

**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Directors Meeting
September 8, 2009**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the school library.

Those in attendance were Board members Paula Howrigan, Celeste Kane-Stebbins, and Jacob Bourdeau, administrators Lenny Rosenberg, Jack McCarthy and Becky Hart and board secretary Susan Brouillette. Guests included FNWSU Technology Coordinator, George Raynak, and Sheldon School Technology Coordinator, Russell Gregory.

Ms. Howrigan called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Art Teacher Presentation: Mr. Rosenberg stated this was unexpectedly canceled.

Technology Presentation: Mr. Rosenberg invited George Raynak and Russell Gregory to present information on the Toshiba Netbook for possible use in the school and the classroom. The Netbook was shared at the summer Leadership Academy Conference and promotes student and teacher technology and learning in the classroom. The Netbook is a smaller size laptop with an 8-hour battery life and costs approximately \$350. Mr. Raynak shared that a goal in the FNWSU Technology Plan includes creating a flexible learning environment so that students can use technology in a more natural way and when/where it is most effective. Netbook's are more mobile and versatile and provide flexibility to use in the classroom versus only having computer lab access capabilities. The Netbook features include a built-in video camera, microphone, recording software and video conferencing, such as Skype. The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union has received economic stimulus monies and he is placing three small mobile labs (like a mobile cart) that includes 12 or 13 Netbook units in three FNWSU elementary schools. They propose that in addition to the mobile mini-lab being purchased by the stimulus money, Sheldon School purchase an additional 25 or 30 Toshiba Netbooks for a classroom lab; these could also be used as mobile if needed. Mr. Raynak presented an estimate that he received from one vendor. There was Board discussion regarding purchasing and/or leasing the Netbooks, as well as some general questions regarding service plan/warranty details. The Netbook can be carried or stored in a nylon sleeve that can be purchased at a nominal fee. Mr. Raynak and Mr. Gregory agreed to follow up on some questions/ concerns. The Board will discuss further in Executive Session and get back to Mr. Rosenberg.

Mr. Raynak and Mr. Gregory left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Bourdeau moved to approve and sign the August 11, 2009 minutes as printed. Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

Correspondence: included a letter from Patsy Hendrickson to be discussed in Executive Session and a bus transportation request for a pre-schooler. Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to approve the bus transportation request. Mr. Bourdeau seconded the motion.

Contracts: the Board will review and sign contracts in Executive Session.

Old Business: none

Business Manager's Report

Ms. Hart presented the FY'10 July 2009 financial report. She has adjusted the report for salaries per employee contracts. There are some savings due to staff changes but not all contracts are signed and completed and are therefore not yet reflected in the budget report. The Special Education costs appear to be in-line as budgeted. There was Board discussion. Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to accept the July 2009 financial report as presented and Mr. Bourdeau seconded the motion.

Ms. Hart left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Principal's Report

Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Rosenberg presented the Control Technology Contract for review. There was Board discussion. Mr. Bourdeau made a motion to accept the Control Technology Three-Year Service Agreement Contract and authorize the Board Chair to sign the when page one is received. Ms. Kane-Stebbins seconded the motion.

Mr. Rosenberg reported that half of the classroom thermostats have been changed to an automatic timer; remainder will be completed tomorrow. Mr. Rosenberg presented the Air handler proposal from Control Technology. There was Board discussion. Rebates are available for this work. Mr. Rosenberg will contact Control Technology regarding the Board's questions.

Mr. Rosenberg reviewed the status of the proposed roof repair. He has not yet received a quote from Bryan Derry. Mr. Bourdeau will follow up regarding a quote.

Art Teacher Presentation – Mr. Rosenberg distributed information from the art teacher on an "African Pit-Firing" ceramic project proposal. There was Board discussion. Mr. Bourdeau made a motion to approve the African Pit-Firing project. Ms. Howrigan seconded the motion.

Building Security – Mr. Rosenberg provided an update on building security badges, which was discussed at faculty in-service; he will implement use this fall.

Reading Recovery Update – A para-educator that is a certified teacher will cover Ms. Messier's classroom while Ms. Messier is doing Reading Recovery training from 8:30am to 9:30am five-days a week. The position was posted; the contract(s) will be discussed in Executive Session.

Technology Presentation – previously discussed in meeting.

Personnel – Mr. Rosenberg asked if the school board members wanted to be notified of a school closing due to inclement weather. All Board members declined.

Other –

- The school Open House is scheduled for September 17, 2009 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, and a spaghetti dinner hosted by Sheldon Cares is being offered from 5:45pm to 7:15pm. Ms. Howrigan, Mr. Bourdeau, and Ms. Kane-Stebbins agreed to serve spaghetti.
- Mr. Rosenberg reported the new Math teacher, Mr. Mortelette is being mentored by Faith

Johnson.

Superintendent's Report

Bus Transportation – Dr. McCarthy shared that a student that is part of the high school choice program is requesting to ride the Sheldon bus to Enosburg High School. There was Board discussion. Mr. Bourdeau made a motion to allow this student to ride the bus as long as there is adequate space available and there is appropriate behavior. Ms. Kane-Stebbins seconded the motion. Dr. McCarthy will send a letter to the parent regarding the Board's decision.

Copies of the Instructional Assistant Master Agreement were distributed to the Board.

Shared Expenses – to be discussed in Executive Session.

Personnel – a legal issue will be discussed in Executive Session.

Superintendent's Evaluation – will be discussed in Executive Session.

Legal Matter – to be discussed in Executive Session.

Other –

- H1N1 Flu Vaccinations - Dr. McCarthy stated he attended a meeting with the VT Department of Health; they are considering using the schools as vaccination sites. No decision has been made.

New Business - none

Meeting Dates - The next regular Sheldon School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The agenda meeting will be Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. The Long-Term Planning meeting has been scheduled for October 5, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sheldon library. The next FNWSU Board Meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at MVU.

At 7:30 p.m. Ms. Howrigan made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Bourdeau seconded the motion.

Executive Session – The Board discussed personnel issues, contracts, a legal issue, a proposal for shared expenses, and completed the Superintendent's evaluation. Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Bourdeau. The Board exited Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

The Board signed contracts.

Ms. Howrigan moved that Sheldon School District pay transportation costs for a Sheldon student attending MVU; 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 10:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Board Clerk