

**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Directors Meeting
January 13, 2009**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the school library.

Those in attendance were Board members Paula Howrigan, Celeste Kane-Stebbins, and Paul Madden, administrators Dr. Jack McCarthy and Lenny Rosenberg, business manager, Becky Hart, and board secretary Susan Brouillette. Guests included Sheldon resident Jacob Bourdeau, and Sheldon teachers Shelly Martin and Doug Bradford.

Mr. Madden called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Discussion with Mr. Bradford: Mr. Bradford provided a presentation on the Science NECAP results and an overview. The NECAP test covers 3 areas of science that are included in the Sheldon curriculum for grades 7 and 8 and these include physics, chemistry and biology. The test also covers areas including earth science, environmental science and science of the universe. These areas are not included in the 7/8 curriculum and are addressed with limitations in grades 5/6. Mr. Bradford noted these are newer to the 5/6 curriculum and he does think these pieces are being addressed, slowly. Mr. Bradford also noted that it has been said by other science teachers from local high schools that the Sheldon students are quite knowledgeable in their sciences and are very well prepared for the high school courses, so the current curriculum works well for high school preparedness. There was Board discussion. Options suggested by Mr. Bradford including keeping teaching to the current curriculum or change the curriculum to teach to the NECAP test. Another option is to include more of these NECAP areas in the 5 and 6 grade curriculums. Mr. Rosenberg agreed to follow up with Mr. Bradford and the FNWSU Curriculum Director Dena St. Amour and bring information back to the next Board meeting.

Mr. Bradford left the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Discussion with Ms. Martin: Ms. Martin first thanked the Board for supporting her in completing her Masters. Ms. Martin shared her enthusiasm to create integrated studies with the math and science programs in her classroom, as well as adding technology to keep learning engaging for her students. She showed a presentation called “All About Reading and Connecting” of her students learning and making the connection between science and the environment. Ms. Martin is continually making and getting more connections to integrating the learning for her students, including using online resources for teaching and curriculum planning.

The presentation ended at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to approve and sign the December 9, 2008 minutes as amended. Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

Correspondence: none.

Business Managers Report

Ms. Hart presented the December 2008 financial report. Ms. Hart shared that the current carryover is \$23,000. There was Board discussion. Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to accept the December 2008 financial report as presented and Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

Transportation Bid – Ms. Hart shared that bids were sent out last month and two were received and reviewed. There was Board discussion. The discussion will be completed in Executive Session.

Tuition Rate – Ms. Hart shared that each year tuition rates must be announced for the following year. These tuition rates set the maximum amount that could be charged and are set on the 2009-2010 proposed school budget. The current 2008 rates are \$4,547 for Kindergarten, \$9,094 for grades 1-6, and \$10,097 for grades 7/8. The 2009-2010 proposed tuition rates are \$4,361 for Kindergarten, \$8,721 for grades 1-6, and \$9,609 for grades 7/8. Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to accept the 2009-2010 tuition rates as presented. Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

Budget FY10 – Ms. Hart shared Draft 4 of the budget, which included all changes discussed at last week's budget meeting. Ms. Hart checked with other area high schools regarding their projected tuition rates. These rates are only projected and not final or announced and they include: \$13,300 for Enosburg (an approximate 8% increase of the current rate); \$12,950 for BFA St. Albans (a 15% increase); and \$9,400 for MVU, which does not reflect an increase. Other tuition rates may increase slightly to \$23,000. There was Board discussion. With all the changes discussed, the proposed 2009-2010 budget includes a 2.62% increase from the 2008-2009 school budget. Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to accept the current budget proposal of \$5,458,384 for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Madden seconded the motion.

Other –

- Ms. Hart inquired if the Board read the Secondary Special Education Agreement she shared at December's Board meeting. It was reviewed and Ms. Howrigan made a motion to accept the Secondary Special Education Agreement from BFA St. Albans and for the Board Chair to sign it. Ms. Kane-Stebbins seconded the motion.

Old Business – none.

Principal's Report

Science NECAP – included in discussion with Mr. Bradford.

Teacher Presentation – included in discussion with Ms. Martin.

Correspondence Request – Mr. Rosenberg shared a letter he received regarding a request for a group to have meetings at the school. There was Board discussion. Mr. Rosenberg also shared a letter he sent home to parents regarding the Kindergarten program. There is an open presentation regarding the new Kindergarten program scheduled for January 20th at 6pm to 7pm. He also shared a request to be discussed in Executive Session.

Boiler Room Planning – Mr. Rosenberg shared information with the Board members regarding the boiler and the circulation issues discussed at December's Board meeting, including adding an automatic box to turn on the 2nd circulator if needed. There was Board discussion. Mr. Rosenberg also shared that Control Technologies will be checking all thermostats in the school to make sure they are working properly within the next week or so. The Board asked Mr. Rosenberg to investigate if there are any programs through Efficiency Vermont and ask them to review the Sheldon School. Ms. Kane-Stebbins again suggested HVAC training for the custodial staff at Sheldon to help build our own in-house expertise. The Board asked Mr. Rosenberg to bring back the request for the circulation box in a few months.

Student Residency – to be discussed in Executive Session.

Other –

- Mr. Rosenberg shared that the Presidential Inaugural Address scheduled for 1/20/09 will be made available for the students to view during the school day.
- Mr. Rosenberg shared pictures for the 2009 Town Report to be included with his Principal's report that he wrote. He asked the Board members to review this letter and provide him with any feedback.
- Ms. Hart inquired who was doing the School Board Report; Ms. Howrigan and Ms. Kane-Stebbins are working on it.

Superintendent's Report –

FNWSU Joint Bargaining – Dr. McCarthy shared that he is looking at rescheduling this meeting currently set for January 20, 2009 for the council (teacher contract with all FNWSU schools). He will follow up with the Board on the new meeting date.

Negotiations – Dr. McCarthy is working with Chris Leopold and shared that there is a meeting scheduled for January 22, 2009 for the group working with the educational support staff.

Policies – Dr. McCarthy shared copies of the following H Section Policies with the Board: H1 School-Community Relations, H2 Parental Involvement, H3 Community Use of School Facilities, H4 Distribution of Non-School Sponsored Literature in the School, H5 Business/Educational Partnerships, and H6 Visits by Parents, Community Members or Media Interviewing, Filming, Videotaping or Recording. Dr. McCarthy stated that there are no state-mandated policies in Section H. Dr. McCarthy also shared a copy of the change to policy F21 Prevention of Harassment of Students. Policy H3 Community Use of School Facilities needs to be reviewed as it may need more attention than the others. Dr. McCarthy agreed to share a more generic version of policy H3 for the Board to review.

There was Board discussion. Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to waive the first reading and have the second reading and adoption of policies H1 School-Community Relations, H2 Parental Involvement, H6 Visits by Parents, Community Members or Media Interviewing, Filming, Videotaping or Recording and F21 Prevention of Harassment of Students at the February 2009 School Board meeting. Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

New Business – no new business.

Meeting Dates - The next regular Sheldon School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. An informational meeting for the proposed 2009-2010 school budget will be on February 10th at 7pm. The agenda meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. The next FNWSU Board meeting is April 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Swanton. A second informational meeting for the proposed 2009-2010 school budget will be on March 2nd at 7pm. Ms. Kane-Stebbins has requested to be on the Town Select Board meeting agenda for February 9, 2009 at 7:30 pm to share the proposed school budget. The Board will ask the Town Clerk to invite the auditors as well. There is a Negotiations meeting on January 22nd at 6pm.

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Madden made a motion to go into Executive Session; Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

Executive Session – The Board discussed contracts, a residency issue, and a personnel issue. Mr. Madden moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Howrigan. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Madden made a motion to increase Lynn Dodd's cash payment in lieu of health insurance by \$500. Ms. Kane-Stebbins seconded the motion. Mr. Madden made a motion to award the Sheldon School busing contract to Grand Avenue starting with the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

The Board reviewed and signed orders.

Mr. Madden moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Ms. Howrigan. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Board Clerk