



## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, MS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; and Andrew Huckins-Noss, Student Representative.

Also Present: Peter Hood and Ed Deegan, District Auditors; Tim Flynn, Special Services & Programs Director; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance & Counseling Director; Nancy Thomas, WCSU Director of Special Services/Asst. Superintendent; Wes Cate, Nancy Disenhaus, Michelle McFadden, Mary Nealon, and Brittany Perry.

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair, Mark Berry.

1.1. All guests were welcomed.

1.2. Agenda Revisions – None.

1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – Nancy. Disenhaus stated that the U-32 staff had seen a very informative presentation regarding scheduling today, and she looked forward to more discussion.

**2.0. Susan Chickering moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Conrad Smith. Discussion: Sue Chickering pointed out that Allen Gilbert's name was misspelled in "board members present" as well as the last portion of the minutes. The minutes were approved, noting those edits.**

3.0. Reports to the Board

3.1. Finance: Allen Gilbert reported that the current year fund balance is still healthy and that there have been some health insurance savings this year. However, Allen Gilbert warned the board that there are some unexpected expenses pending, according to Lori Bibeau.

Allen Gilbert reported that the finance committee continues to discuss the food service program at U-32; a large fund balance remains in this account: consideration continues for different options to put the fund balance to use. Some discussion followed regarding the unusual success of the U-32 food services program.

Allen Gilbert reported that the audit has been reviewed with the committee; the approval of this audit is on the agenda later this evening.

Allen Gilbert also reported on the bleachers issue and the disparity in estimates regarding bleachers repair. He reviewed the estimates and explained to the board the committee's reasoning behind recommending the repair bid from Hussey Advantage. He also spoke about some optional items that were discussed. The committee recommends opting for a three-year maintenance and inspection agreement as well. Some discussion followed regarding from where to allocate the money for these issues: capital fund balance or fund balance. The committee feels that the capital fund balance has not been hashed out specifically enough to start allocating money from it yet.

Allen Gilbert also spoke briefly about budget development for the upcoming school year.

3.2. Curriculum: No report.

3.3. VSBA: Ginny Burley reported that she was elected the new president of this region of the VSBA. She reported that she and Keith Gerritt had just returned from the Vermont Teacher of the Year Awards at UVM; Julie Kiefer was U-32's Teacher of the Year.

3.4. Facilities: No report.

3.5. Negotiations: No report.

3.6. Student Representative's Report: Andrew commented that he supports semesters over trimesters; he spoke about the different configuration of "bands." Keith Gerritt reported that the presentation planned for later this evening is the same that will be presented to students later this month; this will help to clarify some issues.

3.7. Administrator's Report: Tom McKone reported that a foreign language consultant will be visiting the U-32 foreign language department, as well as the sending elementary schools, to observe and facilitate discussions regarding moving these programs forward in the supervisory union, particularly in the elementary schools. Tom McKone reported that the January in-service plans are set and board members are encouraged to reserve seats for the presentation; please see Lesley Fitch for this.

Tom McKone reported that NECAP testing wrapped up this week; the staff collaborated well on this effort.

Tom McKone reported on in-service activities today at U-32. He stated that the morning speaker, Doug Klette, had a positive impact on the afternoon discussions of scheduling issues.

Tom McKone reported on a bomb scare at U-32 last week noting that the administrators were very pleased with how the evacuation went. Some discussion followed regarding U-32 board policy regarding bomb threats. Staff may volunteer to help sweep the building, however staff are not required to do this.

Keith Gerritt reported that he was impressed with the seriousness with which the middle school students took the NECAP exams. Nancy Disenhaus thanked the administration for speaking to the students about the seriousness and usefulness of the assessments. Some discussion followed regarding recent changes in attitude and tone toward these assessments.



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Allen Gilbert moved to recess to attend the WCSU full board meeting. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried and the board recessed at 7:00 p.m.

Ginny Burley called the meeting out of recess at 7:25 p.m. She welcomed David Angolano, CPA; and Lori Bibeau, WCSU Business Manager.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

4.1. FY07 Draft Audit Report: David Angolano CPA

David Angolano reported his findings in the audit of U-32. He and Lori Bibeau invited questions from those present regarding the audit report. Some discussion and questions followed regarding GASB versus FASB; about retirements; and about liability regarding substitute expenses and disability. The finance committee would like to further explore this subject. There were no findings and we were complimented on the soundness of our financial practices.

4.2. Presentation – Schedule Committee: Keith Gerritt introduced Tim Flynn’s presentation, and he thanked Tim Flynn for his work as chairperson of the committee. Tim Flynn presented the discussions and findings of the committee so far. He shared the timeline from now until the planned November 7th recommendation to the school board. Some discussion, questions and answers followed. Sue Chickering asked whether it was possible to consider these proposed schedules with some “mock” students “plugged” in to have a more concrete visual. Allen Gilbert asked that the committee include lunch period for each student in its list of priorities in proposed schedules. The debate of trimester versus semester continued.

Mark Berry congratulated the committee on doing a great job so far in keeping everyone involved, and positive, in conversations. Ginny Burley asked for clarification on the proposed morning (staff) meeting time: where are students during this time? Some discussion followed regarding collaboration among staff to make sure students are engaged during a morning meeting time, while staff can find some common planning time as well.

Keith Gerritt asked for clarification on the committee’s charge: the committee will continue to present the models and gather input/information and will come to the administration with a recommendation; Keith Gerritt will come to the board with his recommendation based on the committee’s work. Allen Gilbert stated that, when it comes to the board, financial implications will be an important factor. The board agreed by consensus but not unanimously, that it would like one strong recommendation with a back up choice, with evidence why the recommended schedule is the best. The committee described all the ways it has attempted to inform the community/parents of scheduling presentations/discussions.

The board thanked Tim Flynn and the committee members.

Parent Comments: Michelle McFadden commented to the board about teachers’ time spent teaching, versus hiring new staff; she feels that the general public maybe does not understand the “whole picture” regarding this issue.

5.0. Action Agenda

**5.1. Approve FY07 Draft Audit Report: Conrad Smith moved to approve the draft audit as presented. Seconded by Mark Berry, this motion carried unanimously.**

**5.2. Finance Actions**

**5.2.1. Approve Funding for Bleacher Recommendation: Allen Gilbert moved to approve funding bleacher repairs using Hussey Advantage using \$16,585 from the fund balance and \$1,438 from the annual budget for maintenance costs. Seconded by Mark Berry. Discussion: Adrienne Magida asked whether this expense was necessary or optional. Keith Gerritt reported that the consensus has been that this is a necessary precaution/action. This motion carried unanimously.**

Adrienne Magida moved to approve the following resignations and appointments, as recommended by the administration:

**5.3. Resignations**

- 5.3.1. Jessica Hannigan Custodian
- 5.3.2. Roy Cahill Maintenance and Mechanic
- 5.3.3. William McNaulty Custodian

**5.4. Appointments**

- 5.4.1. Roy Cahill Custodian
- 5.4.2. William McNaulty Maintenance and Mechanic

Seconded by Mark Berry. This motion carried unanimously.

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

October 17, 2007	\$345,178.90	General
October 17, 2007	\$1,968.00	Athletic Officials

Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.



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7.0. Ideas for Future Agendas:

Harassment/ Bullying

Presentation: "The World is Flat"

8.0. Board Comments: Sue Chickering stated that she would like more time to go over the audit report in detail in the future.

9.0. Executive Session: Upon motion of Mark Berry, seconded by Conrad Smith, and approved unanimously, the board went into executive session at 9:02 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Susan Chickering, and again approved unanimously, the board came out of executive session at 9:19 p.m.

10.0. Without taking any further action, upon the motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Susan Chickering, and approved unanimously, the board adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt

Board Recording Secretary

&

Conrad Smith

Board Clerk