

## BARNET SCHOOL BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2010

**Members in Attendance:** Supt. Martha Tucker, Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Shellie Samuels, Lori Werdenschlag, Shannon Larocque, Louis Bushey, Jim Schenck, and Kathy Zita – Minute Recorder.

Public in Attendance: Sally Cook – Caledonian Record.

Chair Shellie Samuels called meeting to order at 6:45p

**Approval of Minutes – 6/16/10:** It was noted that the date was incorrect and needed to be changed to Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup>. The date of the SU meeting needed to be changed to the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were a few typos that were corrected. On a motion of Shannon Larocque, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the minutes of 6/16/10 were approved as amended.

**Public Input:** None.

#### Principal's Report:

- Shawn Gonyaw reported on the new format of the newsletter. It will now be called "*What's Barking at Barnet*". It will be sent out every week with sections such as the Principal's comments; important dates, and other bits of information for the parents and the school community. The Board gave their comments and input concerning the newsletter.
- Facilities/Maintenance: we are nearly finished cleaning the building and getting everything ready for the new school year. The new generator is now fully functional. He stated an ultra violet disinfection unit would be installed prior to August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Well Abandonment – the Water Supply Division agreed to allow us to leave the extra well open for possible future use.
- Staff Development Update: He has been working with two K teachers developing a project-based unit for K students.
- VT Public TV will be coming on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> for a school wide assembly to present Jordon Barbour an award for winning third place in the PBS Kids Go contest.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

- Supt. stated that the Administrative Team met in Killington for Administration Planning; and it was very productive. This year's training centered around technology for the elementary school age. Admin team is very invigorated to work collaboratively. This year the focus will be on

supervisory practice and working more with our teachers. She noted that there is a training session offered at LSC to cover technology change in the school.

- On-line communication – Supt stated that she is working with Phil to make better decisions about on-line communication. These upgrades will be used during the budget process as well.

**Policy Discussion:** Supt., stated that there are many Barnet Policies that are very out dated. She would prefer to have many of the policies rescinded and would rather have the policies be more uniform. She suggested having model policies as required policies to have a starting point; and make modifications from there. There was brief discussion about whether some of these policies were written due to certain events. After further discussion, it was decided to go section by section to see what needs to be rescinded and what should remain in policy; any changes could be made from there. Supt will work with each of the school's on this and will try to keep everyone at the same section. It was asked if there should be a subcommittee to work on the policies to help save time. Any rescinded policies would have to be put on the agenda beforehand. The goal is to get through sections A – D this year.

**Policies:**

- Board Member Conflict of Interest: The Board will look at the old and new policy to be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.
- Non-discrimination & Public Participation at Board Meetings – these policies are not required but seemed to have played an important part in the past. We need to have something in writing to match what the Board would like to have as a way of doing business.

The model policies will need to match with the way the Board does business. The Board should be ready to discuss Section B12; review at the entire “C” Section and see what policies should remain; and look at section C5 to see if it matches with the way the Board wants to deal with the public.

**Negotiated Agreement:** Will be discussed in executive session.

**Financial:** This will be discuss at the next meeting. Rob will bring FY2010 final figures and FY2011 projections and will discuss FY2012 - move forward with costs. There was discussion about the budget and it was stated that Budget Targets are technically voluntary but if not achieved then another process will have to be developed.

**Old Business:**

**Generator costs** – the Board would like to know what amount was from the Grant, the legislative bill, and what amount came from the Town.

**Play Ground** – there was an Insurance Audit for the playground. Princ. Gonyaw reported that the sand is no longer acceptable for the playground area. He mentioned that Burleigh is researching other material, i.e., woodchips, rubber, etc. that would be an acceptable replacement. The Board would like

for the Playground Committee to be made aware that their input is appreciated and it would be feasible to look into grants.

**Future Agenda Items:** 1) Policies for discussion, 2) Financials update, 3) Attendance Policy (section on 3 tardies equals an excused absence), 4) Strategic Plan update, 5) Dept. of Ed Report from Supt., and 6) Generator Funding.

7:45p A motion was made by Louis Bushey, seconded by Shannon Larocque to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen C. Zita  
Barnet Minute Recorder