeting, looking at members and their terms of service, also taking a look at this board's charge. This board invited input from the U-32 school board regarding goals for the next year or two. Ginny Burley replied that she would like to see the district board discuss district-wide strategic plan. Sue Chickering asked if there was any new discussion of a new facility. Rob LaClair replied that the board was looking for direction from other district boards in this issue. Allen Gilbert asked about state mandated consolidation in the near future, and whether "no decision" should be made regarding moving the facility. Some discussion followed regarding real estate trends; Rob LaClair invited ideas, suggestions, input regarding this issue. Robbe Brook suggested looking at student enrollment in making this decision as well. Ginny Burley suggested looking at governance issues as well, including WCSU by-laws, roles and responsibilities.

3.2. Policy – Mark Berry reported that the Health/Wellness/Nutrition plan is under discussion at the moment.

3.3. Personnel – Nothing to report; however Mark Berry suggested that the committee meet with Keith Gerritt to talk about evaluations; board members agreed to hash out a meeting time soon. Some discussion followed regarding negotiations. Robbe Brook brought up the issue of health care benefits. Some discussion followed regarding grievances. Mark Berry asked Keith Gerritt for input on these issues, for instance, the issue of "duties."

3.4. Co-Curricular – None

3.5. Administrator's Report – Keith Gerritt reported on school happenings since the last meeting: Open House was well-attended; U-32 hosted the Cross Country Invitational; a local author visited the 7th grade student body; Keith Gerritt reported on the National Board Certified Teaching effort underway at U-32: two teachers are currently certified; one is in the last phases of becoming certified; three teachers have begun the process of becoming certified. Keith also reported on Homecoming weekend. He reported that five U-32 students were named Merit Scholars: Isabella Ballard, Jenna Cameron, Augusta Hagen-Dillon, Daniel Levine and Alexander Post.

Keith Gerritt reported pupil attendance of 873, which includes tuition and exchange students. This number subtracts students that are placed outside the school. NECAP testing starts next week with grades 7 and 8. Middle and high school concerts are scheduled for next week. Keith stated that he is planning his visits to the elementary school boards and he shared the schedule with board members in hopes that a board member from each town would accompany him to the meetings. Keith Gerritt circulated to the board members an updated school profile and a copy of the year's first edition of the newspaper.

Tom McKone asked board members if they were interested in continuing the breakfast morning meeting tradition; board members agreed that this was a worthwhile tradition to continue. Tom McKone and board members worked out a date for the first such meeting.

3.6. Facilities – Tom Williams reported that the committee met today for the first time; next meeting is the 24th and he noted that he will have a report for the board after that meeting.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

4.1. 2006-2007 Board Goals – Ginny Burley reviewed the goals that have been discussed so far: Guidance Review, Policy Audit. Some board members provided input on other issues: scheduling/ trimester issues; gender/ socioeconomic performance discrepancies/ inequities (to be part of the Action Plan); (goal stated as: supporting the Action Plan regarding gender and socioeconomic inequities). Ginny Burley suggested the board take a look at after-school activities; Sue Chickering reminded the board that reviewing the administrative structure had been high on the priority list; the board asked Keith Gerritt for his input on this issue. Keith Gerritt noted that he had met with department heads just recently and discussions around this issue are indeed underway; he also noted that "High Schools on the



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Move” is an initiative that addresses this issue amongst others. Keith Gerritt replied to Allen Gilbert’s concern that the list of Board Goals might be too lengthy. He noted that many of his own goals that he has shared with the board are already encompassed in these board goals. The following two goals were agreed upon as priorities:

1. Policy audit
2. Review of administrative structure (in a broad sense)

GINNY BURLEY reminded the board of the issue of after school activities, aside from athletic activities, as being a pertinent and urgent issue. TOM WILLIAMS suggested that Ginny Burley report to the board from the perspective of Community Connections, to begin work on this goal as well.

SUE CHICKERING brought up the issue of special education costs and Robbe Brook replied that this is more a supervisory-wide issue. Ginny Burley suggested that this issue be reported on at a “carousal” meeting. TOM WILLIAMS made note that the issue of Guidance Review has been an ongoing concern and he hoped that the board’s concern regarding this issue was given attention.

- 4.2. Policies Review – Allen Gilbert began discussion. Mark Berry suggested that a web version of all the policies be made available, current and “live.” Robbe Brook reported that the district has received a grant for technology-related issues. Discussion ensued regarding technology issues and limitations at U-32 and implications on budget. Mark Berry reported to the board re: “Washington Central Supervisory Union School Board Policies.” Some discussion followed as board members reviewed a list of “recommended policies”. Board members began discussing the issue of class size and “capacity” issues.

Robbe Brook noted that the WCSU Supervisory Union Policy Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. TOM WILLIAMS reminded the administrators that traditionally guidance presents a report on the previous year’s graduating class.

- 5.0. Action Agenda
 - 5.1. Resignations – None
 - 5.2. Appointments – None

6.0. Stuart Savage moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve the board orders. This motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Anticipated Executive Session – None

8.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – None

9.0. Board Comments – None

10.0. Adjournment – There being no further business, the board adjourned by consensus at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary