

SHELDON SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2009 5:30pm
Sheldon School Library

The Sheldon Board of School Directors met in the Sheldon School Library on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 5:30pm. Present were Board members Paula Howrigan, Celeste Kane-Stebbins, and Jacob Bourdeau. Also present at the meeting were Principal Lenny Rosenberg, Superintendent Jack McCarthy, and Business Manager Becky Hart.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Paula Howrigan at 5:30pm.

On a motion made by Celeste Kane-Stebbins, seconded by Jacob Bourdeau, the minutes of the last Board meeting held on October 13, 2009 were approved as amended, to clarify that the inquiry regarding a letter from teachers was with respect to contract negotiations.

Correspondence related to a residency issue was tabled for discussion in Executive Session.

Old Business – Mr. Rosenberg advised the Board that the roof work has been completed. In addition, the purchase of the computer notebooks discussed at the last meeting is in process.

Contracts – None

Business Manager's Report

Financial Report – The reported carryover is up from the previous month. Tuition bills have been received from two of the area high schools. BFA, St. Albans expense is projected to be less than originally budgeted; however, Enosburg will be billing additional tuition costs for FY09 as allowed by statute based on state's allowable tuition for FY09. A credit from CHCC for FY09 tuition is expected as well, as a result of that school's tuition being billed at a higher rate than the allowable.

FY11 Budget – Draft 1 of the school's 2010-11 budget was reviewed. The first draft maintains the same level of staffing as the current year. A five-percent (5%) increase has been budgeted for health insurance premiums for FY11 – the actual increase will be announced in early January. A five-percent (5%) increase has been added to high school tuition lines until the student numbers and projected tuition rates are received. Supervisory Union assessments will be determined prior to the next meeting as the SU Board meets Dec 2nd. The long-term debt service expires this year. The Board will have further discussion in Executive Session.

Principal's Report

A request from Curt Valenta use of building for wreath-making activities has been received. Mr. Valenta plans to charge a fee and will assure that the area will be cleaned up afterwards. The Board approved the request.

Mr. Rosenberg reported there was a good turnout for the recent parent conference. He provided data regarding the attendance percentage by grade – 88% of parents attended overall, with 83% of K-4 and 93% Grades 5-8 averaged.

Control Technologies will begin work on the air handlers November 13th during in-service, when students are not present in the building. Work will continue during Thanksgiving recess and any additional time needed will be worked out so that the project can be completed before winter temperatures set in.

The H1N1 clinic was delayed because vaccine was not available. School nurse Kathy Gorton is working with VT Dept of Health to reschedule in December. School is already seeing a high level of student absence for this time of year.

Buildings/Grounds – gym water cooler to be replaced, at an anticipated cost of \$450. The school needs to determine where the water hookup is to assure that the replacement unit is compatible with the hookup.

Gym score clock – there are two score clocks in the school gymnasium, however only one is working at this time. The cost to fix the second clock is estimated to be \$500. The one remaining score clock is visible to all participants in gym, so fixing the second clock does not seem necessary at this time.

In-Service Plans – Mr. Rosenberg reported that the schedule is set for in-service this Friday. Schedule includes work in computer lab tech certifications and the remainder of the day will be focused on integrating Sheldon Community forest into the curriculum. Nilah Cote, Marvin Bicknell, Curt Valenta, and Nancy Patch will be in attendance as well.

Other-

Mr. Rosenberg provided the Board with a 2011-12 straight grade proposal, but noted that this type of proposal would require four additional teachers be included in the FY12 budget; this is not cost effective for a small school like Sheldon.

Literacy leader Kosha Patel is putting together a \$10,000 grant proposal entitled “Technology for Literacy”. Mr. Rosenberg will advise the Board whether the proposal is approved.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. McCarthy advised the Board of a legal matter to be discussed in Executive Session.

Long Term Planning - There was a good turnout for the long-term planning meeting. Group was divided into three subgroups of 5-6 participants to discuss open-ended items which could be done to improve instruction at Sheldon. Discussion of all-day Kindergarten and space issues seemed to be two main themes. Dr. McCarthy will put meeting notes into written form for board review. The next meeting will discuss the value of long term planning, successes will be reviewed, and areas still needing to be addressed will be identified.

Negotiations – The next meeting of the joint Negotiating Council is scheduled for November 16 at 7:00pm and December 8 at 7:30pm. Legal counsel Chris Leopold has started putting together a draft of a joint master agreement proposal in order to reduce language issues before larger issues of salaries and benefits are discussed. Further discussion tabled until Executive Session.

Policy – Dr. McCarthy advised the Board that policy review will begin again starting with section A. No major changes are anticipated but the Board should review policies periodically to keep policies current.

A written agreement between MVU and Sheldon is needed to resolve a residency issue involving the two districts. Sheldon will pay transportation expense and MVU provide tuition. Dr. McCarthy will draft an agreement for Sheldon to pay for special education transportation from Sheldon to MVU. Celeste Kane-Stebbins moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the agreement between MVU and Sheldon regarding student transportation.; motion seconded by Jacob Bourdeau.

Other – Dr. McCarty reported that school governance will be a hot topic in this year’s legislative session. There is discussion regarding reducing the number of supervisory unions, or making existing supervisory unions into large school districts. It is not know at this point how this discussion would affect Sheldon’s high school choice.

Next Meeting – The next school board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 7, 2009 @ 5:30pm. The Franklin NWSU Board will meet December 2, 2009 @ 7:00pm in Sheldon. Negotiation Committee will meet November 16 at 7 pm and December 8 at 7:30 pm.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:52pm on a motion made by Celeste Kane-Stebbins and seconded by Jacob Bourdeau. The Board discussed personnel issues, a student issue, and a legal issue.

Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to exit Executive Session; motion seconded by Mr. Bourdeau. Board exited Executive Session at 7:55 pm.

The Board reviewed and signed orders.

Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to adjourn meeting; motion seconded by Mr. Bourdeau. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Board Clerk