

Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 8, 2013
Barnet School

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

6:07 pm The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.

6:07 pm A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and a student issue.

Approved

6:09 pm Jim Schenck joined the meeting.

6:27 pm A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by David Warden to exit Executive Session.

Approved

6:35 pm The public portion of the meeting began. Jan Ouellette and Ellen Hinman joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to approve the use of sick time for FMLA per the employee request. **Approved**

A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by Lori Werdenschlag to authorize the Superintendent to take appropriate steps to address residency investigations. **Approved**

Approval of Minutes-12/11/2012

Corrections in spelling were pointed out on page 1. A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Lori Werdenschlag to approve the minutes from the 12/11/2012 meeting with those corrections.

Approved

Agenda Addition

Superintendent Tucker requested Peacham School Board Request be added to Other Business.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Principal's Report

- * Principal Gonyaw shared with the Board a letter received from the Secretary of Education. Barnet was one of two schools to receive this letter of recognition for growth in the school based on PBiS work. Information from Barnet's data wall was used to provide evidence to the DOE on this work. Shellie Samuels suggested putting a copy of this letter in the town report; Board members agreed that should be done.
- * SWIS data was used to look at behavior issues from the first day of school to now for the last four years. In 2009 there were 449 referrals; in 2010 there were 451 referrals; in 2011

- there were 137 referrals; and this year to date there has been 69 referrals.
- * The Principal's 100 Group reached its 100th member this year. Principal Gonyaw has made 100 phone calls to parents this year.
 - * Principal Gonyaw and 13 teachers at Barnet have started a book discussion. The book they are reading is about setting up the classroom and getting the best out of time available.
 - * Today was the first day of Winter Wellness. Only 40 or so students stayed at school for activities. The program is very well organized.
 - * POA results for K-2 literacy were shared with the Board. Next month results for grades 3 through 8 will be shared.

Superintendent's Report

- * All activities have been directed to budget development.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Old Business

* Bullying Prevention policy. The policy has not changed since the last time. David Warden pointed out wording that should be changed – on page 2 second paragraph change “District/Independent School” and take out “member of the board of trustees”; on page 4 item A under Dissemination of Information, change “the School District/Independent School”. There was some discussion, questions were answered, and a motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by David Warden to adopt the Bullying Prevention policy as amended.

Approved

* Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and the Internet policy. This policy has not been changed since the last time. Two spelling corrections were made on page 1, item 1c and 2b. A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Lori Werdenschlag to adopt the Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and the Internet policy with those corrections.

Approved

Financial

Superintendent Tucker, Principal Gonyaw, and Jan Ouellette met to develop the trim list which would cut the budget by \$163,000 as directed. These are not recommendations and nothing has been discussed with faculty or the people involved. Budget items were discussed and items with changes were explained. Some services which fall within the school budget are not overseen by the Board. Cutting in one area may result in an increase elsewhere; for example, cutting out a special educator may result in the need for more paraprofessionals. The \$10,000 set aside for long term maintenance could be a special article. After discussions on the budget and trim list, Superintendent Tucker asked the Board for some direction. Principal Gonyaw requested a dollar amount for the 14% increase in health insurance and for the increase in tuition to St Johnsbury Academy.

Lori Werdenschlag suggested a letter be written before Town Meeting explaining the budget increase. Not a newsletter but a concise paragraph explaining the budget and encouraging community members to attend the budget meeting. This could be sent using the email list; David Warden suggested using The Bridge.

There was discussion on the Esden Fund and whether some of the interest from this fund could be used.

In order to get out of the two-vote option, Jan Ouellette said \$116,740 would need to come out of the budget. Superintendent Tucker suggested working through the trim list, deciding what to keep in, and then filling in what was needed to reach \$116,740 elsewhere. There was a question whether the two-vote would be needed if voters added items back in to the budget at Town Meeting; Superintendent Tucker will find out.

Transportation Bids. Two bids were received – from Butler Bus Service and from JPI. JPI offered a multi-year bid and came in lower than Butler. There was discussion on whether a multi-year contract could be entered into because of the consolidation. There was also discussion of discontinuing busing and offering before and after school programs, and of discontinuing the high school route. Superintendent Tucker suggested a multi-year contract would need language to allow for changes over the life of the contract, so that a decision to drop the high school route could happen even if the contract had been signed.

Other Business

- * Peacham School Board Request. There is a petition circulating in the community to close the Peacham School. There will probably be a vote at Town Meeting on that petition. The Peacham School Board would like to study how closing the school would impact students. Act 156, which is a correction to Act 153, allows one school to work with another to explore ways to help each other and would cover the cost of a consultation with the schools. The Peacham School Board is asking if Barnet would be interested in participating in this consultation. This request was discussed at Danville on Monday and the School Board agreed to participate in the consultation. After some discussion, School Board members agreed to participate in the consultation as well.
- * Board letter in Town Report. Someone needs to draft a letter from the Board. Superintendent Tucker will be doing a letter focusing on the CCSU; Principal Gonyaw will be doing a letter focusing on school programs. Jim Schenck volunteered to draft something for Board review and will focus on the budget.
- * Town Budget Meeting. The Town Clerk is asking for budget information. Nothing will be available before January 25th and the drop-dead date would be January 28th.

Future Agenda Items

- * Budget
- * Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm. **Approved**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman, Recorder
Jim Schenck, Board Clerk