



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Emily Goyette (arrived 7:10); Mike Stridsberg (arrived during executive session.)

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

Student Representatives Present: Benjamin Daut, Caitlyn Couture

Also Present: Sally DeCicco, Brittany Perry, Jeff Rubin

1.0. Call to Order – Ginny Burley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

- 1.1. Ginny Burley welcomed those present.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions: None
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence: None

2.0. Consent Agenda

- 2.1. Allen Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2008 school board meeting, and to amend and approve the minutes of the August 25, 2008 school board retreat with the edit suggested by Mark Berry. Seconded by Mark Berry. This motion carried unanimously.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. Finance: Allen Gilbert reported that finances are generally on target. There are currently 30 students paying tuition, which is more than anticipated. Extra expenses are primarily in the area of professional development.
- 3.2. Curriculum: No report.
- 3.3. Policy: Allen Gilbert reported that a draft of a Memorial Policy is being developed. There was spirited input from community members about this difficult issue. The policy may be brought before the full board for discussion prior to creating a final draft. The superintendent is drawing up procedures for implementing a new evaluation policy that will be presented to the board shortly. Progress on the Out-Of-School Conduct portion of the Comprehensive Discipline Plan will be reviewed during the discussion agenda.
- 3.4. Facilities: No report.
- 3.5. Negotiations: Fact finding is scheduled for November 7, 2008.
- 3.6. Vermont School Boards' Association: There is a workshop on October 16 on Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) about budgeting in light of Act 82. A DVD will also be available.
- 3.7. Student Representative's Report: Stephanie Taylor introduced Caitlyn Couture, the newest student representative to the board. Ben Daut reported that the Student Council has discussed the Memorial Policy without reaching agreement. Study hall is one of the most popular options during U-Band activities; the math extra help is a close second. Brittany Perry asked if the amount of homework being assigned with the new schedule is a problem. Keith Gerritt reported that freshmen and sophomores feeling overloaded by homework is historically not unusual. Time management becomes more important when there are two days between class meetings. Caitlyn Couture reported that students seem to be taking NECAP testing more seriously this year.
- 3.8. Administrators' Reports: Stephanie Taylor spoke about her enjoyment of the middle school and high school concerts and the coffeehouse last week. She attended training on classroom walkthroughs as an informal evaluation tool. Keith Gerritt reported that students seem to be invested in the NECAP testing this year. A revision of the draft of the Action Plan will be brought to the board for approval. Keith reported on the Lights on After School program; Ginny Burley is planning a celebration of after school programming on the State House lawn on October 16, weather permitting. Allen Gilbert asked about the results of the science portion of the NECAP tests that were received recently. Robbe Brook stated that this was a pilot test last year and she has not received enough information yet to reach any conclusions.
- 3.9. Strategic Plan: No report.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. 8th Grade Washington DC Trip Presentation: Sally DeCicco gave a PowerPoint presentation about the annual trip and answered questions. The board thanked her for the time and effort she devotes to this trip each year.
- 4.2. Out-Of-School Misconduct: Allen Gilbert has incorporated changes proposed by Conrad Smith to the language of this section of the Comprehensive Discipline Plan. Ginny Burley suggested the board use the language as it stands for now, and address changes later if needed. She thanked Allen Gilbert for his work on this document.
- 4.3. Policy Second Readings
 - 4.3.1. Policies to be rescinded – G10, G10b through G10i.
 - 4.3.2. Animal Dissection – G15



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5.0. Action Agenda

- 5.1. **Mark Berry moved to rescind policies G10 and G10b through G10i. Allen Gilbert seconded. This motion passed unanimously.**
- 5.2. **Emily Goyette moved to approve policy G15, Animal Dissection. Mark Berry seconded. This motion passed unanimously.**
- 5.3. **Approve Winter Athletics Coaches: Robbe Brook pointed out that Jonathan Goddard, listed as the Varsity Girls' Ice Hockey Assistant Coach, is also a member of the Berlin Elementary School Board. Mark Berry moved to approve the winter athletics coaches with the exception of Jonathan Goddard. Adrienne Magida seconded. This motion passed unanimously.**
- 5.4. **Resignations: Mark Berry moved to accept the following resignation. Adrienne Magida seconded. This motion carried unanimously.**
 - 5.4.1. **Brian Swisher Science Teacher**
- 5.5. **Appointments: Adrienne Magida moved to accept the following appointment. Allen Gilbert seconded. This motion carried unanimously.**
 - 5.5.1. **Aanika DeVries Science Teacher**

6.0. **Allen Gilbert moved to approve the following board orders:**

October 15, 2008	\$122,033.64	General
October 15, 2008	\$2005.00	Athletic Officials
October 15, 2008	\$32,535.32	Food Service

Adrienne Magida seconded. This motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: None

8.0. Board Comments: None

9.0. **At 7:30 p.m., Mark Berry moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. Adrienne Magida seconded. This motion carried unanimously.**

At 8:05 p.m., Adrienne Magida moved to come out of Executive Session. Mike Stridsberg seconded. This motion carried unanimously.

10.0. **Adjournment: At 8:06 p.m., without taking further action, the board adjourned by consensus.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Sturgis
Board Recording Secretary