

**FRANKLIN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
April 26, 2016
6:30pm**

Present: Tim Magnant, Chairperson, Thomas Gates, Bob Berger. Joyce Hakey, Principal, Winton Goodrich, Superintendent, Becky Hart, Business Manager, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Others present: Select-Board Members Yvon Dandurand, Peter Magnant, and Ed Rainville. Jay Denault and Jonathan Gates

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order- Tim Magnant called the meeting to order at 6:52pm.

- Agenda Revision

Visitors from Community and Staff: None

Approval of Minutes: Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the March 15th and March 29th board minutes with revisions. The board approved the motion on a 3-0 vote.

Check Warrants: Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the check warrants for March totaling \$188,849.86. The board approved 3-0 vote.

Financial Report: Becky Hart reported that the revenues and expenses are up. At this point in time, she is anticipating a carryover. The state aid will come in at the end of the week. Becky and Joyce will meet to capture the end of the year expenses. Tim declared the end of March financial report approved.

Independent Study: The Supervisory Union has decided to move forward with an independent study. They are looking for an independent unbiased leader/consultant to lead this. They are researching an Agency of Education Act 153 or Act 156 \$10,000 governance grant but don't want to use it if there are strings attached. Jay Denault offered to donate funds towards an independent study because he doesn't want to see the SU be tied to a funding source with strings attached.

SBAC Testing: Jay Denault explained that today is the beginning of SBAC testing. The Commissioner of Education has stated that the results are unreliable. With that, why are we moving forward with SBAC testing and how will the school district use the information? Joyce was not present at this time so the board asked if Jay could wait for Joyce to return to the meeting to respond to his question.

Legislative Update: Win went over several pieces of legislation that are being considered at this late hour. It doesn't appear that legalization of marijuana will pass. The VSBA and the VSA is asking the legislators to target prevention programs. H.853 would set the nonresidential tax rate at \$1.53, the dollar equivalent yield on homestead property \$9,701 and the dollar equivalent yield on income at \$10,870. The change in the dollar equivalent yield will have an impact on increasing the tax rates. The rate and the yields rely on the use of \$19.7 million of one-time state funds. For FY 2018, local districts earmarked \$17 million in local fund balances in their FY 2017 budgets in order to stay below their allowable growth thresholds. The Special Education Bill Moves Forward. It includes \$90,000 to pay for a study by the University of Vermont examining other special education reimbursement models. Potential Fix to Mandatory Reporter Law Removed by Senate Health & Welfare. This provision is intended to prevent a mandated reporter from being charged with failure to report in instances of duplicate reports only. House Education Committee Looks at New Bullying Definition. The Committee is considering H.830, which would expand the definition of bullying to include behavior by adults directed at students. Current law defines bullying as student-student conduct. H.830 would also require a school district to pay full tuition, within or outside of Vermont, for a student who has been bullied, if the independent review finds the district at fault. S.114 would change that requirement to require a roll call for board members participating by phone only when a vote is not unanimous. Posted board minutes must remain on the web site for a minimum of one year before they may be taken down. Senate Education Committee Passes School Lighting Standards Bill. Align State Board rules on classroom lighting in new school construction with national standards, which decrease the minimum required foot-candles from 50 to 20.

Equipment Sharing Agreement: The two boards reviewed the equipment sharing agreement. Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the sharing agreement and authorize the chairperson to sign it. Vote 3-0. The board received the minutes to approve from Town Meeting Day. Bob Berger moved, seconded by Thomas Gates to approve the March 1, 2016 Town Meeting

Day minutes. The board approved the motion on a 3-0 vote. Yvon Dandurand stated that he would like to repair the tractor hood on the Kubota tractor. Tim Magnant requested that they obtain a few quotes to see how much it will cost.

Jay Denault asked about the independent study, and when will the committee meet? Tim Magnant explained that they will discuss more information at the SU Board meeting and will work with the other school boards as a team. They cannot provide any additional information until after this meeting. (Joyce returned to the meeting.)

Jay Denault repeated his question regarding that the SBAC Testing started today, and Rebecca Holcombe taking a position that the test is not a reliable source of information. Joyce had explained the same information that Jay was referring to at Back to School Night and in the Annual Report. Joyce explained that the SBAC Testing is a brand new test and over time it has to be validated. We will not know if it is valid and reliable until it has been administered for a few years. Joyce and the teachers feel that the bar was already high with our statewide testing and is even higher now. Students are being tested as if they had been taught these standards all of the time they have been in school which is not the case. Also, being on the computer is a big change especially for third graders who lack some of the typing skills. This past year the state did not use SBAC results as part of Adequate Yearly Progress for those reasons. The SBAC Testing is given statewide in grades 3-8 for math and language arts to measure schools' progress in teaching the state standards. The data we have received back is not as specific as Joyce would like. The NECAP Testing data that we received back was more specific whereas SBAC is much more broad. Joyce is hopeful that this year's summative SBAC may provide more detailed feedback as the block assessments being used are now more specific. SBAC is not the only assessment that the school use. It is one assessment and not the only source of information. They look at the SBAC data as well as their local assessment data. They look to see if results on SBAC are consistent with results on other local assessments. *The Select Board left at 8:15pm.*

Solar Information: Jonathan Gates attended the board meeting to share some information on solar energy. He has installed a solar installation on his farm. The Vendor does net metering and wondered about doing a project at the school. He provided the vendor with Franklin School's electric usage over a period of one year. If the school would participate, they would receive a bill from the usual power company and this vendor. The solar company would

provide a 5% discount. He estimates that the school would save an estimated \$1500 per year. At this time, Vermont Electric Cooperative has placed a cap on alternate energy and so could not take advantage of this opportunity until this changed. He believes that there is legislation that may open and allow for some new projects. Win Goodrich reported that other schools are exploring other projects. At this time, there is a proposal by a solar company that is building a commercial project at the Carroll Concrete pit. This project could provide savings to three schools-Highgate, MVU and Swanton. It could provide 20% savings for each school with no up-front investment. It could also provide an educational component. If Vermont Electric allows it, they could do it in Franklin and Sheldon. Tim Magnant thanked Jon Gates for coming and stated the board cannot move forward until Vermont Electric opens up. Jon left at 8:40pm.

Board Goal Session: The board set a June 30th date at 6:30pm to develop board goals for next year. Win sent the board an electronic self assessment survey.

All schools completed a panorama study to parents, students and teachers to complete. Win will provide a synopsis of what this is about.

Principal's Report:

Joyce Hakey reported that they have started SBAC Testing today. The purpose is to provide information on how we are doing teaching the state standards. During the month of May, they will also be completing some local assessments. There is also a science NECAP assessment during the month of May. Joyce is hopeful that this year's summative SBAC may provide more detailed feedback as the block assessments being used are now more specific. The Spring Concert will take place on May 13th at 6:30pm. A snow day will be made up on Memorial Day. There will be two in-service days on June 13 and 14 as the staff and Joyce will be starting a class on June 14 with some of the other SU schools. Fun and Fitness Day will be June 3rd. Each of the classes have their end of the year trips scheduled. The last school student day is June 10th. Carrie Toof and Brye Trainer will attend Teacher Leader Academy. The 54th Modern Woodmen speech contest was held. Joyce congratulated the top three and all of the participants. Joyce extended a special thank you to grade 5 and 6 teachers. Brye Trainer and Heather Digby did a Title I night on math and literacy. They have posted math and literacy resources on the website. They will do a presentation at the faculty meeting. Kudos to Brye and Heather on such a wonderful night. Joyce thanked the PTO for the luncheon for staff

appreciation day. Grade 6 won the Penny War. They were able to donate \$744.84 to the Enosburg Food Shelf. Jay Denault left the meeting at 9pm

Next board meetings:

- Next Franklin School Board Meeting May 17th at @ 6:30pm.
- FNWSU Board Meeting on May 4th at 6:30pm in Sheldon

Bob Berger moved, seconded by Tom Gates to enter executive session 9:01 pm for evaluation and contracts. The board approved 3-0 vote. Joyce Hakey, Pierrette Bouchard and Win Goodrich left the executive session at 9:30pm.

The board exited executive session at _____

The meeting was adjourned at _____

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gates,
School Board Clerk by
Pierrette Bouchard School Board Secretary