



**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006**

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Rob LaClair, Vice Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Mark Berry, Susan Chickering, Stuart Savage, Tom Williams

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Carole Freeman, WCSU Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Others Present: Andrew Huckins-Noss, Student Representative; ( see attached list for additional guests)

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair, Ginny Burley and she welcomed those present.
  - 1.1. All guests were welcomed and board members introduced themselves
  - 1.2. Agenda Revisions – None
  - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence: Kathy Segar briefly stated many of the guests’ reasons for attendance and presented to the board a petition signed by 90 members of the faculty and staff supporting the continued employment of Kate Wilson as guidance director. Kenny Saxe presented to the board a statement as well. Bonnie Destakasi read a letter from the English Department. Ginny Burley reminded those present that personnel issues were discussed in executive session and not in public forum.

**2.0. Mark Berry moved and Allen Gilbert seconded the approval of the November 15, 2006 minutes. Discussion: Allen Gilbert suggested a change as follows, under 4.1, about 8 lines down, “... 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.” Also at the very end of this section, “revenue” should read “revenues.” This motion carried unanimously, with the corrections as noted.**

- 3.0. Reports to the Board
  - 3.1. WCSU – Rob LaClair reported that the central office has responded to the request of the Executive Committee, with a revised budget that reflects a 2.99% increase, to be presented to the WCSU full board on Monday, December 11th.
  - 3.2. Policy – Mark Berry reported that the committee suggested adding “Reviewed by\_\_\_” to the top of each policy. Mark Berry reported that the committee agrees that the website is the best place to keep up to date policies. Two policies or procedures slated for discussion: limited English proficiency and bullying prevention. Although there is no mandate for a bullying policy, just a mandate for procedure – the committee is looking at the possibility of having a policy in place. Some discussion followed regarding whether bullying should be part of comprehensive student discipline, or whether it should stand alone as a policy.
  - 3.3. Personnel – Mark Berry reported that the committee met to discuss compensation reviews and evaluation/ supervision.
  - 3.4. Co-Curricular – This is on the discussion agenda
  - 3.5. Facilities – Stuart Savage reported that the committee met last week and discussed the tennis court proposal; the committee gave their blessing to the project and the fund raising efforts to support it; however the committee came short of supporting this project as part of the school budget. Stuart Savage reported that the committee continues to discuss this issue.
  - 3.6. Student Representative’s Report – Nothing to report tonight.
  - 3.7. Administrator’s Report – Keith Gerritt updated the board on this year’s three newly formed committees:
    - “Raising U-32 to the Next Level” – discussion is underway re: 12 Principles of “High Schools on the Move” and “thinking outside the box”.
    - “Scheduling Committee” has three very active parents on it; looking at different schedule models and a rubric to evaluate scheduling issues.
    - “Survey Committee” has active parents, currently learning about services offered in the school; moving forward toward creating a survey.

Keith Gerritt reported on his visits to elementary schools: Berlin, Rumney and Doty, and plans to visit East Montpelier and Calais. Students have gone to New England Music Festival auditions; results are forthcoming. Keith Gerritt reported on other student activities: “Mix it Up” Day, the Great American Smoke Out, the Trimester 1 Art Show, and Grade 11 NECAP Pilot testing.

Tom McKone reported that a smoking cessation program is currently underway, led by Ivy Zeller and Tim Flynn.

- 4.0. Discussion Agenda
  - 4.1. Presentation of Tennis Court Proposal – Amy Molina presented to the board “U-32 Raiders Tennis Court Proposal”. Several community members and high school coaches were present to speak in favor of the benefits of tennis. Some members of the committee asked the board to consider some funding for this project. Amy Molina spoke of the plan to date, for funding this project. Robbe Brook noted that she had recently looked at the original plan for U-32 and tennis courts were part of the original proposed plan. Some discussion followed regarding a timeline. Amy Molina was



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hoping to have tennis courts by Spring 2008. Some discussion followed regarding other sports programs and funding: Amy Molina stated that she believes that if U-32 doesn't build tennis courts in the next few years, the school will lose its tennis program, with nowhere to practice or play. Some discussion followed regarding upkeep of a tennis court, of vandalism, of supervision. More discussion ensued regarding funding, especially, seeking grants and asking the board to match grant monies. Allen Gilbert spoke in favor of the board supporting the tennis court proposal, financially. Allen Gilbert noted that one solution might be for the board to take any fund balance left over after the fiscal year, from the athletics department – and put it toward the tennis courts. It would show financial commitment on the part of the board. Stuart Savage suggested that the board make a decision tonight regarding the idea of a tennis court, and then the Finance Committee can discuss the issue further and come forward at a future board meeting with a recommendation. Rob LaClair asked whether there was a desire to bring this before the voters as a special article.

**Mr. Berry moved and Stuart Savage seconded a motion that the board endorse the concept of the addition of tennis courts on U-32 grounds, and authorize the Finance Committee to explore funding mechanisms, and authorize the Tennis Committee to explore fundraising and grant possibilities.**

**This motion carried unanimously.**

4.2. Meetings and the Vermont Open Meeting Law: Ms. Burley noted that she had checked with Secretary of State Deb Markowitz and felt the board should take a closer look at the Vermont Open Meeting Law, specifically that all subcommittees warn their meetings, have an agenda, and publish minutes. Some discussion followed regarding personnel issues, and executive session. Some discussion followed regarding the contents that are required of minutes - in essence, who attends and any motions that are presented. The board suggested that the chair of each committee get schedule of meetings, agenda, and minutes to Lesley Fitch; and that minutes get posted on the website for public perusal. Ms. Burley suggested that subcommittees create an annual schedule and post it, and change/ cancel as needed, to simplify the process.

4.3. Policy First Reading

4.3.1. Nutrition and Fitness Policy F28 – Discussion: the following changes in wording were recommended:

- II A 2. “The NASPE recommends 225 minutes of physical activity per week...”
- Appendix B: Grades 7-12: During Meal Service Periods: Entrees that would..... lunch program are not available as a la carte items.

This policy is moved to the second reading. Any questions or comments should go to Mark Berry in the meantime.

5.0. Action Agenda

**5.1. Tom Williams moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve a co-curricular contract: Keith Gerritt noted an addition to the co-curricular advisors.**

**This motion carried unanimously.**

**5.2. Rob LaClair moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to approve the winter athletics contracts as presented:**

**This motion carried unanimously.**

5.3. Resignations – None

**5.4. Tom Willams moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to approve the following appointments:**

**5.4.1. Karen Clous                      Individual Assistant**

**5.4.2. Rebecca Goddard            Food Service Worker**

**This motion carried unanimously.**

**6.0. Mark Berry moved and Stuart Savage seconded a motion to approve the board orders as follows:**

<b>December 1, 2006</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>Athletic Officials</b>
<b>December 5, 2006</b>	<b>680.00</b>	<b>Athletic Officials</b>
<b>December 6, 2006</b>	<b>24,339.14</b>	<b>Food Service</b>
<b>December 6, 2006</b>	<b>102,274.10</b>	<b>General</b>

**This motion carried unanimously.**

8.0. Ideas for Future Agenda:

- Tennis court discussion
- Discussion of having legislators come to January board meeting; to invite general public and select board members to board meetings for budget discussion. Goal: general public and select boards to first meeting in January, legislators to second meeting in January.

9.0. Board Comments: Allen Gilbert passed along a concern from a parent that kids can be excluded from the honor roll due to not returning sports equipment. Some discussion followed regarding procedure and students' rights to appeal.



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Tom Williams stated that he has heard complaints about over-enrollment in the Driver's Education program and he anticipates another summer session of Driver's Ed being necessary.

**7.0. Mark Berry moved and Rob LaClair seconded a motion to enter executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.**

**Approval was unanimous.**

**At 8:45 p.m. Stuart Savage moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to come out of executive session.**

**Approval was unanimous.**

**Allen Gilbert moved and Sue Chickering seconded a motion that the board adopt the following statement and authorize Chair Ginny Burley to communicate it to the press: "The board truly regrets that it is not at liberty to discuss specifics of personnel issues. If we were, the board could have cleared up misperceptions that were suggested by the questions and statements made at tonight's meeting."**

**Approval was unanimous.**

10.0. At 8:50 p.m., Allen Gilbert moved and Sue Chickering seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Approval was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt  
Board Recording Secretary