

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Barnet School**

Members in Attendance: Shellie Samuels, Mary Skovsted, David Warden, Lori Werdenschlag; Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Business Manager Janice Ouellette, Superintendent Martha Tucker

- 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.
- 6:00 p.m. A motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations.
- 6:20 p.m. A motion was made to exit Executive Session.
- 6:30 p.m. The public portion of the meeting began. Louis Bushey, Ellen Hinman, John Cooke, Sally Cooke, and the News7 news team joined the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

11/12/2013 – Lori Werdenschlag made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Skovsted and the motion passed with no further discussion.

11/21/2013 – To the first paragraph, add “Bids are due December 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.” Add that Mary Skovsted participated by telephone. A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Lori Werdenschlag to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed with no further discussion.

11/25/2013 – A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Mary Skovsted to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed with no further discussion.

Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

Principal’s Report

*The leach field repair is almost done underneath and there is a little left to do above ground.

*Barnet received a blue ribbon for being an exemplary school and a certificate of recognition for behavioral work from the Vermont Agency of Education.

*There are 90 students enrolled in the after school program. Not all students come every day but choose which activities they want to do. Donna Gaston has put in many hours above her regular time to make this program work.

*Teachers and teams or committees were recognized for work done:

-James Lamar and the Data Team. This team looks at all the behavioral data once a month.

-Ashley Grey and the Universal Behavioral Group which looks at discipline practices across the school for consistency from class to class.

-Billie Jo Roberts does book studies with teachers on how to use the bookshelf model in their classroom.

-Caroline Adams is working with teachers on how better to report out to parents on student progress, ways to make conferences more meaningful, and ways to have events that share what is going on in school.

-Melissa Bushey for her work on technology for teachers.

-Aaron Wilkie and the wellness program; winter wellness is in full swing right now.

-Linda Lyon and Eric Bogie for work on recess and looking at the playground to see what can be done to promote better behaviors on the playground and at wellness.

- Angel Roy and the Outreach Committee are working on a survey for parents to see what parents know about the school and work on sharing that information.
- Jeannie Denson for work on a series of etiquette schools - recess etiquette, school bus etiquette, lunch room etiquette.

Superintendent’s Report

A reminder that the CCSU Full Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Danville School.

Old Business

-Strategic Planning. The committee met last week to look at the current plan and large priority areas. Those items will be used as break out topics for a community forum, scheduled for March 22, 2014. The committee developed a list of other opportunities to engage the community – a road show that could go to cribbage night, pancake breakfast at school or at an already occurring community event, post information on the Facebook page, or post to Barnet’s new front porch forum, which is growing quickly. There may be opportunities to combine a meeting with Town Meeting. Louis has discussed with Superintendent Tucker opportunities for facilitating training, including checking in with Peacham on their work with Harry Frank or looking for other opportunities. Meetings are scheduled for the first week of January and the 17th of February to flesh out the community outreach. Committee members are Louis Bushey, Shawn Gonyaw, Joyce Evans, John Cooke, Donald Nelson, Billie Jo Roberts, Mark Vaal, Becky Boardman, Philo Marcotte, Katherine Roy, and Ray Vincent.

-Leach field update. Principal Gonyaw reported the leach field project is complete. The work did not interrupt anything at the school. Burleigh did a good job getting the contractor on site, making sure the project was done right, making sure things were checked. David Warden reported the area has been mulched and filled in, although some soil will need to be smoothed in the spring. The system was checked by Shannon Laroque’s helper Ben. The cost was \$26,000 for contractor and \$3,000 in engineering fees. Burleigh spent a good chunk of Thanksgiving Day working with the contractor. David mentioned the State waived their permit fee and the Town of Barnet waived their recording fee. Superintendent Tucker expressed concern that the Central Office was circumvented in such a way that the project was a near disaster for the school. Money needed to be spent on attorney consultations regarding the project. This shows certain operations have to be conducted out of the Central Office whether Barnet likes it or not. Sally Cooke asked if, in an emergency situation, Central Office staff will be available nights, weekends and holidays so contact can be made; Superintendent Tucker assured her someone would be available.

Financial – FY2015 Budget Review 2nd Draft

Jim Schenck joined the meeting.

The expenditure summary, revenue summary, education spending, and function sheets were reviewed and discussed. Education Spending reflects an increase, and a large portion of that increase is tuitions. Education Spending per equalized pupil has gone up just under \$200 from 2014. Total expenditures are up just about \$300,000; of that, \$173,000 is tuition for six students. There is no control over this increase. Other items with increases are Direct Instruction, Pre-K costs, Health Services, Speech and Language, Professional Development. Areas with decreases include Student Support, Guidance, Library and Media. Sally Cooke asked what percent of the budget was for supervisory union services; that figure was not available.

There was discussion on moving Barnet’s bookkeeping to Central Office. There is rationale for leaving services at Barnet and moving it to Central Office. The proposal is to keep the position at 10 hours a week and have Business Office personnel absorb any extra time needed to do the work. A motion was made by Louis Bushey to follow the recommendation of the CCSU Business Manager and Superintendent and move Barnet School’s bookkeeping to the Central Office. Mary Skovsted seconded the motion. There was further discussion, including the fact that the bookkeeper would then be an employee of CCSU, the position would be working on Barnet bookkeeping for the first year and then integrating other duties in later, and that the change would take effect July 1. With no further discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed with three yes votes and two no votes.

Returning to budget discussions, Superintendent Tucker asked that the Board give Administrators a number that they would like to get to, such as a lower amount for Education Spending or for total expenditures, a change in the proposed tax rate increase, or changes to certain parts of the education program. There was discussion of level funding the budget. A \$132,000 decrease in Education Spending would make level funding in Education Spending. Level funding for total expenditures would be a \$300,000 decrease. John Cooke suggested level spending should mean the tax rate would be the same as last year. To have a level tax rate, a decrease of \$288,000 in Education Spending would be required. The Board asked that figures be provided showing the \$132,000 decrease for level spending in Education Spending as well as the figures for the \$288,000 decrease to keep the tax rate at the same level as last year.

There was discussion on the need for another Board meeting before the regular meeting in January. The Board decided to meet on January 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. A copy of the proposals for decreasing the budget will be shared with Board members prior to the meeting.

Other Business

-Board Role and Responsibilities. Superintendent Tucker reminded Board members of their role and responsibilities. The Board operates as a group, not as individuals. Individual Board members do not have authority to make decisions. The protocol for communications is questions should be brought to the Board Chair (or Vice Chair in the Chair’s absence), the Chair brings the questions to the Superintendent, and the Superintendent provides information to the Board. Board members should not be communicating directly with Principal Gonyaw regarding Board work either. It is Principal Gonyaw’s job to run the school, not the Board’s responsibility to run the school. There have been recent incidents, including the leach field issue, that have violated the Board roles and responsibilities.

Future Agenda Items

Budget 3rd Draft Review–1/2/2014

Strategic plan update – 1/14/2014

Budget Approval – 1/14/2014

Student presentation on Essential Arts – 1/2/2014

Adjournment

A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Louis Bushey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Hinman, Recording Secretary