

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
Barnet School**

Members in Attendance: Louis Bushey, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Shellie Samuels, Mary Skovsted, David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw; Martha Tucker, Janice Ouellette

- 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.
- 6:05 p.m. A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by David Warden to enter Executive Session to discuss teacher evaluations and the Superintendent’s exit interview. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6:35 p.m. A motion was made by Mary Skovsted and seconded by Louis Bushey to exit Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6:40 p.m. The meeting was called back to order by Chair Samuels. Ellen Hinman and Janice Ouellette joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Louis Bused and seconded by Mary Skovsted to authorize Principal Gonyaw to offer Lindsay Stahler the 3rd and 4th grade Humanities position. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **APPROVED**

Louis Bushey made a motion that the Board deny the request from the Peacham School Board for a preschool student placement. The motion was seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio and passed unanimously with no further discussion. **APPROVED**

Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2014

Two corrections were made to the minutes. Under Principal’s Report, the third bullet should read “Planting Day this year will be replaced with a Stewardship Day...” Under New Business, discussion of the school calendar, the last day of school should be June 10, 2015. A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2014 meeting with those corrections. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **APPROVED**

Public Input

There were no members of the public present and no public input.

Principal’s Report

- This has been the best end of the school year ever! Stewardship Day was a huge success. Staff members retiring this year were recognized in the morning, there were projects for groups outside and staff could choose which activity they wanted to help the students with.
- The school has done a nice job recognizing the five retirees for the last couple weeks.
- Principal Gonyaw spent time doing staff evaluations and is really pleased. The shift from the first year to this year is amazing. Staff is working as a team, taking on initiatives; teachers do great things at Barnet. Priority items showing up in evaluations include writing, PBiS, outdoors, and having humanities models in place. Areas of growth are also identified, including ways to use the school property as part of the curriculum and opportunities to engage students outside,

ways to use the school’s technology as a way to branch outside of the school; and vertical teaming with Humanities teachers and Stem teachers.

-Mike Bigelow has stepped up to the plate since Burleigh has left. He organized all materials needed for Stewardship Day and is happy to work with students and staff. Mike knows the building and what goes on; this has been a big help.

-Hiring is almost complete; there is one more teaching position to hire.

-Students went home today with a summer reading challenge – Bingo grids. Students get prizes for filling in their Bingo card.

-Principal Gonyaw plans to discuss bus routes with Jim; perhaps having three busses run the regular route in the afternoon and one bus run later for students who stay at school later. The regular route would still run in the morning.

-A number of people will be attending a multi-professional course at Best Institute, a number doing an outside teaching course, and a number signed up for a reading class.

-Principal Gonyaw thanked Superintendent Tucker on behalf of Barnet School for her direction.

Superintendent’s Report

-Superintendent Tucker shared the Barnet Strategic Plan overview from 2008. Four priorities were identified then with goals associated with each one. Annual goals are set and will change each year, in the form of the action plan. Barnet really shines on all four priorities. Learning opportunities that exist for students are really wonderful. The Board and Administration has done their jobs very well and worked well together.

-Hank Ruppertsberger has taken a different job. Vanessa Koch will be interim director for the summer months. She knows the program and is busy doing this plus her HR work. The hiring process is moving forward and should be complete by August 1. Andrea Wasson is overseeing that process.

-Shellie thanked Martha for all her great work with the school.

-Louis asked Martha to list things that could be improved on, even if those things are painful, possibly before she leaves. Martha said the main thing that comes to mind is the Board needs to be able to speak to where the school is going and the Board’s leadership in the process. It is important to remember what the Board’s leadership role is. Louis said Board has not been effective in updating policies; Martha said learning about policy governance will help the Board move ahead on this work. The Board could bring Harry Frank in to help with this and check with Mat Forest to see if that is a CCSU priority.

Financial Update

-The audit report is in and the surplus is mostly verified. Janice had estimated \$177,975 and the audited amount is \$178,622. After taking out the items which need to be covered by the surplus, there is not enough to pay down the loan as voted on at Town Meeting. Janice said anything left was supposed to go to long term maintenance reserve as voted on at Town Meeting. Bobbie said the vote was for the bond to be paid down and whatever was left from that was to go to long term maintenance. There is no financial benefit in paying off the bond early and interest would be lost if this is done.

-The Food Service deficit from FY2013 was \$26,282 at the end of 2013. A deficit this year is probable. Revenues are lagging behind, although sales to date are close to the budget amount. Revenues are coming in a bit under budget. \$16,282 is still being carried after putting the \$10,000 surplus amount in. Janice said is very important to clean up this deficit as soon as possible.

-Janice went through the cash flow/tax anticipation note. Requests for bids were sent to five

banks. TD Bank did not bid again this year. Instead of submitting a bid for line of credit and borrowing and reinvesting, Merchants Bank only gave a bid for a line of credit. The Community National Bank bid an investment rate of 3.56% and 2.8% to borrow and allows for six withdrawals a month and will pay .03% interest on the balance. Passumpsic Bank bid 3.65% investment and 2.8% to borrow. Money is invested in a money market account and as much as necessary can be drawn on this account. Passumpsic will only pay interest up to the loan amount. Union Bank bid 1.184% and 1.39% to borrow. The investment is put into CDs that roll over every two weeks. Interest is paid on whatever is in the CDs. This allows more money to be earned than with Passumpsic or Community National.

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to go with the Union Bank and to borrow the full amount instead of using the line of credit. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **APPROVED**

New Business

-There was discussion on using Esden Funds for the playground and of establishing a Playground Committee. Principal Gonyaw said there is time built in to next year's schedule for special interest groups – students interested in working on the chicken coop, the bread oven, on an anti-bullying campaign, etc. It might be worthwhile to have this student group, led by an adult, work on the playground during that timeframe. Principal Gonyaw is willing to work with this group on the playground and suggested students may be interested in expanding the space available for student use.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Other Business

-Budget Committee Discussion. Ben Heisholt has said the Town does not have authority to elect a budget committee. Mary suggested writing Ben a letter, stating a decision on the committee could be made after discussion at Town Meeting. The School Board would prefer to have the Committee work on the budget with them and not review the budget after it is complete. Louis said John Cooke and Jim Schenck would be good additions to the Committee. Shellie asked if the committee should be dissolved; Louis suggested dissolving the committee now and reinstating a committee after discussion at Town Meeting. A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by David Warden to dissolve the current budget committee similar to the process used by the Town. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **APPROVED**

-The Board thanked the staff who are leaving this year – Sue Roberts, Nancy Bailey, Liddy Roberts, Jean Denson, Brooksie Stanton, Burleigh Huntoon, Molly Terrien, Claudia Heisholt, Sara Parker, Martha Tucker, Janice Ouellette, and Hank Ruppertsberger – for all their years of service and dedication to the Barnet community.

-Facilities Director. Principal Gonyaw said a full time position may not be necessary but a 70% facilities director could be recruited, keeping it open so if the right person is found the position could be shuffled with other positions and some maintenance duties could be added to the position. There is no rush to fill the position as both Mike and Scott are available. A substitute could be hired for the summer to help them. Louis suggested having one or two contractors on retainer for emergencies and not have a substitute. A job description should be developed before advertising.

Future Agenda Items

- Coordinating with Mat Forest about holding a regular meeting on July 8
- August meeting needed, possible retreat
- Warning for budget committee discussion at town meeting
- facilities director job description

A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio and seconded by Louis Bushey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Farlice-Rubio, Board Clerk
Ellen Hinman, Recording Secretary