



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006

PAGE 1

Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Mark Berry, Stuart Savage, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.

Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss a student discipline issue. Approval was unanimous, and the board entered executive session at 5:14 p.m. with the student in question, parents, and TA present.

Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to leave executive session at 5:54 p.m. Approval was unanimous.

Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion that the board accept the administration's recommendation in dealing with the student discipline issue discussed. Approval was unanimous.

Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Mark Berry, Susan Chickering, Stuart Savage, Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent.

Also Present: Lori Bibeau, WCSU Business Administrator; Brittany Perry, Paula Dolan, Marlene Velandar, Tony Klein, Jan Aldrich, Jeff Rubin, Betsy Barstow.

1.0. The open meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

1.1. All guests were welcomed.

1.2. Agenda Revisions – None

1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – Jeff Rubin spoke about a student issue at U-32.

2.0. Stuart Savage moved and Sue Chickering seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes of the November 8, 2006 school board meeting.

Discussion: Stuart Savage noted a couple items under 4.3 that required clarity: "The board would like the budget increase to be less than 4 %." Also, the last sentence should be more clear, reading "The U-32 board is aware that there is a provision that the WCSU budget is contingent on all local school board budgets passing."

The motion carried with the above noted changes.

3.0. Reports to the Board

3.1. Finance – None aside from budget discussion.

3.2. Curriculum – This committee has not met since last week when they spoke of new course proposals.

3.3. VSBA – Ginny Burley and Stuart Savage reported that they plan to attend the fall conference Thursday and Friday.

3.4. Administrators' Reports:

Keith Gerritt reported that the Winooski Valley Musical Festival took place last week. Again he congratulated the fall athletes for their winning season. Keith Gerritt reported that he had addressed the 11th grade students on Monday to talk about the upcoming NECAP exams. Winter sports have begun. Keith also reported that six of our football athletes are still practicing and planning to go to the "North/ South" football game this weekend.

3.5. Facilities Report – Nothing to report.

3.6. Student Representative's Report – No report tonight (they are studying for trimester-end exams!)

4.0. Discussion Agenda

4.1. FY08 Budget Draft #1

Lori Bibeau circulated ADM (Average Daily Membership) statistics and spoke to those present about generating state revenue based on ADM. Lori Bibeau explained the handout "U-32 Total Enrollment Compared to Equalized Pupils – ADM." She explained the "hold harmless provision" which is helpful to U-32 as projected enrollment declines. She explained that the projected enrollment for 07, 08, and 09 are conservative projections at this point. Lori Bibeau explained "U-32 Cost per Equalized Pupils: Historical Trends." Some discussion followed regarding Act 68 and the "sharing pool." Allen Gilbert noted that the "sharing pool" hasn't changed; taxes are collected at the town level but are put into a statewide education fund for distribution to school districts on an equitable basis; that in truth revenues don't come directly from a town to the school. Lori Bibeau explained "Comparative Data for Cost-Effectiveness." Paula Dolan noted that some of the comparative data was misleading, for example "Student/ Teacher Ratio" – she asked how that figure was calculated and Lori Bibeau stated that she would get the specific instructions to share. Mark Berry stated that what would be a valuable comparison is to see "educational results" compared to other schools and their spending.



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006

PAGE 2

Keith Gerritt distributed and explained the “U-32 Summary of Budget Changes – FY08 versus FY07.” He stated that the budget packet had been sent to the department heads and other budget managers; their instructions were no increases above 6%. Keith Gerritt and Lori Bibeau explained the items listed on this report.

Keith Gerritt gave his justification for recommended staffing increases which proposes a 1.62% increase. In response to Keith’s proposal for staffing changes: Mark Berry noted that he would like to see the “Career Education Teacher” issue on the next agenda for discussion, as well as the “Student Outreach Supervisor.” Mark Berry also stated that he would like the administration to take a closer look at the responsibilities of current administrative assistants to see if some of the work could be spread amongst the existing staff, rather than hiring additional administrative assistants. He also spoke to the recommendation to hire an additional custodian; he wondered if the custodial staff could be more efficiently utilized if a larger percent were working “after hours.”

Under “Non-Salary Items” Ginny Burley asked about \$8,000 in technology – she wondered if this was above and beyond what was being spent from the Microsoft settlement. She also asked about \$30,000 increase in co-curricular and athletics. Keith Gerritt will follow up with more information on both of those items.

Lori Bibeau explained two other items: “Debt Service – Bond Payment” and “Roof Note.” Lori Bibeau noted that the Finance Committee still plans to look more closely at the “Roof Note” figures.

Stuart Savage noted in conclusion, that 6.92% increase is steep and he would like to see a reduction. Ginny Burley invited comments from the guests.

Tony Klein asked the board to look at the unfunded mandates that drive the costs – is the level of staffing being driven by government mandates? The public should know these details.

Sue Chickering asked to look at our staffing and fully utilize what we presently have, rather than add new staff – she suggested a “map” showing staff roles and responsibilities, so the board can more closely look at these issues.

Paula Dolan asked how the board can justify cutting a teaching position when, for instance, projected enrollment might show a decrease of one student in several classes; in practicality this does not warrant reducing staff.

Tony Klein stated that it is up to the school boards to let the state legislature know where the “rocks and hard places” are, because what the school board does not want is for the state to start telling each school how much they are allowed to spend and how it should be spent.

Betsy Barstow asked the board to really look hard at staffing changes; as she stated, once you add a position it is really hard to take it away in the future.

Ginny Burley noted that if the high school instructional staff was teaching more than three classes per day, we would be in better shape financially. She stated that it bears taking a look at any shifts in staffing.

Allen Gilbert stated that it is hard to work further on the budget before December 15th when we have real numbers as far as student revenues. The board agreed that the December 20, 2006 or January 3, 2007 board meeting would be a better time to look at a second draft of the budget and to invite legislators and general public, since the December 6th meeting is too soon to have any more information related to student numbers.

5.0. Action Agenda

5.1. Finance Actions – None

5.2. Stuart Savage moved and Allen Gilbert seconded a motion to approve the revised Department Head Contracts: Supplemental Contracts and Stipends.

Discussion: Ginny Burley asked Keith Gerritt to look at the expense of Department Heads and noted that, in effect, this could fund an additional teacher.

This motion carried unanimously.

5.3. Stuart Savage moved and Allen Gilbert seconded a motion to approve revised U-32 Winter Coaches roster.

This motion carried unanimously.

5.4. Resignations – None

5.5. Appointments – None

6.0. Allen Gilbert moved and Sue Chickering seconded a motion to approve the board order dated November 15, 2006 in the amount of \$32,384.13.

This motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Executive Session – Hearing held at 5:00 p.m. prior to open meeting.

8.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – As noted earlier: “Career Center.”

9.0. Board Comments – WCSU Full Board budget meeting is on December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary