

BETHLEHEM SCHOOL BOARD
BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2297 MAIN STREET
BETHLEHEM, NH 03574

DATE: SEPT. 21, 2014
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Carol Kerivan; Board Members Steve Gorman, Dawn Ferringo (arrived at 5:48 PM), Robert Weir (arrived at 5:40 PM); Superintendent Pierre Couture; Principal Shelli Roberts; Community Member Cheryl Jensen.

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 PM by Chairman Kerivan.

PUBLIC INPUT

Community Member Cheryl Jensen appeared before the Board to request that they continue to be diligent in developing the budget for the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Jensen advised the Board that she has always been very supportive of public education and of the school's budget. Unfortunately Bethlehem's tax rate continues to rise and residents have been faced with increases on an annual basis. Ms. Jensen noted that the Board of Selectmen had withdrawn monies from a Capital Reserve Fund this past year to keep the taxes as they had been. Mrs. Jensen advised the Board that she had voted to reinstate the two teaching positions cut from the budget two years ago but can honestly say that if confronted with this or a similar situation again, she would not be able to vote in the affirmative. There is also the question of the AHEAD Project which would create twenty-five two and three bedroom apartments and the possible strain that a project of this magnitude could place on the school. Following a brief discussion, the Board thanked Ms. Jensen for her input.

MOTION BY ROBERT WETR, SECONDED BY STEVE GORMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 31, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

It was noted that Business Manager Tina Peabody is on medical leave.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Roberts called the Board's attention to her written report included in their agenda packets briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that Benchmarking has been completed. The state has moved the release of the SBAC testing program results to early November. She will have a report on both for the November meeting.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that in checking with PRIMEX, the District's Insurance Carrier, she ascertained that once students are dismissed from school and are still on school grounds waiting for sports without supervision they continue to be the school's responsibility and fall under our insurance coverage not the Town Recreation Department's coverage. Principal Roberts has been working with Rhianna Miscio of the Rec. Dept. to resolve this issue.

Principal Roberts requested a Board volunteer to judge this year's talent show on October 22, 2015. Bob Weir judged last year but is unable to do so this year as both his daughters are participating. Following a brief discussion, Dawn Ferringo volunteered to do so. Superintendent Couture will also be judging again this year.

Principal Roberts advise the Board that the quote received from Granite State Glass for replacement of the door discussed at last month's meeting was significantly lower than the original quote from Top Notch Glass which was \$7,000.00. The total cost for this project from Granite State Glass is \$4,200.00. The door is in the process of being replaced.

Principal Roberts requested Board input as to the possibility of accepting out of town students into the Preschool Program. She is considering opening up 8 slots for this purpose. Principal Roberts advised that she would also maintain 4 slots for BES students who are determined during the school year to be in need of services and/or new residents of the town. Principal Roberts will research the potential addition of students, related costs, etc. and report back to the Board.

Principal Roberts spoke with the Town Road Agent pertaining to the areas of the parking lot that were not resurfaced this summer and the reasoning for this. She has previously asked these questions of the maintenance staff who were unable to provide an explanation. Mr. Jackson advised Principal Roberts that they did the best they could but the entire parking lot needs to be dug out and resurfaced. Ms. Roberts has spoken with Central Paving who will be providing an estimate of the costs involved to do so.

Principal Roberts called the Board's attention to the computer information provided in their agenda packets. The District is looking to purchase 44 Chromebooks which would allow all students to have their own device. The cost for this would be \$8,856.32 for the units and an additional \$641.50 for the AVG anti-virus business edition for a total cost of \$9,491.82. Following a brief discussion, it was suggested that they purchase enough units for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades which would be 26 units and along with the anti-virus programs for them totaling approximately \$5,226.00. MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY STEVE GORMAN TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$5,300.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF CHROMEBOOKS FOR GRADES 4, 5, 6 AND THE RELATED AVG ANTI VIRUS SOFTWARE. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. It was noted that should there not be enough surplus funds to cover this purchase the monies will be withdrawn from the Technology Expendable Trust Fund.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that the Wood Pellet project is nearing completion. Wayne Fillion has a punch list of a few items which need to be addressed. Training in the operation of the plant has been scheduled for later this week. A brief discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture distributed copies of the SAU Goals for the 2015-2016 school year. These goals were developed by the Administrative Team at their August retreat.

- Goal 1** Develop and implement a comprehensive professional development program which will support the teachers as they implement the Next Generation science standards.
- Goal 2** Using Charlotte Danielson's Framework for teaching, provide training to our teachers in support of the implementation of the SAU 35 Teacher Evaluation Plan.
- Goal 3** Collaborate in grades 7-12 subject-alike teams to create performance task assessments for all competencies. (two year goal, to be completed by the end of 2017)

Superintendent Couture reviewed the goals with the Board noting that Kerry Sheehan, Science Teacher at Profile, who is very active at the state level in science initiatives will be facilitating Goal 1. It is anticipated that teachers will participate in professional development programs to achieve this goal throughout the year. Principals will be facilitating book groups utilizing the Frameworks for Teaching books by Charlotte Danielson which were purchased by the SAU for this purpose. Goal 3 will not directly affect BES. This will be addressed by subject alike teams in grades 7-12.

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY DAWN FERRINGO, SECONDED BY STEVE GORMAN TO APPROVE THE SAU GOALS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

A question was raised pertaining to report cards for this year. Principal Roberts advised the Board that a presentation on Standards Based Report Cards will be held at Open House on September 30, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

Superintendent Couture advised that the Administrative Team and Executive Board are both now meeting in the AHEAD Conference Room in our office building.

Superintendent Couture recommended the appointment of two new full time custodians, Jack Travers and John Cremin. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY DAWN FERRINGO TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN TRAVERS AND JOHN CREMIN TO THE POSITION OF FULL TIME CUSTODIANS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture distributed a copy of the Board meeting calendar for the 2015-2016 school year noting changes that have been made for holidays and school vacation. A discussion ensued on the Board meeting date for December and it was decided to move this date to Monday, December 14th. MOTION BY DAWN FERRINGO, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO APPROVE THE BOARD MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR AS AMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

BOARD REPORTS POLICIES

Principal Roberts presented the following policy for Second Reading and Approval:

GBEA Staff Ethics

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY STEVE GORMAN, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICY FOR SECOND READING AND APPROVAL AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

NEGOTIATIONS – PROFESSIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Jay Tolman's replacement is Lauren Snow Chadwick. He has received a letter from her advising that the BESP desires to bargain a Master Contract. Superintendent Couture has scheduled a meeting with her and will discuss the possibility of dissolving the union among other issues.

OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Gorman asked if there had ever been given consideration to a summer school program as an alternative to the recreation program? He is suggesting a program for students to keep them on par for the upcoming year and this could be at parents' expense. He suggested doing a survey to assess interest in such a program. Principal Roberts advised the Board that parent surveys done in the past have netted an average of only fifteen returns. She will forward the links to these surveys for Board members to review. A brief discussion ensued.

The possibility of extending the school day was discussed.

Steve Gorman would like to see a survey done at the end of the year to parents asking how the year went, student progress, satisfaction, etc. A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY DAWN FERRINGO, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO ADJOURN AT 6:42 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk