

**BARNET SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 9, 2010**

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

6:07pm Meeting called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels. A motion was made by Louis Bushey, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues.  
6:22pm Out of Executive Session; on a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

**Public in Attendance:** Business Mgr. Rob Billings, Kathy Zita – Minute Recorder, Dave Warden, Kathryn Vereline, Katie Young, Sandra Mings-Lamar.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels and resumed at 6:45pm

**Approval of Minutes – 10/12/10:** On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Jim Schenck the minutes were approved as amended. Motion was passed.

**Public Input:** None.

**Capstone Presentation – Early Education:** Presented by Kathryn Vereline. She stated that she is a senior at SJA. She explained what the capstone is and how she loves working with children. She would like to produce a pamphlet containing information about the pros and cons about sending children to pre-school. She is hoping to raise awareness of the benefits for sending young children to school. She was hoping to come and spend some informal time with the pre-schoolers. This information would be generated to neighboring schools as well. There was a Q & A session after her presentation.

Kathryn Vereline left the meeting.

**Principal's Report:**

- Facilities – A child got hurt on the tire swing, but since then Burleigh Huntoon has found some piping to go over the chains.
- NECAP Science test: He reviewed the science test that is given to the fourth grade class, and gave some examples of the multiple choices. He also gave some examples of the 8<sup>th</sup> multiple choices. He showed examples of the various responses that scored 4 – 0. He stated that the test given to 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade consisted of 33 multi-choices, 3 four-point, 8 inquiries and some essay. He reviewed the proficient levels for each grade. He reviewed the next steps that they will be taking. Superintendent stated that by using the consolidated grant funds there could be a Curriculum Coordinator hired for next year to assess and go over the Curriculum. After reviewing this information, Principal Gonyaw answered questions from the Board.

**Superintendent's Report:**

- Planning meeting for the steering Committee met for the first time. A schedule was established as well as a task list to be followed. It is a good group and should be able to get the tasks done.

**New Business:**

- **Class Size Policy** – This will be reviewed and discussed at the next Board meeting as a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**Financial: 2012 Budget Presentation:** Rob gave an overview of what is in the Budget and asked that in the next couple of meetings, the Board think about what they will want in the Budget or taken out of the Budget.

- We haven't done anything with the tax rate as yet.
- Look at the document with a critical eye.
- FY12 salary schedule used for teachers and staff is covered. We've received notification that two staff members will have a column movement.
- Staffing levels reduced by 3.0 FTE para positions.
- Fringe benefit cost increases: Health insurance premiums by 3.00%; teacher contribution for health insurance; worker compensation premiums rates will increase by 5%
- Tuition cost increase by 5% to 8%; three additional tuition students from current year and no provision for additional students
- SPED service plan submitted to ED
- Hot Lunch data included
- Deb repayment schedule for bond continues
- Revenue are estimated and for those revenues that are based on expenditure
- Revenue from state and federal grants are level funded
- Small School grant has been eliminated due to increase in student population.
- CREEP Program is funded from grants out of CCSU
- Tax Rate recommendation is due Dec. 1, 2010.
- Hot Lunch deficit was \$2812. Looking at ways to decrease this deficit.
- Deficit in FY10 of \$134,470; carry forward provision of fund balance of \$70K bringing the deficit to \$64,470.
- Budget FYE 2012 is \$4,208,627; a decrease of \$26,698 from FYE 2011. Education Fund Spending is \$3,631,260. The Challenge Target is \$3,462,223, which means there would have to be \$169,037 reductions. We need to let the Commissioner of Schools know whether or not we can meet the Challenge Target.
- Audit is being done for FY10.

Afterwards he answered questions from the Board. There was a brief discussion about the SPED Staff arrangements for next year. Principal Gonyaw reviewed what he had in his budget for staff, supplies, trips, etc. In a group discussion, it was anticipated that in order to meet the challenge target we would have to look at cutting staff, bussing and possibly the hot lunch program. Rob stated that we may get some relief in the area of tuition; it's difficult to tell right now because we are working on assumptions until we get more information in.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Generator Ownership:** Rob Billings reported that he did some research and has found that it looks as though the Town owns the generator. There was a grant agreement with the VT Dept of Public Safety, State of VT Standard Grant between the State and the Town of Barnet, for the dates between Jan. 1, 2010 and August 31, 2010. The Board will send a letter to the Select Board clarifying the generator ownership. Maintenance for the generator should come out of the local budget.

Rob Billings left the meeting.

- Truancy Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Superintendent reviewed the policy and noted a few typos. After review, it was agreed to warn this policy for adoption at the next meeting.

**Other Business:**

On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Jim Schenck it was approved to increase the salary of Burleigh Huntoon as recommended by the Superintendent and Business Mgr. Motion Passed.

- **Mary Prior:** naming the Library in her memory or name a section of books after her. After a brief discussion it was decided to name a section of books after her. Further follow up on this matter isn't required.
- Superintendent spoke a little further on the budget projections and how it should be presented at the special Board meeting for the Community Forum on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we will not have all the numbers required for the budget. It would give us an opportunity to provide the community with an understanding of the budget. It would be more of an informational meeting about the Learning Grant and the Budget. The Forum will be at 6 – 8pm. There was discussion about which Board member would handle what segment of the forum meeting.

**Future Agenda Items:** 1) Class Size Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> reading; 2) Truancy Policy - adoption.

**Next School Board Meeting(s):**

CCSU Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 6pm.

CCSU Board Meeting: November 29, 2010 at 6:00 pm at Barnet, dinner at 5:30 pm

Special Board Meeting: November 30, 2010 – Community Forum on School Budget

Regular School Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6:00pm at Barnet School.

8:43p On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Jim Schenck the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen C. Zita  
Barnet Minute Recorder