

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 8, 2014
Barnet School**

Members in Attendance: Louis Bushey, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Shellie Samuels, Mary Skovsted, David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw; Jodie Elliot; Jim Choate

- 6:08 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels. At this time, Louis Bushey recused himself until the end of subsequent Executive Session
- 6:09 p.m. A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio to enter Executive Session to discuss hiring of new teachers. The motion was seconded by Mary Skovsted. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6:15 p.m. A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio to end Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mary Skovsted. The motion passed unanimously. At this time, Louis Bushey returned to meeting.
- 6:19 p.m. A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio to enter Executive Session to discuss custodial staff contract negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mary Skovsted. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6:29 p.m. A motion was made by David Warden to end Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio. The motion passed unanimously and Executive Session ends at 6:29 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called back to order by Chair Samuels. At this point, the meeting is joined by Jim Choate, Jodie Elliott, and Ellen Hinman.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting as submitted. The motion passed with no further discussion.

Approved

Public Input

-Jim Choate asked if the school bond had been paid early, as discussed at Town Meeting. Louis Bushey reported the audit is not done yet and the final report has not been received from auditor, so that pay-off has not been done. The CCSU Business Manager has been contacted to make sure it does happen.

-Mr. Choate asked about negotiation of teacher contracts and said the clause that teachers receive 25% of their salary for five years after retirement is a sore point for townspeople. There was discussion regarding this clause in the contract. Principal Gonyaw mentioned that benefit is given based on a teacher's years at Barnet, so the number of teachers qualifying for that gets smaller each year and it might finally disappear.

-Mr. Choate suggested Barnet look for new teachers with little experience who may not be jaded yet to replace those teachers retiring.

-Mr. Choate suggested health insurance be on par with what local industry provides.

Robert Farlice-Rubio made a motion to authorize the Superintendent and the Principal to offer a contract to Angel Roy for the position of school counselor. Louis Bushey seconded the motion and the motion passed with no further discussion.

Approved

Principal Report

- The process of hiring three positions is underway. Five people are retiring but not all are being replaced. The guidance counselor position has been filled by Angel Roy. The 3rd / 4th grade science and math position has been offered to a candidate and Principal Gonyaw is waiting to hear from them. The 1st / 2nd grade multi-age teacher position will be readvertised.
- A group from Barnet, six people in all, will be going to the Best Institute for PBiS training. This is grant funded so there is no cost to the supervisory union. Staff from Walden and Peacham will also attend the training and Barnet will help Walden and Peacham develop protocols.
- Grant funding through the Vermont Rural Partnership (VRP) is available for the bread oven and chicken coop construction. A visit was made to Pete and Jerry’s for ideas. Students are very excited about this.
- Staff will be taking a course next school year with a representative from VRP to build units of study around the bread oven, chicken coop, and gardens. Jodie Elliot is also working with them to design units of study around this.
- The “Retirement Crew” – Sue Roberts, Liddy Roberts, Nancy Bailey, Molly Terrien and Billy Jo Roberts – is spearheading the bread oven project. Eric Bogie, Principal Gonyaw, and Ashley Gray are working on chicken coops. Students with interest in the bread oven and chicken coops are assisting.
- Barnet will be hosting the VRP annual conference this year. This year’s student leadership conference is scheduled for May 9 and 150 to 200 guests are expected at Barnet. The Secretary of Education will be attending as well. Barnet was one of the first schools to join the VRP when it started, and received grant money from VRP for the gardens.
- Scheduling for next year is being reviewed. Staff is looking at ways to accommodate more multi age work between teams, ways to best make schedules to meet the specialization model, looking at educational support team meetings, looking at Tier II supports to see how to do more with less now that positions have been reduced from 3 to 2.5, looking for ways to better utilize school grounds, and how to give teachers time to get outside.
- Principal Gonyaw expressed his appreciation to the Board because a few years ago Barnet changed their model to accommodate Tier II instruction. Since then, the number of special education students has gone down, behaviors have gone down, and the number of staff needed has gone down. Principal Gonyaw thanked the Board for allowing this to happen.

New Business

Jodie Elliot, Curriculum Coordinator at CCSU, spoke to the Board regarding state and local assessments. State data comes from NECAP assessments. Local data drives the work at Barnet. The NECAP assessments are done in reading and math for grades 3 to 8 and grade 11, are taken in October, are focused on reading assessed through writing, and assesses prior year’s learning. Jodie shared the data and explained how the results can be skewed by just one student. The NECAP standards are based on No Child Left Behind, which says students will be 100% proficient; the system was set up for failure. NECAP assessment is done with paper and pencil. During NECAPs, everything comes to a standstill for two weeks for the testing. Results are not available for months. NECAPs have been taken since 2009.

Local reading data collected for K-8 grades is the data teachers use all the time and shows which students are successful and which students are struggling. This assessment does not assess writing ability; it is an oral assessment. Results are immediate. Jodie shared the local data.

Vermont is moving toward the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) to replace the NECAPs. NECAP assessment is based on what students do not know; SBAC is based on what students do know. SBAC is web based; student results will be immediate. Teachers can continue

to teach students while SBAC is taking place. SBAC takes place in the spring. The SBAC is computer adaptive; depending on how a student answers the first question for their grade, it adjusts for following questions. Jodie shared the log in information for the practice tests for Board members to look at. Grades 3 through 8 and Grade 11 will take the tests with interim assessments encouraged for 9th and 10th graders. SBAC has accommodations for students to meet special needs.

Jodie explained next steps for local assessments. Fountas and Pinnell benchmarks will continue to be used for reading. A plan will be put in place for students past the level Z. A progress monitoring system will be developed for struggling learners. For writing, supervisory union-wide common assessments will be developed to meet Common Core standards in three areas – opinion/argument, informational, and narrative. In math, a web based computer adaptive assessment will be used and a progress monitoring system will be developed within that program. Currently there is no local math assessment. The supervisory union math council is looking at two programs – Star Math and Scholastic Math – and representatives for each product will be coming to demonstrate them. A decision will be made by the end of this month on which one to go with. The cost has been built into budgets already.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Financial

-School Lunch Program deficit reduction plan.

Mr. Choate mentioned the school lunch program was supposed to be self-supporting and it is not. He suggested billing the state to cover costs. Principal Gonyaw explained the formula that is used now and mentioned Barnet has been looking at different menu choices, from other schools, to see what is being served. Barnet is cheaper than most – about \$0.50 below the average costs – so the price may be raised.

Mary Skovsted asked if the lunch program was run by a catering company. Principal Gonyaw said the program is run by the school. If you hire someone to come in and run the program, you lose all controls. Staff is looking at changing how things are done in the kitchen to save money. Mary mentioned that Carol Lee at St J has given talks on ways they make ends meet and perhaps Barnet could learn from her. Mary suggested utilizing local foods. Principal Gonyaw said a group of 7th and 8th graders are talking about raising pigs and feeding them food scraps from the kitchen. He said there are opportunities within school property for such things. He also suggested that area growers be enticed to use the property for their crops, and perhaps share the harvest with the school.

School nurse Ruth Vaal has expressed interest in establishing a health and wellness group that could look at what is fed to the students.

Principal Gonyaw mentioned that Walden wrote a Farm to School grant and Ruth Vaal and other staff members expressed interested in exploring this for Barnet. Louis and Mary mentioned that Nedra Willard’s daughter works for the Agency of Ag and deals with the Farm to School program.

Other Business

-Mr. Choate asked about reducing staff for the next budget preparation. Principal Gonyaw said next year’s staff has been reduced and Barnet is down to four para-professionals for next year from 13 when he first started.

-Mr. Choate asked if negotiations for new contracts were going on this month. David Warden said it has been going on since November. Mr. Choate suggested presenting that if the 25% of salary in retirement is removed, Barnet could afford another para-professional position.

Future Agenda Items

21C Extended Learning Opportunities Presentation (Hank Ruppertsberger) – May

Approve School Calendar - May

School Board Work Plan

Strategic Planning

Theater Curtain (Louis suggested this should be the Principal’s responsibility and not the School Boards as long as everyone agrees to get the curtains)

Hiring Teachers (Executive Session) - May

Adjournment

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by David Warden to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Farlice-Rubio, Board Clerk

Ellen Hinman, Recorder