

**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Directors Meeting
March 10, 2009**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the school library.

Those in attendance were Board members Paula Howrigan, Celeste Kane-Stebbins, and Jacob Bourdeau, administrators Dr. Jack McCarthy and Lenny Rosenberg, business manager, Becky Hart, and board secretary Susan Brouillette.

Dr. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Board Re-organization: Dr. McCarthy called for nominations for Board Chair. Ms. Kane-Stebbins nominated Paula Howrigan as Board Chair; seconded by Mr. Bourdeau. Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to close nominations; seconded by Mr. Bourdeau. Ms. Howrigan elected Board Chair. Ms. Howrigan called for nominations for Board Clerk. Mr. Bourdeau nominated Celeste Kane-Stebbins; seconded by Ms. Howrigan. Mr. Bourdeau moved to close nominations; seconded by Ms. Howrigan. Ms. Kane-Stebbins elected Board Clerk. All three Board members will be FNWSU representatives for the quarterly meetings held on the first Wednesday of April, June, October and December.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to approve and sign the February 10, 2009 minutes as printed. Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion. Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to approve and sign the January 21, 2009 Budget Discussion meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Bourdeau seconded the motion.

Correspondence: Mr. Rosenberg received a request from parents who have relocated but wish to have their child to complete the school year at Sheldon; Board will discuss in Executive Session.

Old Business:

- Sheldon Forest Project – Ms. Howrigan inquired if the logging was completed, as well as the tree cleanup by the school entrance and Route 105. Mr. Rosenberg stated Enosburg High School Cold Hollow Career Center is finished logging. Ms. Howrigan will discuss further clean up with the Forest Committee.
- Efficiency Vermont – Mr. Rosenberg shared the site visit has not yet occurred; it is being rescheduled for this month.
- Transportation – Ms. Kane-Stebbins inquired about the number of students on the high school bus routes. Ms. Howrigan shared information she obtained from the bus company regarding numbers. There was lengthy Board discussion.

Business Managers Report

Ms. Hart presented the February 2009 financial report. The projected carryover is \$65,000. The BFA regular tuition bill was the largest change, with additional changes on the revenue side. There was Board discussion. Mr. Bourdeau moved to accept the February 2009 financial report as presented; Ms. Kane-Stebbins seconded the motion.

Principal's Report

Budget Discussion – The Board reviewed the proposed 2009-2010 school budget that did not pass at Town Meeting on March 2009. There was lengthy Board discussion regarding possible areas for budget decreases. The discussion will continue in Executive Session.

Mr. Rosenberg shared a draft of a letter regarding the revised school budget proposal that he plans to send to all parents of Sheldon students.

SAP Grant for 2009-2010 School Year – Sheldon School currently has a one-year Student Assistance Program grant through the State; Mr. Rosenberg stated a request for a second year has just been submitted. He hopes to know this month or next if the grant has been approved.

Building and Grounds – Mr. Rosenberg shared that the non-functioning expansion tank for the boiler has been replaced with a new one and a new control box has been installed. Everything seems to be working just fine. Total cost of repairs was approximately \$2000.00.

School Calendar – Mr. Rosenberg distributed copies of the approved 2009-2010 school year calendar.

FFA – Mr. Rosenberg investigated starting up a connection with Future Farmers of America (FFA) for the 7/8 graders at Sheldon. He spoke to Jill Kelly out of the MVU FFA program and he and Mr. Bradford, current 7/8 teacher, met with Ms. Kelly and four FFA officers from her program yesterday. Ms. Kelly will investigate further but Plan One could include Sheldon starting their own FFA Chapter; Plan Two would include having a Junior FFA club in collaboration with a high school FFA Club. Mr. Rosenberg will include information regarding this in the upcoming Bear News. The Board expressed appreciation for this new opportunity for students.

NECAP Science Assessment – Mr. Rosenberg stated he had follow up discussions with current teachers regarding the recent low scores on the NECAP Science Assessment (primarily in area of environmental science) for the middle school grades. They will work together to bolster this area of study. Mr. Rosenberg shared information and the curriculum from the current middle school teachers.

Superintendent's Report

Negotiations – will be discussed in Executive Session.

Policies – The second reading and adoption of H3 Community Use of School Facilities has been tabled for the April 2009 School Board meeting. Dr. McCarthy shared additional information about the I Policies and asked the School Board to review these in their policy manuals. These policies are not mandated and do not need to be approved, but should be reviewed.

New Board Training – Dr. McCarthy reported he has scheduled a three-hour training for all new Board members on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the FNWSU office in Swanton, 9am to Noon.

Legislative Review – Dr. McCarthy shared information with Board members regarding the Stimulus package National Bill and the pieces related to Education. Mr. Rosenberg inquired if schools individually respond to stimulus package or is it done by Supervisory Unions? There was Board discussion.

Other –

- Dr. McCarthy shared that the FNWSU submitted a district-wide math grant that was approved for \$75,000. Congratulations! Only three were awarded in the State.

New Business –

- Town Meeting Review – Mr. Rosenberg shared that he would like to send out a brochure giving a synopsis of the school budget prior to the 2010 and future Town Meetings. Ms. Kane-Stebbins also suggested posting information on the school website such as the budget informational meeting PowerPoint presentation, informational meeting dates, and School Board agenda's and minutes, as well as the school policies. There was Board discussion. The Board requested that Mr. Rosenberg discuss this with Rusty Gregory, Technology Coordinator. Ms. Kane-Stebbins also requested that "town meeting" remain a standing agenda item on School Board monthly meetings.
- Talent Show – was well-attended and children did a great job!

Meeting Dates - The next regular Sheldon School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The agenda meeting will be Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. The next FNWSU Board meeting is April 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Swanton. The New Board Training is scheduled for March 21, 2009 at FNWSU office, 9am to noon.

At 7:47 p.m. Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Bourdeau seconded the motion.

Executive Session – The Board discussed the 2009-2010 school budget, personnel issues, a legal issue and a student issue. Ms. Howrigan moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Kane-Stebbins. Board exited Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Bourdeau moved to approve a revised FY 2010 budget in the amount of \$5,326,547.00; motion seconded by Ms. Kane-Stebbins. Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to approve a warning for a vote by Australian Ballot in the amount of \$5,326,547.00; motion seconded by Mr. Bourdeau.

Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to allow non-resident child to finish current school year at Sheldon; motion seconded by Mr. Bourdeau.

The Board reviewed and signed orders.

Mr. Bourdeau moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Ms. Kane-Stebbins. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Board Clerk