***"APPROVED"***

**Barnet School Board**
**Meeting Minutes**
**October 11, 2011**

**Members in Attendance**: Louis Bushey, Shellie Samuels, Jim Schenck, Lori Werdenschlag, Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Business Manager Jan Ouellette, Superintendent Martha Tucker.

6:12 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Samuels.

6:13 p.m. Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues; seconded by Louis Bushey. **Approved**

6:45 p.m. Motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by Louis Bushey to adjourn the Executive Session. **Approved**

6:46 p.m. The public portion of the meeting began.
Members of the public present: Katie Young, David Warden

Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to deny the grievance and authorize the Chair to respond in writing per our discussion; the motion was seconded by Louis Bushey. **Approved**

**Approval of September 13, 2011 Minutes**
Correction needed on page three, third paragraph under Other Business, *April* should be changed to *Angel*. Louis Bushey made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Lori Werdenschlag. **Approved**

**Public Input**
There was no public input.

**Principal's Report**
Principal Gonyaw reported the total enrollment to date, K-8, is 193 students.

NECAP Update - Science NECAP results from last school year are in. Fourth graders (now in fifth grade) did great – 73% were proficient. The state average is 28% proficient and the district average is 67% proficient. The students did best in physical science, life science, and earth-based science and were weak in science inquiry. Eighth graders showed 29% proficiency; the district average is 36% and the state average is 28%. High scores were in earth science and life science with weakest scores in physical science and science inquiry. The first year NECAP science results for eighth grade were 12% proficient, the second year was 33%, and the third year 29% proficient. Schools in the district are working with the Montshire Museum and developing more hands-on inquiry-based science with K-12. The fourth grade results show significant increase for one year. Fourth grade teachers in the district recently spent a day at the Montshire Museum to work on a teaching plan; fifth and sixth grade teachers have done the same and last week eighth grade teachers went to the Montshire.

Teacher Update – Susan Jensen is currently doing a dual role; teaching kindergarten and training to be a Title 1 reading recovery teacher; she is spending time with first grade students on reading.

**Superintendent's Report**
NECAPs/Montshire Museum – Work in science was identified as necessary across the Supervisory Union two years ago and the Administrative Team discussed focusing on science. A plan was put together to dovetail with the Montshire Museum's work. Materials, planning, and delivery are

available free from the Montshire. Hank Ruppertsberger from the Peacham School works with a teacher from each school and they meet regularly to plan the work.

Superintendent Tucker continues work on the budget, moving toward the Common Core, doing evaluations, etc.

**Financial Report**
FY2012 Financial Update – Projections on FY2012 revenues and expenditures are complete. Education funding, tuitions, and other sources of revenue were reviewed; staffing, benefits, and special education expenses were looked at. Tuitions are in around $20,000 and interest costs are down due to replacing lump sum borrowing with the line of credit. Revenues are up by $50,000 at this point. On the expenditure side, tuitions have come in lower with four students sent to St Johnsbury Academy, special education costs are down, and fiscal services are down $30,000. Tech support is up a bit as some purchases were under-budgeted. These are early projections but things look good to make up the deficit and not make such a dent in the FY2013 budget. The reserve for Long-Term Maintenance was moved so the deficit is down to about $50,000; this could be made up and there would be no deficit carry-forward for FY2013.

Jan is able to work with Barnet's budget on-line and that is working very well.

David Warden asked if someone was double checking tuition students to make sure they are Barnet's. Chair Samuels reported that has been checked and a couple were found that were not Barnet's.

FY2013 Budget Discussions – Superintendent Tucker would like a sense of what is very clear in the budget that the Board will support, what items need more information, and what items there are questions on. Based on this, preparations will be made for the meeting(s) in November.

-Invest in improving the 29% proficiency rate in eighth grade science.
-Continue support of Spanish; perhaps increase the program over time.
-Continue winter wellness program
-Put money back into the long-term maintenance fund. There was concern about needing new kitchen equipment and replacing boilers without available funding. There should be a cushion in the fund for emergencies. (Superintendent Tucker will ask the Facilities Committee to look into this and come back with recommendations.)
-Continue small class sizes in kindergarten.
-Playground equipment. Principal Gonyaw is working with the PTA to fund some equipment.
-Repair to the foot bridge; repair/new bleacher seats.
-Maintain the fresh food and vegetable grant.
-Smaller class size in all younger grades.
-Food Service numbers should be watched; free and reduced lunches double checked, hold the line as best we can.
-Support what has been outlined in the Strategic Plan.
-Do not budget for a deficit in Food Services. Budget it ahead of time instead of including the amount retroactively. (Need to look in Town Report for a special article regarding food services budget)
-Question on writing; a good deal of time has been spent on writing. Scores show Barnet eighth graders are at 58% proficiency; the district level is 60% and the state level is 62%.
-Continue involvement in the PBIS model, especially on Tier 2 and 3 students for next year, including staff training on changing behaviors.
-Continue support of school climate.
-Consider investing in IPods to use for different educational situations.

-Look at the Common Core standards and the impact that will have on teaching as a whole.
-Look at multi-age, combined classrooms.
-Staff training in preparation for Common Core curriculum; coaches for Math and Literacy.
-Funding for a Curriculum director.

**New Business**
None.

**Old Business**
Procedures for Recruitment, Selection and Hiring of Teachers – Board members have the latest version, which reflects the comments from the Supervisory Union. Regarding the review committee, currently there are no Board members on this committee; should there be? Peacham and Walden suggested stating the School Board may decide to include one member on the committee; Danville did not suggest this change. Chair Shellie Samuels, Louis Bushey, and Lori Werdenschlag liked the flexibility of stating a Board member may be included on the committee. Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to accept the Procedures for Recruitment, Selection and Hiring of Teachers as amended; Louis Bushey seconded the motion. **Approved**

**Other Business**
Superintendent Tucker handed out a leadership responsibilities matrix that was prepared for Peacham but is useful to anyone.

Newsletter – Input on the latest newsletter was requested. There was discussion on the first bullet under Communications with School Board Members. The wording in the first sentence regarding starting at "the lowest level" should be changed, perhaps to "start with direct communication with the person you have an issue with" or "with the person nearest to the issue". The article on Executive Session was discussed. It was suggested that the sentence beginning with "Problems arise when community…" in the first paragraph be taken out. It was also suggested that wording in the third paragraph in parenthesis be removed. After more discussion on this paragraph, it was decided the entire paragraph could be taken out. The link to the School Board Code of Conduct should be included. Regarding distribution of the newsletter, the McIndoes Library should be added to the list of places with printed copies. The newsletter could be added to the town's website. Copies could be available at Town Meeting and a sign-up sheet could be available for people wishing to receive the newsletter. In the School Budget paragraph, tell people where to look in case the second November meeting is scheduled (website address, etc).

**Future Agenda Items**
- Presentation on instructional program
-Update on Census Information
-Five-year Goals, Where are we in the Budget Process (November meeting)
-The November 8 meeting will include a trip to the conference room to view the literacy data wall.

**Adjournment**
At 8:16 p.m., Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Louis Bushey seconded the motion. **Approved**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman
Jim Schenck