

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Barnet School**

Members in Attendance: Louis Bushey, Shellie Samuels, Mary Skovsted, David Warden, Lori Werdenschlag; Principal Shawn Gonyaw

- 6:05 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.
- 6:07 p.m. A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations. **Approved**
- 6:12 p.m. A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to exit Executive Session. **Approved**
- 6:13 p.m. A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to enter Executive Session to discuss a student issue. **Approved**
- 6:30 p.m. A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to exit Executive Session **Approved**
- 6:33 p.m. The public portion of the meeting began. Ellen Hinman, Sue Person, and a news crew from Lyndon State College News7 joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Lori Werdenschlag and seconded by David Warden to direct the principal to handle the student situation as discussed. **Approved**

Approval of Minutes

1/14/2014 – A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by David Warden to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

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

Principal’s Report

- Work is being done on the school configuration. A different configuration has been drafted that could be put in place and last for a number of years. This would keep K-2 classes smaller and would let teachers stay with students for more than one year. There would be three classrooms for Grades 1 & 2. Two classrooms would be straight classes and one would be a multi-age class. Presently students are kept together from 5th through 8th Grade. Keeping them together this long creates a dynamic that is not healthy when the students get to 7th and 8th grades. Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 would become mixed, multi-age classes. In Grades 5/6 and 7/8, it has worked well to have a teacher with Math and Science background and a teacher with Humanities background. This would be put in place for Grades 3 & 4 as well. In looking at future numbers, this structure could be kept in place for a number of years. A special educator would be available for K-2 and 3-6 and a .5 for 7-8 grades. For Tier II, one special educator would be available for K-6 and one for 7-8 grades. In recent IEP meetings, there have been three students that have been removed from the IEP program. This is something to celebrate. This lowers the number of Special Ed students in 7 & 8 Grade and can reduce that position by half time. That could make a half time special educator and half time Tier II teacher at the 7th and 8th grade level.

- Barnet is a member of the Vermont Rural Partnership; 11 schools are members. Vermont Rural Partnership holds an annual conference. At a recent meeting, Principal Gonyaw suggested the conference be held at one of the member schools to cut costs, and after some discussions, it was decided Barnet would host 150 people for the spring conference to be held on May 6th. The Commissioner of Education may attend. Students will give tours of the trails and gardens. Principal Gonyaw is pleased that Barnet staff agreed to host this event, even though it will impact the school schedule.
- Barnet is currently advertising for a 1st and 2nd grade multi-age teacher, a 3rd and 4th grade math/science teacher, a guidance counselor, and a 3rd and 4th grade Humanities teacher. Principal Gonyaw hopes to have names to bring to the Board at the April meeting.
- Town Meeting Day child care can be handled by people on Barnet’s substitute list. These people would be paid at the substitute rate. There are about 12 children that could possibly use this service.

Superintendent’s Report – There was no Superintendent’s Report.

New Business

- Hiring committees need to be formed for the positions mentioned above. Principal Gonyaw suggested having one hiring committee for the 1st and 2nd grade multi-age teacher, one committee for the guidance counselor, and one committee for the 3rd and 4th grade math/science teacher and humanities teacher. Mary Skovsted volunteered for the 1st and 2nd grade teacher committee, Shellie Samuels volunteered for the guidance counselor committee, and Louis Bushey volunteered for the 3rd and 4th grade teachers committee.
- Shellie Samuels updated the Board on the superintendent recruitment. Wynne Browne of the Peacham Board is taking the lead on this. She is communicating with three companies to handle the search. Principal Gonyaw volunteered to be a part of that committee if an administrator is needed.

Old Business

- Strategic Planning. A meeting was held February 10th; a good group and a lively discussion. The process from last time was reviewed. The format for the community forum will mimic the small group format. A “road show” will be developed to take to community events; this will reach people who may not attend the community forum. Louis Bushey will work with Harry Frank on the work plan. There may be a charge to the School Board for this, depending on how much time Mr. Frank puts in. Principal Gonyaw said the strategic planning committee is very diverse. Mr. Frank offered to facilitate a committee meeting and Principal Gonyaw said that might be a good idea. Louis Bushey said Katherine Roy will not be able to attend meetings and Mark Vaal has yet to respond to the invitation to be a part of the committee.

Financial

- Town Meeting Planning. Discussion took place regarding Town Meeting preparations. It was decided a PowerPoint presentation similar to last year would be used; however, this year’s presentation needs to be shorter. Some ideas for information to present:
 - *The last five year’s growth
 - *Number of students in the school
 - *Number of students in each classroom, information on Barnet’s classroom size policy, and what the State requires for classroom size
 - *Trends in enrollment, to show Barnet is not in a decline
 - *High school tuitions – amounts and numbers of students

- *CCSU information – who makes up the CCSU, what impact CCSU has on the Barnet budget
- *A single sheet showing the budget, similar to last year’s, that would show items that have increased and items that have decreased
- *A slide on the cut list
- *Make it known that one position will be eliminated and why
- *Items highlighting the school – PBiS, strategic plan, the after school program, etc.
- *Data from January assessments versus NECAP data, information on all the assessments that take place, and point out that some assessments have teacher and student participation
- *A total years of experience that will be retiring at the end of the school year
- *Positions being hired are replacements, not new positions
- *Number of students home schooled and in private schools
- *A slide showing the increase in equalized students, the State’s increase of \$0.07, and what the budget looked like to level fund
- *Information regarding the anticipated surplus from 2012/2013
- *Health care costs

Principal Gonyaw will work on the PowerPoint presentation; Shellie Samuels will talk with Martha Tucker and Janice Ouellette on CCSU information; Principal Gonyaw will gather information on student population, class room size, population trends, and the cut list.

The pre-Town Meeting meeting is scheduled for February 25th. Other items to be discussed at Town Meeting might come out of this meeting. The pre-Town Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and will be warned by the Town. The School Board will meet the same day from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss the presentation; this meeting will be warned by CCSU.

Discussion was held on finding a replacement for Lori Werdenschlag. Some names were offered as possibilities – John Cooke, Joyce Evans, Heather or Michael Counter, Katie Young, Sarah Walls, Philo Marcotte.

Other Business – There was no Other Business to discuss.

Future Agenda Items

- Strategic Planning
- NECAP (with Jodie Elliott)
- Literacy Data (with Jodie Elliott)
- Presentation by the 5th and 6th Grade class
- Reorganization meeting (after Town Meeting)
- Board Work Plan (after Town Meeting)

Adjournment

A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Lori Werdenschlag to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Approved

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Hinman, Recording Secretary
Mary Skovsted, Board Clerk