

FRANKLIN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
April 15, 2015
6:15pm

Present: Tim Magnant, Chairperson, David Rood, Bob Berger. Winton Goodrich, Superintendent of Schools, Joyce Hakey, Principal, Becky Hart, Business Manager, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary. **Others present:** Town Select-Board Members: Peter Magnant, Brooks Sturtevant, Yvon Dandurand and Andy Godin *(arrived at 6:38Pm)*

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order- Tim Magnant called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

- Agenda Revision

Mowing Bid Review: The School Board and Town Select-Board members reviewed the bids. There was one low bid on a demo model from Exit 18 of \$3,559.00. The board felt that the unit should be viewed and if satisfactory, the model should be purchased. Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to authorize Yvon Dandurand and Peter Magnant to assess the demo unit at Exit 18, made a decision if the mower meets our needs and purchase the zero turn if satisfactory. Bob Berger moved to add an amendment to his original motion, seconded by Thomas Gates that in addition to include the board authorizes the chair of the school board signatory authority to sign the paperwork. The board voted 3-0 to approve the motion.

Public Comments- After speaking with the Superintendent prior to the meeting, Peter Magnant stated that they believe the Governor and the Senate has softened on the mandatory consolidation of schools-based on feedback that they have received from school boards. He felt that the community meeting was an important part of this process and thought that the community appreciated it. Joyce commented that community and parental involvement, and having local control of the school board, are integral to students' success and the success of the school.

Dog Issue: Since the meeting on March 17th that the superintendent had with the dog owner and the verbal agreement was made with the owner (not to be on

school property when any people are present at school or on the athletic fields), the dog has been on school property on March 24th, March 30th, March 31st, April 1st, April 3rd, April 10th and April 14th when people have been at the school. Because the owner has already violated the verbal agreement, the board members felt that the dog should now be forbidden from trespassing on school property at all times of day or night. The superintendent would have a no trespassing order delivered by the Franklin County Sheriff's office.

The Select-Board left the meeting.

Financial Report: Becky Hart sent the financial report to the board members. She has amended the teachers' salaries based on the tentative agreement. Reimbursement for Special Educational is 57% of the Special Education expenditures. She is anticipating \$61,000 in reimbursements. She will put in for extra ordinary reimbursement which is 90% reimbursement over and above the \$50,000. She has included the reimbursement of Speech costs from IDEA B. The report is now showing a \$3,000 deficit. Joyce and Becky will review line items and adjust the expenditures up or down as anticipated which may negate the deficit.

Check Warrants: Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates moved to approve the check warrants. The bills have not been reviewed so the board tabled the motion.

Principal's Report:

School Happenings: Joyce Hakey reported that they had a grade 5 day time speech contest. The winners of the daytime contest were Haley, Denise, and Wyatt. Grade 6 "Modern Woodmen" contest was held in the evening. The topic was "what does it mean to be an American Hero." This was the 53rd year that Franklin has held the speech contest (formerly known as Civic Oration). The following Ben, Jackson and Jordan placed at the top of the evening contest. It is a wonderful event. Congratulations to all of the students, parents, and staff. The whole school participates in the "Reading is an Investment" program from the State Treasurer's Office. Each fall, participating elementary schools receive three new hardback books. Lesson plans and activities are included with the books to teach money concepts. Students who read at least three books from the list and complete personal reading requirements can send a completed reading log to the Treasurer's office for entry in a statewide drawing \$250 college saving bonds. Franklin had a student drawn again this year--Hayden

Wright. Also, Haley was the winner of the Poster Contest. They are both invited to a ceremony in Montpelier on April 9th.

Staff Appreciation: Thanks to the PTO and Vickie Gratton for their gifts and the luncheon for staff appreciation. They did a great job using clever creativity with small gifts given to staff and putting on a wonderful luncheon. Win Goodrich and the School Board also gave many thanks to the PTO. Joyce said it was a wonderful week and feels so blessed to have so many wonderful, thoughtful parents.

Math/Literacy Night: They had a successful math/literacy night thanks to Brye Trainer and Heather Digby. They are required to have a Title evening and it was very beneficial to parents and children who came.

Farm To School update: Annie has had additional meetings. Next steps include farmer correspondence with classes, possible field trip in June, gardening decisions (where/what), possible meeting with cafeteria staff, and getting recommendations for composting.

Upcoming Events: Joyce reported that tomorrow is the last day for the 2015 Penny War. The kids are having a lot of fun and raising money for the food shelf. Concert: The concert will be held a bit later than usual, on Friday, May 29th. Graduation is Tuesday, June 16th. Joyce asked Bob Berger if he would like hand out the diplomas.

SBAC Update: The State has decided that because the SBAC test has had so many implementation challenges and other issues, it will not count for school accountability. Joyce handed out the information from the State Board of Education explaining the issues and what they resolved. Joyce feels that given all of these issues, the results should not be public either but there is no choice as it's a federal requirement to release the results. Testing will start after vacation with grades 3 and 4, then grades 5 and 6. Joyce handed out the 15-16 school calendar for next year.

Hiring Process: Joyce had spoken with Win and explained the process that Franklin has used for years, successfully, which will continue this year. She also reviewed the process for the board. There is a committee (with one school board member if possible) to do the interviewing. They choose the top candidates from the interviews and invite them back to teach a lesson.

Following the demo teaching and reference checks, Joyce informs the board and the Superintendent of the top candidate and the position is offered.

The board, the principal and the Superintendent took a moment to thank Vickie Gratton, who stopped in at the meeting, for the staff appreciation gifts.

Superintendent's Report

Win Goodrich requested that the board complete the self-assessment survey and they will use the results to form board goals for next year. The responses will show graphically and numerically. They will go over them at the May meeting.

Strategic Planning: The Superintendent would like the board to identify people in different roles to form a committee: roles of teacher, paraprofessional, facilities, administrator, parent and community member. Win will get information back to Joyce and the board members on the committee's purpose and roles.

Legislative Update: H-76 legislation on teacher's strikes is dead. J-361 The Senate is taking a different perspective having backed off forced consolidation but more voluntary along with reduction of tax rates as an incentive for consolidating within five years. S9- This bill is very concerning stating that if an educator and the administrator does not report an abuse, it will be a felony.

Meeting

- FNWSU Board Meeting: May 6th at 7pm at the Swanton Elem. School.
- Next Franklin School Board Meeting May 19th at 6:30pm.

Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to enter executive session for student issue, Superintendent's evaluation and personnel at 8:08pm. The board exited executive session at 8:26pm. Win left executive session at 9:20pm.

The board exited executive session at 9:45pm

The board adjourned the meeting at 9:46pm.

They choose the top candidates from the interviews and invite them back to teach a lesson.