"APPROVED"

Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Barnet School

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

The Executive Session warned on the agenda was not needed and therefore not held.

6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Lori Werdenschlag. Members of the public and Barnet students from 7th and 8th grade and their teachers joined the meeting: Rian Fried, John Gaston, Sue Person, Logan Kopczynski, Ashley Gray, Jason Kimball, Daylan Roosa, Becky Boardman; Ed Ryan, Rick Malon, Beth Malon, Sue Jensen, Katie Young, Kim Evans, Joyce Evans, Kathy Roosa, Sarah Walls, Hayley Walls

The agenda was changed so the students involved in the presentation could make their basketball game.

Principal's Report
-Student Presentation. Students from 7th and 8th grade presented to the Board information on 7th and 8th grade electives; specifically Advanced Spanish, Music Composition, and Game Design. Students explained why having these electives was important to them. After the presentations, Board members asked students questions regarding the electives. Becky Boardman also shared reflections on electives from students who were not present. At 7:00, the students left to play in the basketball game.

Approval of Minutes
12/10/2013 – A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Louis Bushey to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**
1/2/2014 – A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Mary Skovsted to accept the minutes of the January 2, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

Public Input - There was no public input at this time.

Superintendent's Report.
-Central Office is moving into new office space this week Wednesday and Thursday. Staff may not be reachable by telephone those two days.
-A public meeting related to future of education in Vermont, and specifically the Northeast Kingdom, is scheduled for Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 at the St. Johnsbury School. Superintendent Tucker said she was unsure who was sponsoring the meeting; perhaps Legislature.
-The Legislative session will begin soon. Superintendent Tucker will be getting updates on bills and will share that with Board members.

New Business - There was no new business to discuss.

Old Business
-Strategic Planning. Louis Bushey reported he is waiting to hear from Harry Frank about the facilitation stuff that was discussed at the last meeting and what types of trainings could be offered to the steering committee members. The meeting scheduled for 3/22/2014 is still on.

Financial

-FY2014 Budget Update. Janice Ouellette presented the FY2014 budget update. A new format is being used and only the summary page was presented. To date, Direct Instruction is under budget, Direct Instruction Pre-K is over budget, Student Support is under budget, Special Ed is over budget, Guidance, Health Services, Speech, and Library are about even with projections, Technology is under budget, Professional Development, School Board, Principal's Budget, Plant and Operations are in over budget. In February, tuition bills and Special Education will be reviewed again, and revenues will also be reviewed. There was a change to Debt Service that will result in a refund.

-FY2015 Budget Discussion and Approval. Version 2 of the budget, which is the original budget without any cuts in, was presented. Changes on the revenue page reflect announced tuition amounts of $13,500 for elementary and $11,500 for 7th and 8th grade. Other revenue includes a bond refinancing refund. Changes to expenditures were presented. The announced tuitions for St. Johnsbury Academy, Danville HS, and Blue Mountain Union are reflected; tuition for Tech Centers is not known at this time.

Janice Ouellette explained the tax calculation. Equalized pupils are up – 279.20; education spending per equalized pupil is $14,761. The actual homestead tax rate is $1.5433; nonresident rate is $1.4666; the increase in education spending is $107,750 over last year and the per cent increase is 0.0268. This version reflects a $0.07 increase in tax rate; the State recommended a $0.07 increase and that is what Barnet has.

A letter written by Richard H. Roosa was read by Daylan Roosa. Mr. Roosa wrote in support of the budget and said the Board should not cut the budget but look to increase it.

A motion was made by Louis Bushey to adopt the FY2015 Barnet School budget of $4,927,127 as presented; Mary Skovsted seconded the motion. Discussion followed, with a reminder that this version does not include any of the cuts presented at last meeting.
-Ed Ryan expressed his support of this budget and said he would help defend it at Town Meeting.
-Kim Evans pointed out this budget only raises the tax rate by $0.07.
-Joyce Evans said she agreed with Mr. Roosa's letter.
-Sarah Walls said she is supportive of Barnet School and of things offered by the school, such as Fairbanks Museum trips.

Lori Werdenschlag asked the Board for a vote on the motion; on a voice vote the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

Louis asked members of the public in attendance to let Board members know about reasons why townspeople do not show up at Town Meeting so these reasons can be addressed. Ed Ryan thought child care might be an issue.

Discussion was held on when materials for the Town Report need to be prepared; David said January 20th is about the final day to get things in (has to be in 40 days prior to Town Meeting). Superintendent Tucker will check in with Shellie Samuels to see if she will be preparing the Board report or if Lori needs to.

Discussion took place regarding the special articles that need to be warned regarding the FY2013 surplus. Janice Ouellette recommended using some of the surplus to cover the deficit in the hot lunch program. Some of the surplus will be put towards the FY2015 budget ($4,500). That leaves an

unaudited amount of about $51,728 that needs to be used. If it is not used, it needs Town approval to be set aside to cover future expense. Janice suggested having two separate articles; one to transfer enough of the audited FY2013 surplus to cover the deficit in the hot lunch fund and a second to approve using the remaining audited surplus for future expenditures. David suggested reinstating the long term facilities maintenance fund and Louis said there is interest in redoing the playground. Janice said the Board does not need to identify where the money for future expenditures would go.

A motion was made by Louis Bushey to use an amount from the FY2013 audited surplus to balance the hot lunch program deficit and to put the remaining balance into the long-term facilities maintenance fund. There was discussion on specifying an amount; Janice suggested writing the article without any dollar amounts. The motion was seconded by David Warden and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion **Approved**

Other Business
-Principal Gonyaw asked about the upcoming Facilities Committee meeting, which was warned as a special School Board meeting. Superintendent Tucker said these meetings should be warned, but if appears they have not been in the past.
-Principal Gonyaw asked for feedback on the student presentation and asked if the Board would like to have other presentations. Lori thought it went well; students were polite and presented well. Louis thought the teachers handled the presentation well by letting the students do most of the talking. Principal Gonyaw suggested the next presentation be 5th and 6th graders from the Humanities class.

Future Agenda Items
-Preparation for Town Meeting (February)
-Strategic Planning

Mary asked how the Town Meeting presentations went; all that will be discussed at the next meeting. Principal Gonyaw offered to attend Town Meeting with the School Board to address questions. Louis suggested having a school fact sheet to hand out as well. Board members agreed that Principal Gonyaw should be with them.

Principal Gonyaw mentioned that some parents who attended the last meeting liked the way Superintendent Tucker presented the agenda by each line item and explained what was included in each item. Lori said the way Superintendent Tucker answered questions regarding the CCSU was great and should be used at Town Meeting. The Business Office is working on a better presentation of the CCSU to include in the Town Report that might answer questions beforehand. Principal Gonyaw said he would ask the extended learning group to run on Town Meeting day, people could sign up in advance if interested.

Adjournment
A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Louis Bushey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. **Approved**

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Hinman, Recording Secretary