

**BARNET SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2010**

Members in Attendance: Supt. Martha Tucker, Principal Sean Gonyaw, Business Mgr. Rob Billings, Shellie Samuels, Lori Werdenschlag, Shannon Larocque, Louis Bushey, and Jim Schenck.

6:05pm Meeting called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels. A motion was made by Shannon Larocque, seconded by Louis Bushey to go into executive session to discuss personnel & teacher contracts. Motion approved.

6:44pm On a motion of Shannon Larocque, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the Board came out of Executive Session. Motion approved.

6:45pm Meeting resumes.

Public in Attendance: Dave Warden, Jim Ingerson – JPI Transportation, Chris & Leeanna Roy, Caroline Adams and Kathy Zita – Minute Recorder.

Approval of Minutes – 8/10/10: On a motion of Jim Schenck, seconded by Louis Bushey the minutes were approved as amended. Motion approved.

8/26/10: On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Jim Schenck the minutes were approved as written. Motion Approved.

7/6/10: On a motion Jim Schenck, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the minutes were approved as written. Motion Approved.

Public Input: Mr. & Mrs. Roy brought up a bus issue to see if the bus could stop closer to their home. They were told by the bus company that there isn't a sufficient place to turn around once the bus is on that road. The Roy's stated that they've spoken to other drivers who drive commercial vehicles and have turned around in this area with no problem. Jim Ingerson from JPI Transportation explained that in order to turn around safely he would have to use people's private property. He is also concerned about the winter time when there is snow banks, etc. He would prefer "public" turnarounds as opposed to "private" turnarounds. *Action taken:* The Board would like to speak with the Town Road Manager and gather more information before making any decision on this.

Principal's Report:

- Sean Gonyaw reported on School programs and updates; i.e., the tree planting on the first day with buddy classrooms. Trees were donated by Modern Woodman Assoc. He wanted to give a special thanks to Sally Cook for her reporting which helped in achieving the donation.
- Budget changes: S. Gonyaw mentioned items that needed funding totaling \$10.6K, as well as adjusting items i.e., classroom supplies, books, equipment and professional services which totaled \$9724 in an effort to cutback.

- Vermont Public Television came on Sept. 10th to present Jordan Barbour an award for winning third place in the PBS Kids Go contest.

Superintendent's Report:

- Supt. Stated the opening of school went very smoothly.
- CCSU is spending time to understand the "Challenges for Change" from the Legislature. She stated that more information will be brought back to the October meeting.
- Supt. stated that the budget time line deadline has changed so she will be giving Nov. 9th, 23rd and Dec. 14th as some of the budget deadlines.

Financial:

- 2010 Final Figures: Rob Billings stated that we've calculated a deficit of \$64K for FYE2010. The most significant areas that were over-expended were SPED, salaries and professional services. Revenues had the same scenario; certain areas took in more revenue than were budgeted which gave us an increase of \$49K. Most of the deficit was due to tuition budgeting. He also stated that we are in the middle of an audit this year. He mentioned that we do have some fund balance to help offset this deficit. He stated he believes that \$40K will be what we have deal with when considering the budget.
- 2011 Projections: He stated that FY2011 appears to be in better shape. He will be doing more research on this, especially to find out why the expenditures seem to be high. At this point the major items to look at are in instruction. There seems to be some movement in SPED personnel; and SPED tuition seems to have increased again so he will keep an eye on this; most likely it because of the Academy's tuition. He noted that the Hot Lunch Program had revenues from 2010 exceeding our projections and will monitor it carefully in 2011.
- 2012 Targets – Budget Development: He stated that there is one distinctive advantage over the other schools in that we've settled on our negotiations. Our budget is up almost 3% so it will take planning and researching the tuition before we start cutting.

New Business:

- **Signature Process for Bank:** Principal Sean Gonyaw mentioned that the Bank needs some official statement stating that Kerry Keenan has retired as Principal and has been replaced by Sean Gonyaw as Princ. On a motion of Jim Schenck, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag it was noted that Sean Gonyaw has been Principal at Barnet School effective July 1, 2010 and that Kerry Keenan's last day serving as Principal was June 30, 2010. Motion approved.
- **Policies: Board Member Conflict of Interest:** Supt reviewed the difference between the old policy and the model policy and asked for input and questions from the Board. After review and discussion; it was decided to go forward with adoption of this policy. The next policies to be discussed are Policy on Non-Discrimination; and Public Participation at Board Meetings. It is important to have a policy such as this so that the public understands why the meeting is being

conducted the way it is. Supt. Tucker stated that there are quite a few policies that she would like to rescind because they are more procedural than policy and therefore the responsibility of someone else other than the Board. It was decided to leave the policy on Non-Discrimination as is and move forward with adopting it. The policy on Public Participation at Board Meetings was discussed and it was decided to move forward with adoption.

- **Attendance Policy that 3 tardies equals one absent.** The Principal would like to change this to reflect that absences are what they are and tardies will be considered separately.
- **Administrative Procedures: Volunteers & Work Study Students.** Supt. Tucker reviewed the policy and explained what it is used for. On a motion of Shannon Larocque, seconded by Louis Bushey Procedures for Volunteers and Work Study Students was approved as written.

Old Business:

- **Strategic Plan Update:** Principal distributed the Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2014 and asked for the Board to review it for format. He noted that he changed some of the goals and the timeline for when they will be accomplished. He will review this with the staff and report back at the next School Board meeting. There was a brief conversation about volunteers for the strategic plan meetings and how difficult it is to find volunteers for the 21st Century Learning Grant.
- **Fairbanks Museum:** The Board would like to find out from the teachers how often they would need the service of the museum.
- **Home School Coordinator:** Principal has found someone to oversee this. He is looking for approval from the Board to allocate some funds for this position.
- Supt. Tucker reported that during the summer a **music & technology grant** became available. We've found that we are able to integrate both grants for music and technology. Cindy Mosedale wrote the grant and we just received word that the grant was awarded and was one of the best grants that they have ever seen written. Supt. Tucker will bring up the details of the grant at the next meeting.
- **A memorial of some sort to Mary Prior.** There were different suggestions and the family will be contacted regarding some of these for their thoughts and input.
- **Bus Issue:** The Principal will meet with Jim Ingerson and Tim Gibbs to begin the research on this request.
- Dave Warden stated that it should be brought up and made clear who owns the generator incase something comes up in the future, such as repairs, etc. Is it the Town's or the School's?

Future Agenda Items: 1) Policies: Adoptions and Rescinding; 2) Strategic Plan Update – format; 3) Grant information; 4) Budget priorities; and 5) Bus issue.

Next School Board Meeting(s):

CCSU Meeting: Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6pm at Walden School.
Regular School Board Meeting: October 12, 2010 at 6:00pm at Barnet School

8:55p On a motion of Shannon Larocque, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen C. Zita
Barnet Minute Recorder