



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2006

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Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Rob LaClair, Vice-Chair; Mark Berry, Sue Chickering, Stuart Savage, Tom Williams, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Andrew Huckins-Noss, Student Representative.

Also Present: Jeff Rubin, Ed Deegan.

1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

- 1.1. Ginny Burley welcomed Jeff Rubin.
- 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None
- 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None

2.0. Tom Williams moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2006 school board meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

3.0. Reports to the Board

- 3.1. WCSU: Rob LaClair deferred his report to the discussion agenda.
- 3.2. Policy Committee: Tom Williams reported that the committee is meeting regularly and tackling a large number of policies. Two policies: “Limited English Proficiency” and “Wellness/ Nutrition” are hoped to be presented for first reading at the next board meeting.
- 3.3. Personnel: None
- 3.4. Co-Curricular: None
- 3.5. Administrator’s Report:
Keith Gerritt reported that three fall sports have won state championships so far this year, and football team is playing for state championship this Friday. He commended especially the sportsmanship that is exhibited by U-32 athletes. Keith Gerritt reported that the three new committees: “Raising U-32 to the Next Level,” “Survey Committee,” and “Scheduling Committee” have all met at least once already. He also reported that he is scheduled to visit three elementary school board meetings and is in the process of scheduling the other two.
Tom McKone reported that 11th graders are taking the NECAP next week.
Robbe Brook commended the fall play and especially the matinee that invited senior citizens with middle school students acting as greeters/ hosts.
- 3.6. Facilities Report: Stuart Savage reported that the committee has discussed a mission statement; there is discussion of fields and areas outside the building; VISBIT may be a resource. This committee plans some hands-on work on the budget regarding a capital fund and other facilities-related budget implications.
- 3.7. Student Representative: Andrew Huckins-Noss reported that 11th graders are upset that the NECAP occurs at the same time as subject exams. Keith Gerritt replied that the state gives a small window of time and this year the timing has been tough. Andrew also reported on the mock election. Ginny Burley suggested that another student representative – or more than one – be brought to board meetings to take some pressure off Andrew.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Community Connections: Ginny Burley introduced Erin McDermott, the U-32 and Calais site coordinator for Community Connections. Ginny Burley provided a brochure and summarized the mission of Community Connections. Erin McDermott spoke about the different offerings Community Connections offers students, especially right after school when students can remain at school until the late bus. Some discussion followed regarding funding sources; the grant funds will end on September 30, 2007. Board members talked about after school coverage. The question that Community Connections asks is what kinds of activities are desired/ needed at the school after 2:45. Ed Deegan commented that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” and that the program provides a huge valuable service to our youth – that the community should be sent this message. Some discussion followed regarding a central way to get the word out to students and parents alike about what opportunities are available each day after school.
- 4.2. 2007-2008 New Course Proposals: The board reviewed the proposed new courses. Some discussion followed regarding costs associated with these courses. Keith Gerritt spoke of the NEASC’s charge to U-32 to offer more academically rigorous courses to our less academically skilled students.
- 4.3. WCSU FY08 Budget Draft #1: Rob LaClair presented to the board the first draft budget as presented by the WCSU Executive Committee. Rob LaClair asked the board for its input regarding this draft. Robbe Brook noted that on Monday WCSU is having an Open House inviting community members to come talk about the WCSU budget development process. Mark Berry suggested putting some budget development information on the website. Board members agreed that having enrollment/ ADM statistics available for consideration during budget development would be helpful to outside people looking in. Ed Deegan spoke regarding the existing fund balance and his suggestion that the money be put to use as intended, to create a central office – and locate it at the U-32 facility.



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The board asked that the second draft show a 3 to 3.5% increase in top administrative salaries which might bring the budget increase to be less than 4%. Some suggestions were made, when presenting the budget, to show more clearly the administrators' salary increases as compared to other salary increases. Suggestion to use approximately \$50,000 from the fund balance to affect the proposed budget. Discussion also followed regarding use of present space at the U-32 building, for central office space, keeping in mind enrollment projections at five or six years out. Discussion followed regarding the Shapiro Building. The U-32 Board is aware that there is a provision that the WCSU budget is contingent on all local school board budgets passing.

4.4. U-32 School District Warning: Stuart Savage suggested adding Article 8: Authority to create a capital improvement/replacement fund.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. **Rob LaClair moved and Tom Williams seconded a motion to accept the Federal Sub-Grant Award for FY07. Discussion: Robbe Brook explained that this was to support the White Table and 9th Grade Academy. Sue Chickering asked how many children the 9th Grade Academy serves. Ginny Burley asked whether a plan is in place to continue to fund this program if and when the grant money expires. Keith Gerritt replied that this subject is on the agenda at tomorrow's Administrative Team meeting. He also noted that the program has not been in place long enough to see long term results. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.2. **Sue Chickering moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve the three 2007-2008 new course proposals as previously presented and discussed. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.3. **Mark Berry moved and Tom Williams seconded a motion to approve the 2006-2007 Equity Coordinators. Discussion: Keith Gerritt explained that the Equity Coordinators handle harassment related issues and he explained the staffing situation. Rob LaClair encouraged that these staff members work proactively as well as reactively. This motion carried unanimously.**

5.4. **Rob LaClair moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve 2006-2007 Co-Curricular Advisors. This motion carried unanimously.**

Mark Berry would like to see the total number of stipends each individual receives, and the workload expected. Rob LaClair asked whether job descriptions or expectations were available for perusal.

5.5. Resignations: None

5.6. Appointments: None

6.0. **Rob LaClair moved and Tom Williams seconded a motion to approve the board orders as follows:**

Athletic Officials	October 23, 2006	\$	470.00
	October 30, 2006		366.00
	November 7, 2006		190.00
Food Services	November 8, 2006		28,132.02
General	November 8, 2006		1,128,302.02

This motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Executive Session: None tonight, however on November 15 at 5:00 p.m., an executive session is planned for a student discipline hearing.

8.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: None.

9.0. Board Comments: Ginny Burley noted that the elementary boards and general public are invited to the next board meeting for budget discussions.

10.0. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary