



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007**

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**Board Members Present:** Ginny Burley, Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, and Adrienne Magida.

**Administrators Present:** Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance & Counseling Director; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; and Nancy Thomas, Director of Special Services/Assistant Superintendent

**Others Present:** Sue Anne Mayette, Sheryl Lamberti, Wes Cate, and Corinne Stridsberg

- 1.0. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley.
  - 1.1. All guests were welcomed.
  - 1.2. Agenda Revisions – Keith Gerritt suggested having the power point presentation first, followed by 4.2: Facility Walk-through.
  - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None.
- 2.0. **Adrienne Magida moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2007 regular, and November 14, 2007 special school board meetings. Seconded by Sue Chickering. Discussion: November 7 minutes: Section 3.1: fill in percentage: 4.04%. This motion carried unanimously with the noted edit.**
- 3.0. Reports to the Board
  - 3.1. WCSU: Robbe Brook reported that the WCSU Executive Committee will present its next budget draft with a 3.85% increase on Monday night at the WCSU full board meeting. She urged board members to attend so a quorum is present. She stated that some state legislators will attend the meeting. Ginny Burley reminded board members that she had sent information via email, on Act 82; she encouraged board members to consider this and to bring this issue to legislators, especially how it pertains to ADM and weighted voting.
  - 3.2. Policy: The Search & Seizure policy is on the agenda for a second reading tonight.
  - 3.3. Personnel: None.
  - 3.4. Co-Curricular: None.
  - 3.5. Curriculum: Sue Chickering reported that the committee has begun to discuss Advanced Placement (AP) courses, grade point average, ranking, and to seek input from students and parents. The committee intends to look at any patterns in grading and specific courses.
  - 3.6. Facilities Report: Conrad Smith reported that the initial reports on the condition of the athletic fields have come back good; he talked about the roof project which is complete at this point. Conrad also reported that the committee continues to talk about capital fund budget. The work on the bleachers is complete; they have passed inspection. The committee meets again on the 18th; focus on technology. Facilities committee meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. rather than 9:00 after the new year.
  - 3.7. Negotiations: We have begun negotiations with the support staff. The teacher's negotiations meet again next week on the 13th.
  - 3.8. Student Representative's Report: None present.
  - 3.9. Administrator's Report: Keith Gerritt stated that the administrative team decided to participate in a "restorative justice" process in response to the vandalism on the track. The restorative meeting was attended by Keith and Tom McKone; an agreement has been negotiated which includes full restoration (resurfacing and repainting lines on that area of the track) and community service.

Lisa LaPlante reported that U-32 had hosted the regional guidance meeting with other counselors from central Vermont. Working on a list of local therapists. Lisa also reported that the guidance staff administered a career exploration survey with the 8th graders; guidance staff recently met with juniors and introduced them to "Naviance." Keith Gerritt reported that in the past week several assemblies were held to address student concerns about the decision making process which led to the change from trimester to semester scheduling. Keith reported that the entire administrative leadership team (A-L team) participated in this effort. He also stated that he had acknowledged to students that although an effort was made to enlist input and feedback from students in this decision making, the effort was not sufficient, so in the future, additional avenues will be sought to enlist students' input. Conrad Smith suggested using a common language: e.g. "bands" or "classes" or "module" to cut down on confusion. Conrad also suggested that, in the "Planning/Meeting" time that is built into the new schedule, the input of students, staff, board members, be sought early in the planning process.

Tom McKone reported that, in the discussions of advanced placement issues, the A-L team is making sure to include and enlist student input and communication in the discussion and making sure everyone has a "voice." Ginny Burley suggested having Montpelier students come and speak on the subject of advanced placement coursework, in light of the article recently published which ranked Montpelier's program highly, nationwide.Tom McKone reported on climate surveys that are presently underway.Keith Gerritt reported that the Sustainability Club at U-32 is working on raising composting effectiveness.



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Robbe Brook reviewed "WCSU Evaluation Process for Administrators and Directors." Ginny Burley stated that Mark Berry is interested in the Personnel Committee looking at this document. The board agreed that this would be a good starting point for conversation. Some discussion followed regarding board certified teachers: The board congratulated the following U-32 teachers for their recent National Board Certification: Caroline Grace, foreign language teacher; and Chris Grantz, English teacher.

4.0. Discussion Agenda

- 4.1. Review U-32 District Warning: The board reviewed the draft. Article 8 is leftover from last year and unnecessary this year. Regarding voters, should it be "legal" or "eligible;" a couple typos were pointed out for correction in the next draft. Ginny Burley stated that Deb Wolf would like to find a replacement to the elected post of District Clerk.
4.2. Facility Walk-Through regarding possibility of WCSU Central Office relocation within U-32. Keith Gerritt led those present on a walk-through of the building space being considered. The board is "not philosophically opposed" to U-32 housing the WCSU Central Office. Nancy Thomas stated that as a central office administrator she could better serve the student population if located at U-32.
4.3. Presentation - The World is Flat: Keith Gerritt and Tom McKone presented to the board this powerpoint presentation, as "food for thought."
4.4. Policy Second Reading
4.4.1. Search and Seizure Policy: Keith Gerritt pointed out a few grammatical preferences and a couple typos. Ginny Burley asked for comments from board members. Tom McKone stated that there is no reference to technology; he wondered why items such as computers, graphing calculators, cell phones, were not specified in the policy and procedure. Some discussion followed regarding proper wording for this. The board agreed to send this policy back to the committee to word in such a way that the least invasive means be sought to carry out search and seizure. Discussion of "reasonable suspicion" versus "probably cause." Some discussion followed regarding the process of informing the superintendent in every case. This policy is moved to third reading with all the noted adjustments.

5.0. Action Agenda

- 5.1. Approve Winter Athletics Coaches: Adrienne Magida moved to approve coaches as presented. Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.
5.2. Resignations: None.
5.3. Appointments: None.

6.0. Adrienne Magida moved to approve the following board orders:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Amount, Category. Rows include November 21, 2007 (\$63,016.49 General), December 5, 2007 (\$64,613.45 General), December 5, 2007 (\$1,515.00 Athletic Officials), and December 5, 2007 (\$21,261.53 Food Services).

Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

7.0. Ideas for Future Agenda: 21st Century issues; visioning for the future; looking at the state's position paper

8.0. Board Comments: None.

9.0. Upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Susan Chickering, and approved unanimously, the Board went into executive session at 8:46 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel and student discipline matters.

At 9:30 p.m., upon motion of Conrad Smith, seconded by Susan Chickering, and again approved unanimously, the Board came out of Executive Session.

Conrad Smith moved, seconded by Adrienne Magida, a motion to approve an employee's request to seek and use donated sick leave time for family illness - with a limitation of no more than 15 days. The motion passed unanimously.

10.0. At 9:32 p.m., without taking further action, the Board adjourned without objection upon the suggestion of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt, Board Recording Secretary