

**Barnet School Board
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2011**

Members in Attendance: Louis Bushey, Shellie Samuels, Jim Schenck, Lori Werdenschlag, Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Superintendent Martha Tucker, Bus. Mgr. Rob Billings

6:02 p.m. Meeting called to order by chair Shellie Samuels.

6:02 p.m. Louis Bushey made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contracts. Seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

Approved

Principal Shawn Gonyaw and Bus. Mgr Rob Billings left the meeting.

6:22 p.m. Jim Schenck made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

Approved

The meeting recessed

6:30 p.m. The public portion of the meeting began and was attended by Dave Warden, Caroline Friedrich, and CCSU Bus. Mgr. Jan Ouellette.

Public Input

None

Approval of Minutes - May 10, 2011 Meeting

Corrections: Leigh Larocque's first name was misspelled on pg. 1. Louis Bushey then made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

Approved

May 17, 2011 - Louis Bushey made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Lori Werdenschlag.

Approved

June 10, 2011 - Louis Bushey made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Jim Schenck.

Approved

Chair Samuels requested that the "Other Business" section of the agenda be discussed next; there were no objections.

Other Business

Principal Gonyaw explained that Caroline Friedrich is leaving her teaching position but has a proposal to do teaching from abroad via the internet. Caroline's idea is to make instructional videos. She would connect with the other teachers on their classes, which could be taught in Spanish using the videos. Grades 5 through 8 would be targeted; those students could then coach the younger students. Vocabulary would be taught as well. Caroline would have "business hours" to assist with questions etc. She is also willing to teach German. Principal Gonyaw mentioned geography;

Caroline could do a video or take pictures that could be used in teaching geography. Principal Gonyaw thought this could work. Upgrades have been done to internet connections and high speed is available. Jim Schenck asked if there would be any issues with the union. Caroline could be contracted and not remain a teacher. Superintendent Tucker suggested contacting the union first to discuss the proposal with them. Principal Gonyaw interviewed someone for the Spanish teacher position, that person took a position at Danville, and the position has been re-advertised. The Board decided to look at the sample video before making a decision. Caroline is planning a website and will send Principal Gonyaw the link once she gets it together.

Chair Samuels requested that the “Financial” section of the agenda be discussed next; there were no objections.

Financial

Jan Ouellette was introduced to the Board; she will be taking over as Business Manager after Rob Billings’ departure. Jan presented the TAN information. The two methods of handling this are tax anticipation loan and a line of credit. The loan is generally taken out July 1 and paid back once tax monies are received. The line of credit is drawn on as needed until tax monies are received. The line of credit option, at the Passumpsic Bank, was used this school year. Discussion was held on both methods. Jim Schenck made a motion to fund the TAN through the Passumpsic Bank in the form of a line of credit. Louis Bushey seconded the motion.

Approved

Rob Billings explained the FY11 Budget Project information, which shows a deficit. Rob was conservative on the figures used as there is some unknown, so the final amount could be better than projected. The water system cost is shown in the budget and that cost will be paid back in the end. There will be some fund balances available to offset the deficit and there may be some carry forward. The hot lunch program has a projected deficit also but federal funds are available for the free and reduced lunches that may bring the deficit down.

This is Rob Billings’ last meeting. He thanked Board members for all their work. Rob and Jan left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Principal’s Report

- Principal Gonyaw had the paperwork prepared to recoup the cost of the U.V. Project; signatures were obtained.
- Professional Development Update – The K-3 team will be attending the Vermont Reads Institute conference in Stowe on literacy.
- Principal Gonyaw shared the rubrics developed from his classroom observations. He conducted 72 formal observations, not counting the daily walk-through. The rubric shows trends based on several criteria. If percentages are low, this indicates work needs to be done in those areas. Observations are not broken down by class or by teacher. This system is different what was done in years past and Principal Gonyaw has received good feedback from teachers on this method.
- The school received a notice from the Town of Barnet regarding Karme Choling’s proposed construction of two structures in the woods. The notice was shared with Board members.

Superintendent's Report

- Barnet had a good year under Principal Gonyaw and the Board's leadership.
- The new administrative team will be together at a conference in Philadelphia on June 25; Principal Gonyaw and Melissa Bushey from Barnet will be attending.
- Administrative team retreat is scheduled for July 6, 7, and 8 and there will be another one in August.
- Vermont Reads Institute of UVM is hosting a conference in Stowe on literacy.
- The reading consultant will be coming on August 18.
- Common initiatives across all CCSU schools are being developed.
- There may be some bad press coming out as a result of the School Board meeting in Peacham Monday night. Louis said he has received calls from Peacham residents regarding the Barnet School Board and has been supportive of Superintendent Tucker's role.
- Superintendent Tucker asked for the Board's approval of contracts for Principal Gonyaw and Burleigh Huntoon. Louis Bushey made a motion to approve the contracts; Lori Werdenschlag seconded the motion.

Approved

New Business

The CCSU Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Walden School.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Future Agenda Items

- Agenda items are being worked on; details need to be firmed up.
- Preparation of the handbook needs to be discussed at the retreat. In August and September work can begin on the necessary policies.

Next Meetings:

- School Board Retreat Tentative July 12, 2011 8:30 am – 1:00 pm (location Lori Werdenschlag's Home)

8:14 p.m. Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Louis Bushey. **Approved**

8:15p.m. Meeting adjourns

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hinman
Jim Schenck