

**BARNET SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2010**

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

6:10pm Meeting called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels. A motion was made by Louis Bushey, seconded by Shannon Larocque to go into executive session to discuss personnel and negotiation issues. **Approved**

6:38pm Out of Executive Session; on a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Shannon Larocque.

Public in Attendance: Business Mgr. Rob Billings, Eric Bogie, Billy Butler, Carl Sanborn.

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

Approval of Minutes – 11/9/10: On a motion of Shannon Larocque, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the minutes were approved as amended. (page 2) **Approved**

Approval of Minutes – 11/30/10: On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the minutes were approved as written. **Approved**

Public Input: School bus pickup changes were discussed. Shannon Larocque made a motion to request the bus route be restored to the condition of the previous two years near the Butler residence. Seconded by Louis Bushey. **Approved**

Principal's Report:

- E-Learning Grant – Some funds remain for professional development. A team will be working with Melissa Bushey to determine best use of the funds.
- PBIS – Very specific data is being collected throughout the school which will be used to help identify specific behavior patterns.
- Check-in/Check-out system was described. It is used to give immediate feedback to some of the children to improve certain behaviors. Shawn explained that it has been very successful in several cases.
- Specific Behavior Plans were discussed. These apply to only a few students and have met with some success.
- Winter Wellness Program was proposed. This program is an expansion to the winter skiing program. It would run at the same times and duration as the skiing program with the same goals of physical activity and potential outbound activities. Specifically, swimming at Lyndon State College, skating at Fenton Chester and outdoor winter activities at Barnet School were discussed. The program would run for 6 weeks on Tuesday afternoons. A grant will defray much of the cost, but contributions by students will be required for certain activities. A scholarship program will be managed to help defray costs as needed. With board approval, a letter is planned for the Friday Folder. The board strongly supported the proposed program.

Superintendent's Report:

- Negotiations ongoing throughout the SU. Barnet may be asked to send a representative of the school board to negotiating sessions.

New Business:

- None.

Budget Presentation: Rob Billings presented the most current budget with the changes from the previous version highlighted.

- There are some changes in the instruction budget expenses due to student population changes.
- Allowable tuition charged by public schools was re-calculated. This will cause some negative budget impacts.
- There are seven notifications of column changes by staff members.
- School Board Budget line items are nearly finalized. CCSU budget is still in process which shows up in the school board budget line.
- Tax Rate calculations are progressing, but “Common Level of Appraisal” values were just received from the state. The value was completely opposite what was expected.
- Equalized pupil count is expected to increase to 280 from 267.
- A \$70,000 fund balance was expected to be used in the 2011 budget year. Due to an error at the business office, it was not used. It is proposed to re-allocate those funds to the 2012 budget.
- Current projections show a possible reduction in school property tax rate.
- Last budget meeting planned for Jan. 11, 2011.

Other Business:

- Facilities Committee: The committee requested that \$45,000 be added to the Long Term Maintenance Fund. The business manager presented his opinion that we could manage for the next budget without the fund. If expenses were encountered that we could handle them without adding this line to the budget. The board took no action on the request.
- Hot Water System – There have been significant problems with delivery of hot water throughout the building. Many repairs have occurred, with only temporary results. The problem is particularly important in the kitchen. A proposal was presented which would create a new hot water loop, and holding tank. It would require an extension to the building and have an estimated cost of \$28,000. The board reviewed the proposal and was reluctant. The principal and facilities manager were instructed to consider other options that did not involve building additions.
- Truancy Policy: Final Reading and Adoption – Louis Bushey made a motion that we accept the truancy policy as written. Seconded by Lori Werdenschlag. **Approved**
- Class Size Policy – A first reading of the class size policy will occur at the January meeting. It is expected that it will recommend a minimum class size of 12 students with an average of 18 students.

Future Agenda Items: 1) Class Size Policy – 1st reading; 2) 2012 Budget 3) Hot Water 4) Policy and Procedure Review 5) 21st Century Grant 6) Principal Salary Review

Next School Board Meeting:

Regular School Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 6:00pm at Barnet School.

8:47p On a motion of Lori Werdenschlag, seconded by Louis Bushey the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Schenck