

Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2012
Barnet School

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

6:01 pm The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.

Louis Bushey made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a student issue and review negotiations; seconded by Lori Werdenschlag. **Approved**

6:29 pm A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Lori Werdenschlag. **Approved**

6:30 pm The public portion of the meeting began.
Recorder Ellen Hinman joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Louis Bushey to accept Shannon Larocque's letter of resignation with appreciation for his time on the Board and the contribution he made on behalf of Barnet students. The motion was seconded by Jim Schenck. **Approved**

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Lori Werdenschlag to appoint David Warden to fill the vacancy until Town Meeting. David said he was honored to be appointed to the Board. **Approved**

Approval of Minutes – 10/9/2012

Lori Werdenschlag suggested a change to item c. under the Financial section, to read "...because they have not been challenged enough academically." Louis Bushey made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/9/2012 meeting with that change; seconded by Lori Werdenschlag. **Approved**

Public Input

There was no public input.

Principal's Report

- * This is the week for staff to look at behavioral data; they review the data twice a month. Last year at this time there were 77 office referrals and this year there are 55. Numbers have been declining each month since December by about 12%. Disrespect and disruption are the major issues. Six students count for 78% of the referrals.
- * This year Barnet implemented across the board Step I and Step II time-outs. If students are not following expectations, a time out is needed. If the student still cannot follow expectations, they go to a buddy classroom. If time is not spent in the buddy room, it must be made up at snack time, lunch time, or recess.
- * Winter Wellness will go on again this year with skiing, skating, swimming, bowling, sledding, and snowshoeing. Funds were budgeted to cover busses and some scholarships for students unable to cover the costs.

- * Barnet recently attended a spelling bee in Hyde Park and students did a great job; Barnet School came in fourth. Meg Clayton was the coach and attended along with Principal Gonyaw and students who went along to cheer.
- * Billy Jo Roberts, Principal Gonyaw, and a group of 5th and 6th graders wrote a grant to the Vermont Rural Partnership and were awarded \$2,000 to support the building of a school/community bread oven. In addition, they were funded up to \$3,600 in services from Joseph Keifer to support building the structure, which will be shaped like the Barnet Bulldog mascot.
- * Principal Gonyaw reviewed the Science NECAP scores for 4th grade and 8th grade. Barnet students seem to fall short on areas that require writing; multiple choice questions they are very good at. Principal Gonyaw said the Science NECAPs are more about being a good reader and writer than about actual science.
- * Principal Gonyaw showed Board members the Department of Education website where NECAP analyses can be found, for all schools. Barnet students seem to stay about the same year after year.
- * Principal Gonyaw showed Board members the classroom walk-through software that is used at Barnet.

Superintendent's Report

- * Negotiations for both support staff and teachers have been settled pending ratification.
- * Superintendent Tucker asked if a special meeting was needed this month. There may not be a chance for a second meeting in December.
- * Superintendent Tucker attended an organizational meeting about the 21st Century Learning Grant. Information was gathered regarding structuring the grant differently this year. Anyone interested in being involved with this still has the chance as at least two more meetings will be held before the grant is submitted. There is a stronger emphasis this year on instruction occurring during the school day and not so much on enrichment.

Financial

- * Jan Ouellette presented the FY2013 financial update on expenditures only – projected, budgeted, and spent to date. There are some areas with significant changes from budgeted amounts. Tuitions are coming in less than budgeted. Special Ed costs have increased. General administration decreased. Revenues have not been reviewed yet; Special Ed and interest revenue will change and the E-Rate revenue needs to be reviewed. Expenditures are not far off projections and some increases will be off-set by revenue changes.

New Business

- * FY2014 Educational Program Planning. Principal Gonyaw presented his proposed budget for FY2014. The emphasis is on continuing Tier II support and adding more support in Math using current staff members. Updated materials are needed for reading and money will be put into non-fiction text. Some books need updating as some are very old. Level Literacy Intervention is in place for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades and Principal Gonyaw would like to extend that to 4th grade next year. If that is done, materials will be needed. Some technology is in need of replacement. The internet service can be used more wisely by taking advantage of some programs that will be useful to students. Five more Netbooks will be needed; five staff machines need to be replaced with the old machines going to

classrooms. I pads are needed for kindergarten classes. The 5th and 6th grades use a 1 on 2 ratio (1 computer to 2 students) but some of those machines need to be replaced. Science materials for 3rd to 8th grades need to be updated. Classroom configurations will not change much next year, but two kindergarten classes will be needed and there will be two 3rd/4th grade combination classes. The three Tier II teachers will remain as will special ed for K-2, 3-6, and 7-8 grades. Next year one 8th grade student will need a one on one so a para will be needed there. Essential Arts FTEs would remain the same. Principal Gonyaw would like to see some funding in the budget for the 10 classroom teachers to come in during the summer to work; Jody Elliot will work with them. There may be a new math class that is more in line with Common Core standards. Louis asked about the 21st Century after school program match. The first two years is at 100% match and then it goes down for the third, fourth, and fifth years. Ways to meet the match could involve changing teacher work schedules to cover some of the after school time.

- * Boiler. Jan asked for discussion on the boiler; in particular, one invoice from ARC that has not been paid. To date, \$53,705 has been spent on the boiler project. The invoice in question is for an extra \$1,300 to cover a back flow valve needed to bring the project up to code. However, it was pointed out the contract for the project stated the project needed to be done to code. There was some discussion on how to handle this charge. A motion was made by David Warden that the \$1,300 invoice be paid; the motion was seconded by Jim Schenck. However, the motion failed to pass. Superintendent Tucker will draft a letter to ARC explaining that the invoice will not be paid because the work was supposed to be done to code.
- * Long Term Maintenance. Principal Gonyaw mentioned that Burleigh Huntoon had asked about the long term maintenance line item in the budget. There is not currently a specific long term maintenance reserve now. Burleigh would like to move in that direction and set aside funding for an alternative heating system in the future. There was discussion of the authorization for long term maintenance which occurred some years ago and whether a new authorization from voters would be necessary. If money was to be set aside for an alternative heating system, it would not really be long term maintenance. Superintendent Tucker and Jan Ouellette will look into the need for authorization to set aside long term maintenance funds.
- * Future meetings. After some discussion, it was decided a second meeting in November would be held, on November 27th.
- * Bullying policy. Superintendent Tucker shared a model policy on bullying with Board members. Legislature requires each school district adopt a policy at least as strict as this model policy from VSBA. Superintendent Tucker would like to have the policy adopted as written.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Other Business

- * Substitute Pay. There may be an increase in the need for substitutes as teachers will need time to take Common Core classes. The rate Barnet pays for substitutes has not changed in a number of years. Superintendent Tucker suggested Barnet change the rate paid to substitutes to stay competitive with other schools. There was some discussion on whether

the rate should remain a per day rate or if it should be an hourly rate. There may be some advantage to the hourly rate but Superintendent Tucker would like to research that. The rate decided upon should be consistent through the supervisory union. Discussions on this issue will continue at the next meeting.

- * Education Secretary Candidates. Shellie Samuels asked for an update on the Education Secretary position. Superintendent Tucker shared what information she had regarding this issue with the Board.
- * Meeting with Waterford School. Principal Gonyaw reported he had spoken briefly with the Waterford Principal and got the impression that a discussion between the two schools would not occur. The differences between the programs at the two schools make it difficult to compare the two.

Future Agenda Items

- * Adoption of the Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and the Internet policy (Dec 11)
- * Financial Update
- * Bullying Policy – 1st reading (Nov 27)
- * Bullying Policy – 2nd reading (Dec 11)
- * Substitute Pay (Nov 27)
- * Budget and Policies

Adjournment

8:25 pm A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by Louis Bushey to adjourn the meeting. **Approved**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman, Recorder
Jim Schenck, Board Clerk