

Barnet School Board
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2011

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

6:09 p.m. Meeting called to order by chair Shellie Samuels.

6:10 p.m. Shannon Larocque made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a student issue and a personnel issue. Seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

Approved

6:44 p.m. Shannon Larocque made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

Approved

6:45 p.m. The public portion of the meeting began at 6:45 p.m. and was attended by Dave Warden, Rep. Leigh Larocque, and Jean Denson.

Public Input

Comments were made by Rep. Lee Larocque regarding school budget and tax rate. There is \$23 million that was to go to school budgets that could possibly be used to balance the state's budget. If this happens, the local tax could increase instead of decrease. There was also a brief discussion regarding the Challenges for Change program.

Approval of Minutes - April 12, 2011 Meeting

Corrections: Shannon Larocque was not at the 4/12 meeting, Werdenschlag misspelled on pg. 1. Louis Bushey then made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

Approved

Student Presentations

There were no students present. Jean Denson did try recruiting students but found scheduling conflicts were an issue. She reported to the Board that academic achievement by Barnet school alumni is very high, as reported in the newspaper. Currently there are 86 alumni at four different high schools. At St Johnsbury Academy, 43 alumni made the honor roll, with two at Lyndon Institute, four at Blue Mtn Union, and two at Danville. In talking with former students, Jean found one thing Barnet did not prepare them for at St Johnsbury Academy was note taking from text. Otherwise, they felt well prepared for the Academy. Jean suggested the Board send a survey to students when the tuition vouchers go out requesting feedback. This survey could be done using Survey Monkey. Use of Facebook was suggested as well. Principal Gonyaw and Superintendent Tucker thanked Jean for the effort she put into contacting students. Rep. Laroque reported the Dean of Students at the Academy said some of the best prepared students at the Academy were from Barnet and Waterford. Shannon Laroque suggested having a parent or friend or Board member bring a student to the Board meeting as support. He knows of a former student interested in making a presentation.

Principal's Report

- Picture day today; a school picture was taken and will be hanging in the corridor soon.
- A follow-up audit was conducted last Friday on the hot lunch program. The audit went well. Information will be shared with the Board once it is available.
- The search committee for hiring the new teachers has narrowed down applicants to three. Classroom visits will be held soon (one in St Johnsbury, one in Lyndonville, one in Bradford).

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Tucker attended the grand opening of the Observatory in Peacham on Saturday. Students Bea Brody and Jacob Houde made a presentation and did a wonderful job.
- Seven 21st Century grants have been awarded, with conditions. CCSU is fourth on the list. The amount of funding available is still unknown. Superintendent Tucker will be working on a rewrite if necessary and will know more after discussions are held on Friday.
- CCSU is moving forward with a comprehensive program on literacy; a proposal is in the works now. Discussion followed on the program.

Old Business

None

Other Business

Next Meetings:

- Interviews Tentative May 17, 2011 8:00 am – 11:00 am.
 - Principal Gonyaw will circulate questions he has asked the candidates.
 - Board members should have two (2) questions they would like to ask the candidates.
- Barnet 8th Grade Graduation June 8, 2011
- Regular School Board Meeting June 14, 2011
- School Board Retreat Tentative July 12, 2011 8:30 am – 1:00 pm (location TBD)

7:47 p.m. Shannon Larocque made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Seconded by Louis Bushey. **Approved**

David Warden and Ellen Hinman (minute recorder) left the meeting. (Rep. Lee Larocque, and Jean Denson had left earlier.)

9:46 p.m. Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Shannon Larocque. **Approved**

Louis Bushey made a motion to grant a parental request for a student to complete the school year in Barnet. Seconded by Shannon Larocque. **Approved**

Jim Schenck made a motion to non-renew the teacher contract of Alicia Hingston for the 2011-2012 school year. Seconded by Shellie Samuels. **Approved**

Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Shannon Larocque. **Approved**

9:52 p.m. Meeting adjourns

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Hinman & Jim Schenck