

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Barnet School**

Members in Attendance: Louis Bushey, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Shellie Samuels, Mary Skovsted, David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw; Caroline Adams and 5th and 6th grade science students; parents

6:04 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.

6:05 p.m. A motion was made by Louis Bushey to enter Executive Session to discuss new teacher hiring, the Principal’s contract, and discussion of an employee’s resignation. The motion was seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio. The motion passed unanimously. **APPROVED**

6:34 p.m. A motion was made by Louis Bushey to end Executive Session. The motion was seconded by David Warden. The motion passed unanimously. At this point, the meeting was joined by teacher Caroline Adams, five Barnet Students, members of the public, and the stenographer Ellen Hinman. The meeting was called back to order by Chair Samuels.

Student Presentation

Caroline Adams and 5th and 6th grade science students Alex, Sophia, Michael, Molly, and Logan made a presentation on projects they are currently working on. Michael and Logan made a chair from tires and wood and a cushion from on old pontoon boat as part of the ocean project, demonstrating one way to keep junk out of waterways. Alex is growing a sweet basil plant that will be used in the bread baked in the bread oven. Sophia shared a drawing she did describing plant cycle/plant life and photosynthesis. Logan shared drawings that were done exhibiting symmetry. Molly brought chicks that the 6th grade have in their classroom. Molly explained the breed of chicks she brought and explained how the students have been weighing them and converting weights from pounds to kilograms. Logan brought a different, bigger chick and explained this chick is a meat bird; the only meat bird they are raising. The students also have been doing some work on ecosystems in the forest and life cycles and Ms. Adams read a poem written by staff member on life cycles.

The Vermont Rural Partnership conference was held at Barnet on Friday and the 5th and 6th grade students prepared tours of the school for the conference attendees. All the attendees were impressed with the students’ efforts.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to approve the April 8, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion passed with no further discussion. **APPROVED**

Public Input

There was no public input.

A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio to extend Principal Gonyaw’s contract with modifications as described in line 4b and changing the expiration date in section 9 to a three year

contract and with a 3% cost of living increase. David Warden seconded the motion and the motion passed with no further discussion.

APPROVED

A motion was made by Louis Bushey to authorize Principal Gonyaw to offer contracts to Erica Rumball-Petre for the 3rd /4th grade math and science position and to Amanda Norton for the 1st/2nd grade multi-age position with the provision that the incoming superintendent has a conversation with them prior to signing the contracts. Robert Farlice-Rubio seconded the motion and the motion passed with no further discussion.

APPROVED

Principals Report

-There were 200 people at school on Friday for the Vermont Rural Partnership conference. The Secretary of Education came to speak; 12 schools were represented at the conference. It was a very successful day.

-The 3rd/4th grade humanities position and a half time preschool position still need to be filled.

-The chicken coop is almost done. Planting Day this year will be replaced with a Stewardship Day, and the chicken yard will be put up and the outside will be painted.

-Principal Gonyaw reported that staff and students have done a great job this year.

New Business

-School Calendar. Principal Gonyaw presented the Barnet calendar for the 2014/2015 school year. The first day of school is 8/25/2014; the first few weeks of school are not full weeks. September 12 is an early release day and October 14 is an in-service day and will be dedicated to working on the bread oven and chicken coop projects with Joe Keifer. This calendar is a trimester calendar. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled in between the trimesters and October 8 and 9 are early release days for parent teacher conferences. There is a week off for Thanksgiving vacation to accommodate people who travel. A professional development day is scheduled in January before students come back from Christmas break. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled in January. April vacation is a week. June 10, 2015 is the end of the calendar. The last trimester does not have a parent teacher conference but there will be a “family night” held. A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio and seconded by David Warden to approve the 2014/2015 school calendar as presented. The motion passed with no further discussion.

APPROVED

-Andrea Wasson could not attend to make her presentation.

Old Business

-Update on strategic planning. Principal Gonyaw suggested it would make sense to do strategic planning when the new superintendent is on the job. Louis said it could begin now if there was time to work on it.

-School board work plan. Louis mentioned that Mat Forest is interested in working on the work plans.

Other Business

-Budget Committee dissolution. The Select Board dissolved their budget committee. The School Board had agreed to use the same membership, so now the School Board either needs a new committee or needs to dissolve its committee as well. Louis said he thought it was a good idea to have another body review the budget. If any report this committee puts together could be due early, it could be used in School Board work on the budget before Town Meeting. There was discussion on whether that committee has been helpful to the Board in preparing the budget, how

to solicit members, rules the committee should follow, having members attend the budget preparation meetings, etc. Principal Gonyaw questioned if the School Board should be the body putting the committee together or making the rules, or if it should be separate from the School Board. Robert suggested asking at Town Meeting if this committee should be created. Shellie will let Ben know that the Board does want a committee, and want it warned as a separate article. Mary questioned if this year the Board could ask the original committee members to do the review. If so, there would need to be two more people appointed to the committee.

-Principal Gonyaw asked about rethinking the decision to move Barnet’s bookkeeper to CCSU. There are many new people at Barnet and at CCSU, and Mary’s position at Barnet is very valuable. There has been no planning for Mary to move to CCSU and Principal Gonyaw is concerned that there is no preparation for her before moving her. He is concerned about losing the support Mary provides the school. Janice Ouellette joined the meeting and Shellie explained the concerns to her. Janice said at this point Mary would still have to be a CCSU employee. Principal Gonyaw suggested having a time line in place first, and perhaps Mary could start the school year at Barnet and work towards moving once systems are in place.

-Principal Gonyaw asked the Board if there were any objection to him working with Superintendent Tucker on the facilities director job description. The Board agreed Principal Gonyaw should do that.

Financial Update

-Legislature changed the tax rate so Barnet’s rate changed from \$1.5833 to \$1.5362.

-The governance legislation did not pass this year.

-Paying off bond early. Janice contacted the bond bank, and they said the payment needs to be made now but it will be held in escrow until November, when it is due anyway. Janice said the payment can be made and sent with a letter asking that the amount be invested instead of putting it into an escrow account. The bond bank would then return the interest made to Barnet. There was discussion on paying off the boiler with the \$100,000 put in the budget at Town Meeting. Janice suggested waiting until the tuition student information is clearer and to see how the end of the year is looking. She suggested keeping the money in the Passumpsic account and writing the check to the bond bank on June 30 to gain interest.

-Auditors Report. Janice said the food services fund deficit will be mentioned in that. If there is a surplus next year, it really should be used to wipe out the food service fund deficit and the Town needs to know that cannot be carried much longer.

-Budget Update and Projections. Janice discussed the budget status at this point, which is based on her “best guess”. Variances in revenue and expenditures were reviewed and discussed. Janice is projecting a surplus but the amount is not clear yet.

-Principal Gonyaw asked Janice about billing overtime to ELOP program; Annette is putting in overtime because of her work on that program. He asked if any of the other schools have had overtime. The Danville food service is a salaried position so no overtime has been submitted but Janice thought Peacham may have had some. Principal Gonyaw suggested that the overtime be clearly documented, since food service is a topic that is routinely discussed at Town Meeting.

Future Agenda Items

-Esden Fund guidelines for use

-Tax Anticipation (June)

-Playground Committee

-Superintendent Exit Interview

-Hiring

Executive Session

- 8:37 p.m. A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio to enter a second Executive Session to discuss the Principal’s Contract, and to discuss vacation pay for a resigning employee. The motion was seconded by Louis Bushey. The motion passed unanimously.
- 8:52 p.m. A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio to end Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Louis Bushey. The motion passed unanimously.
- 8:57 p.m. A motion was made by Louis Bushey to allow resigning Facilities Director Burleigh Huntoon to receive appropriate compensation for his five (5) remaining days of paid vacation leave. The motion was seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio. The motion passed unanimously. **APPROVED**
- 8:58 p.m. A motion was made by David Warden to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mary Skovsted. The motion passed unanimously. **APPROVED**

Submitted Respectfully,

Bobby Farlice-Rubio, Board Clerk
Ellen Hinman, Board Recorder