



SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007

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Board Members Present: Ginny Burley, Chair; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Susan Chickering, Allen Gilbert, Adrienne Magida, Tom Williams.

Administrators Present: Keith Gerritt, Principal; Tom McKone, HS Assistant Principal; Lisa LaPlante, Guidance & Counseling Director; Robbe Brook, Superintendent; Lori Bibeau, WCSU Business Manager; Nancy Thomas, WCSU Special Services Director/Assistant Superintendent

Also Present: Wes Cate, Kenny Saxe

- 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 – None
 - 1.3. Public Comments and Correspondence – None
- 2.0. Buildings and Grounds Director Finalist Interviews - The board interviewed the two finalists for the position of Buildings & Grounds Director in open session.
- 3.0. Consent Agenda
 - 3.1. Sue Chickering moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2007 school board meeting. Seconded by Adrienne Magida. Sue Chickering pointed out a few edits for clarification. The minutes were approved unanimously, as edited.**
- 4.0. Reports to the Board
 - 4.1. Finance – None.
 - 4.2. Curriculum – None.
 - 4.3. VSBA – Ginny Burley shared from the VSBA Board Meeting, that a bill allowing towns to vote separately on a supervisory union budget could be on the docket this coming year in the legislature.
 - 4.4. Facilities Report – None.
 - 4.5. Negotiations – None.
 - 4.6. Student Representative's Report: none
 - 4.7. Administrator's Report – Keith Gerritt reported that the middle and high school concerts were spectacular; he reported that the 5-year NEASC report is due for submission on March 1, 2008. Keith also reported on the progress made in converting to the semester schedule system for next school year. He reported on the progress of the Safety and Security Committee, and noted that a huge range of opinions exists within the building about security measures, what is necessary, what is efficient, etc. Keith reported to the board about instances where student athletes from other towns might seek opportunities for member-to-member participation. This issue might come to the board level in the future. Keith Gerritt spoke to the board about the prospect of having "compost monitoring" sponsored by the Sustainability Club at U-32. Keith Gerritt asked the board's pleasure regarding a tuition waiver issue. The board will take action on this issue.
- 5.0. Discussion Agenda
 - 5.1 FY09 Budget Draft #2: Lori Bibeau distributed *U-32 Cost per Equalized Pupils, WCSU Enrollment: by town and by school, WCSU Average Daily Membership (ADM) and WCSU Explanation of Tax Rate Changes from Budget 08 to Budget 09*. Lori Bibeau complimented the Guidance Office staff at U-32 this year as well as the staff at Central Office, as this has been the easiest year ever as far as the "child count" process. Discussion followed regarding school choice students and student exchange numbers. Lori Bibeau clarified some numbers and statistics from these documents. Keith Gerritt reviewed the *U-32 Summary of Budget Changes – FY 2009 versus FY 2008*. Lori Bibeau clarified that under salaries and benefits, health insurance should read 7% maximum, not 7.5% as written. Keith Gerritt pointed out that non-salary items for this projected budget show a minimal increase. Lori Bibeau pointed out that, under "school wide instruction – tech center" – the next draft will show an increase. Discussion followed regarding Community Connections activities and the costs incurred next year if similar activities are offered. Keith Gerritt and Lisa LaPlante explained rationale for proposed increases in staffing. Conversation followed regarding life skills and career courses that are proposed. Some discussion followed regarding a potential incoming student next year, special education costs that are associated (but reimbursable), and whether or not to show this in the proposed budget for next year at this point. Discussion of the capital fund balance followed. Keith Gerritt and Lori Bibeau asked for board direction for the next budget draft.



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Conrad Smith suggested, for the next budget draft, to show two line items: Special education one-on-one paraeducator, and capital fund contribution, even to show “zero” but to have as place keepers. Conrad Smith also asked about the technology services items in “non-salary items.” He suggested that a more fiscally conservative approach be taken. He asked, instead of buying all new, we try to make use of what we have. Tom Williams suggested that the board take a closer look at co-curricular increases in expenses. The board continues to ask for a maximum of a 5% budget increase. Some discussion followed of budget increase figures versus per pupil expense increase figures. Ginny Burley suggested that when considering some new programs or expenses, the board might have to look at giving up some other program or expense. Sue Chickering asked to consider what courses are under-enrolled, etc. Some conversation followed regarding staffing, retirements, and reduced FTE.

6.0. Action Agenda

6.1 Set Date of Annual Budget Information Meeting – Allen Gilbert moved to set Monday March 3, 2008, at 6 pm at U-32 for this meeting. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

Susan Chickering stated that she does not intend to run for school board in March.

6.2 Finance Actions – None.

6.3 Approve Winter Athletics Coach – Mark Berry moved to approve the Winter Athletics Coach as recommended by the administration. Seconded by Tom Williams, this motion carried unanimously.

6.4 Resignations – None.

6.5 Appointments

6.5.1 Buildings and Grounds Director – Action taken following executive session deliberation.

6.6 Adrienne Magida moved to extend the previous tuition waiver until February 1, 2008 with the same conditions as posed before. Seconded by Mark Berry. This motion carried, with one vote opposing.

7.0. Mark Berry moved to approve the following board orders:

December 19, 2007	\$88,373.75	General
December 19, 2007	\$1,445.00	Athletic Officials

Seconded by Conrad Smith, this motion carried unanimously.

8.0. Ideas for Future Agenda – 21st century issues; visioning for the future; looking at the state’s position paper; technology discussion with Jeff Arey.

9.0. Board Comments – Allen Gilbert noted that he has been contacted by several parents about the “Facebook” issue. The board will address this in executive session.

10.0. Executive Session – Mark Berry moved to go into Executive Session at 9:25 for the purpose of discussing student and personnel issues. Seconded by Adrienne Magida, this motion carried unanimously.

The board came out of executive session at 10:03 p.m.

6.5.1 Allen Gilbert moved and Mark Berry seconded a motion to offer Casey Harrington the position of Buildings & Grounds Director, and to give Keith Gerritt and Robbe Brook the authority to finalize contract terms. This motion carried unanimously.

11.0. Adjournment – At 10:06 p.m. without taking further action, the board adjourned without objection upon the suggestion of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stoudt
Board Recording Secretary