

BARNET SCHOOL BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2011

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

6:09 pm 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 negotiations and personnel issues.

6:20 pm Out of Executive Session; on a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag. Meeting recessed until 6:45pm.

Public in Attendance: Burleigh Huntoon, Kathy Zita, Minute Recorder, Dave Warden @ 7:30pm

6:50 pm Meeting resumes and called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels

Approval of Minutes – 12/15/10: On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the minutes were approved as amended. Motion was passes. **Minutes of 12/23/10:** On a motion of Lori Werdenschlag, seconded by Shannon Larocque the minutes were approved as written.

Public Input: None.

Hot Water System: Burleigh Huntoon reported that there is a problem with the piping running to the heat exchanger. Both the pipes and the unit are old and we cannot get a re-built kit for the valve or the heat exchanger. He had Harris Plumbing & Heating trying to correct the problem for about 10 hours. He noted that the kitchen and dishwasher has a hot water temperature of 150 degrees. The problem is that the heat exchanger is still blocked and he isn't sure how long it will last. He stated that some of our options are: discontinuing the heat exchanger and have a heating tank installed which means tapping into the heating system with a shut off for the tank; or continue to run it since we don't know how long before it gives out and start budgeting for a replacement. He produced a bid from Harris P&H in the amount of \$12,577.00. Burleigh reviewed the itemized bid and noted that if the Board wanted to go less then plumber would do the job on a Time and Material basis. He stated the plumber is willing to begin installation this Friday, 1/14 and come in on Saturday in order to get the heating tank installed by next week. Burleigh is looking for Board approval to proceed with this project. There was some discussion about the costs and funding available. Supt. Tucker distributed information pertaining to the budget that might be instrumental in making a decision about this project.

Rob Billings joined the meeting via tele-conference. Rob Billings spoke about the budget and explained that funds from LTM as well as the surplus fund balance could be used for the hot water project. Rob Billings left the meeting.

The Board continued their discussion about the hot water project. Burleigh explained that he did try to obtain other bids but was unsuccessful. **On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Shannon Larocque it was approved to authorize Burleigh to have Harris P & H to proceed with the hot water tank project. Motion passes.**

Superintendent's Report:

- 21 Century Grant – still a work in progress.
- Seminar for Principal Evaluations given by Paula Beven. She noted that Principal Gonyaw attended it with her and he also found the information beneficial.
- Based on the current Budget information it shows that if we were to respond to the School Commissioner today, we would have met and exceeded the Target Goal.

Principal's Report:

- **Walk Through Learning Walks:** Whereby he spends time in classrooms to see how the teachers are doing. One thing he looks for is technology types and quality use. He showed graphs indicating how much usage there was since October 2010.
- **Teacher Blogs** – each teacher has a blog whereby they jot down information about what they are doing.
- **Teaching Assignments for 2011/2012 School Year.** He distributed information showing the different teams.
- **Winter Wellness Program** – There was only 2 students that were absent for this. He updated the Board on the various Winter activities and sports that the students attended such as skiing, skating, snow-shoeing. He mentioned that Eric Bogie has done a tremendous job coordinating the activities for this program.
- **21st Century Grant** – Review and Solicit input for Barnet School. He reviewed information pertaining to the Grant application. Supt. stated that Grant will be in the range of 140 pages. He discussed how he went through the master document and picked programs that would be beneficial to Barnet. He then had teachers review the document for their input. The School Board commended the amount of time and effort that is going into this.
- **Burleigh Huntoon has a request** stating that the School Board minutes reflect that the Board approves Burleigh putting money into the budget for the UV project. On a motion of Shannon Larocque, seconded by Louis Bushey it was noted that for the 2009/2010 maintenance budget the School Board approved Burleigh Huntoon to fund the UV project for the 2010/11 school year. Motion passes.
- **Playground Monitors:** The Board asked if there was any changes in rules on the playground as well as personnel who monitor the playground; in the past there seems to be some inconsistencies with different personnel following the same rules.
- **NEAP:** Schools are chosen randomly but because Vermont is small, it is always chosen. This year the 4th and 8th graders will be participating in this.

New Business:

- **Communication Protocols:** Principal Gonyaw wanted to discuss how the communication between the Principal, School Board and Superintendent should be handled and what the protocol is for this. He noted that other places he has worked have a protocol whereby the Principal is included more in the communications. He wanted to know what the protocol is so that he understands the chain of communications. Supt. stated that there are some issues that she would like to be better informed of as well. Princ. Gonyaw stated that he would like parents, staff, etc. to come to him first before going to the Supt. and/or the School Board. There was a brief discussion about the Chain of Command and the expectation that Staff should go to the person they need to communicate with, if they aren't getting anywhere with that, then they could go to the Principal, the Superintendent, and lastly the School Board.
- **Class Size Policy 1st Reading.** Superintendent would like the Board to review the guidelines for the class size minimum. This will be brought back for a 2nd Reading.

Financial: 2012 Budget Approval: Superintendent viewed some of the highlights of the budget. It was noted that St. Johnsbury Academy's tuition will increase 0% for a savings of \$20,813. We will also be reducing the Principal's health insurance and increase Principal fund by \$3K for a savings of \$11,902. There was some question and concern over the way the Hot Lunch Program is represented in the budget. It was noted to change the use of the hot lunch subsidy to meet the needs of the hot water project. Some of the other changes noted: tax rate is 12 cents less than 2010 calendar year tax rate. The budget is \$48K less than FY2011 budget.

Rob Billings joined the meeting via tele-conference. He answered questions regarding the hot lunch program and the surplus from the general fund for 2011. On a motion of Shannon Larocque, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the 2012 Budget totaling \$4,190,097.00 was approved. Motion passes.

It was mentioned that the Budget Committee meeting will be January 25th at 6:00pm at Town Clerk's Office.

Old Business: On a motion of Louis Bushey, seconded by Lori Werdenschlag it was approved to authorize Shawn Gonyaw to hire a replacement for a retiring staff member. Motion passes with Shannon Larocque abstaining.

Other Business: On a motion of Jim Schenck, seconded by Louis Bushey the Board would like to express its deep appreciation for the loyalty, dedication, and years of service that Bill Doyle has provided to Barnet School along with the willingness to do whatever it takes to make the Barnet students the best that they can be. Motion passes.

Future Agenda Items: 1) Policies: Class Size Policy – 2nd Reading; Bullying and Harassment and Attendance Policy – 1 reading.

Next School Board Meeting(s):

Regular School Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 6:00pm at Barnet School.

9:06p On a motion of Jim Schenck , seconded by Lori Werdenschlag the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen C. Zita
Barnet Minute Recorder