

**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Directors Meeting
May 10, 2011**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on Wednesday, May 10, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at Sheldon School.

Those in attendance were Board members Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Jacob Bourdeau, and Laurie Oliver, administrators Jack McCarthy and Becky Hart, principal Lenny Rosenberg, and board secretary Susan Brouillette. A Channel 15 representative attended the meeting taping it for public access. Guests included Sheldon parent Jenna Clark and Math Content Specialist, Faith Johnson.

Mr. Bourdeau called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Presentation by Faith Johnson – Mr. Rosenberg introduced Faith Johnson, Math Content Specialist. He reminded the Board that Sheldon School has been identified as part of the DOE Year 1 Improvement Plan, which approximately 210 schools in Vermont have been identified. Mrs. Johnson gave a brief presentation on the requirements of the Improvement plan and high level overview of Sheldon’s approach to the plan. She shared that their mission is to ensure Sheldon students achieve proficiency in the four content strands of mathematics. She stated that while progress has been made from the previous year, there is still more work that needs to be completed, with one of those areas being parent involvement. Mrs. Johnson shared that there are 10 components of the school improvement plan and she stated most are being met but not all, which she is looking at addressing. One item discussed as part of their goal, as well as the school’s long term plan, is to have a specialized math teacher. Some reasons and support for this goal is to be able to provide the foundation of math skills and content at an earlier level/age for all future learning, as well as allowing the mathematically knowledgeable teachers to take over the teaching of mathematics at the elementary school level, which Sheldon is already doing. Mr. Bourdeau asked if all Sheldon students took the local math assessment that is being used to determine who should attend the summer intervention program. Mrs. Johnson said that yes all students did take it. Mrs. Kane-Stebbins inquired if the specialized math teachers were different from the regular classroom teachers in their delivery of the math program. Mrs. Johnson stated that specialized math teachers did receive special training on how to gain the content knowledge and concepts of math and how to teach it. She also shared that the specialized math teachers will also be asked to teach another subject such as writing, science or social studies along with their math skill strengths. Mrs. Oliver inquired how the current math specialist positions are incorporated into the regular Sheldon curriculum. Dr. McCarthy shared an example with Sheldon previously having 4 teachers teaching all subject areas in grades 3 & 4 and now it will be 3 classes with the math specialist position teaching all the math classes for grades 3 & 4. Mrs. Oliver also inquired about assessments and was told that there will be many ongoing assessments and the NECAP is the formal assessment. The Board thanked Mrs. Johnson for the presentation. Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Rosenberg indicated that Sheldon’s plan is required to be submitted to the State and would be presented to the Board for review and approval.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to approve the April 13, 2011 minutes as printed, which was seconded by Mrs. Oliver. Motion passed 3-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Rosenberg shared that he wrote a letter to the Governor and Commissioner and mailed them a copy of the book “Home In The Forest” written by Kosha Patel, Sheldon Literacy Specialist, and illustrated by Kay Grimes, Sheldon Staff member. He shared the letter of

response from Governor Shumlin.

Old Business: none.

Contracts: none.

Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Hart presented the April 2011 financial report and shared that the projected carryover is a little higher than last month. She shared that there has been a reduction in special education expenses, as well as a decrease in special education revenues, as some students have moved. Mrs. Hart stated that Sheldon is still underspending the budget significantly. There was Board discussion. Mrs. Kane-Stebbins moved to accept the April 2011 financial report as presented; Mrs. Oliver seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

Other –

- Mrs. Hart shared a copy of a contract for next year's food service program. She stated that FNWSU was not allowed to issue multi-year contracts, but current contracts can be extended. We will be entering the first year of a 4 year renewal period on the contract. Mrs. Hart shared that she would like Board approval of the contract at the next School Board meeting so that it can be mailed to The Abbey, the current provider. There was Board discussion.

Principal's Report

Planning Room Position – to be discussed in Executive Session.

Home in the Forest – as noted previously this book was written by Kosha Patel, Sheldon Literacy Specialist, and illustrated by Kay Grimes, Sheldon Staff member. Mr. Rosenberg gave copies to the Board members. Illustrations were taken from the Sheldon Forest.

Building and Grounds – Mr. Rosenberg shared that the outside doors next to the Pre-K room were looked at and he was told that these style of doors are designed to not fit as tightly as the front doors for example. The siding on that same side of the school was also examined and Mr. Rosenberg shared that he felt it could be left for another year. He is obtaining a quote on fixing it as well. He also shared that he had the two circulating pumps (that circulate water to the furnace) looked at. These are the original two pumps that were installed in the mid 70's and they have each had some repairs. One of them did seize up and needs to be replaced and the other received some parts from the broken pump and is working. Mr. Rosenberg received an estimate from Control Technologies to replace both pumps for \$13,335 which includes new pumps, electric motors, and labor. One pump replacement is \$6,997, all inclusive. He is also waiting to hear back from Efficiency Vermont regarding rebate information and will share that information with the Board when he receives it.

Language Arts Position – Mr. Rosenberg shared that he received applications for the open Language Art teacher position for grades 6, 7 and 8 as a result of Mr. Novak's resignation and he and a committee are interviewing four candidates this week. He asked the Board to pick a date now for when he can bring at least two candidates to the School Board for the week of May 23, 2011. They scheduled to meet on Monday, May 23, 2011 starting at 5:45 p.m.

Books – Reading Program – Mr. Rosenberg shared a request to purchase new books for three programs/classes at Sheldon. The current junior high level social studies books are over 11 years old and one set of 20 new books costs \$2,000. The junior high level science books currently do not address all the new content areas to meet the learning needs for grades 6, 7 and 8 and one set of 20 new books costs \$3,265. Mr. Rosenberg also requested to receiving a book series reading program for grades Kindergarten and first grade for \$2,565.16. There was board discussion. Mr. Bourdeau asked when they needed to be ordered to receive for the next school year and Mr. Rosenberg was not sure. Mrs. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to purchase the books as shared by Mr. Rosenberg and Mrs. Oliver seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

DOE Year 1 Improvement Plan – discussed previously with Faith Johnson.

Student Issue – To be discussed in Executive Session.

Kindergarten Program Update – Mr. Rosenberg shared that he has had a few meetings with the new Kindergarten teachers, as well as Faith Johnson, Kosha Patel, Reagan Keelty and Christine Reighley, on how the new program will look and an initial schedule was created. He stated he was planning to send this schedule and a letter home next week to the parents of upcoming Kindergarten students for their information and to also ask for their feedback.

Summer Intervention – In follow-up to the prior meeting, Mr. Rosenberg shared that the Summer Intervention program will be held from August 8th through the 19th, Monday through Thursday, 9am to noon. He mailed out 35 to 40 letters to parents of students who did not score well on NECAP. To date he has received 15 responses for attendees in the summer program. The program will be staffed with two teachers and two paraeducators.

Other –

- The 8th grade Farewell Ceremony is scheduled for June 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. and will be outside, weather permitting.
- Mr. Rosenberg brought two work order requests related to the set-up of the new Kindergarten rooms to be effective for the new full-time program starting in the 2011 -2012 school year, which included desk, chairs, furniture and supplies. There was Board discussion. This money proposed is available in the current budget.

Superintendent's Report

Legislative Report – Dr. McCarthy shared this report in the packets regarding educational issues that are being discussed and proposed in Legislation.

Negotiations – to be discussed in Executive Session. Dr. McCarthy shared that the teachers are voting to ratify the tentative agreement Thursday, May 12, 2011 at MVU after school dismissal.

Personnel – to be discussed in Executive Session.

Highgate and Swanton New Administration – Dr. McCarthy shared that the new Highgate

School principal is Joyce Irbine who has been a principal for 15 years and was last employed with H.O. Wheeler School in Burlington, VT. Sarah Raabe is the new Assistant Principal at Swanton School and she is currently teaching at the Charlotte School.

Other -

- He also shared he participated in a Superintendent's meeting today in Chittenden County.

New Business – none.

Meeting Dates - The next regular Sheldon School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. The agenda meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. School Board Interviews for the Language Art position candidates are scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011 at 5:45 p.m. The FNWSU Board meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Swanton School. The 8th grade Farewell Ceremony is scheduled for June 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:38 p.m. Mrs. Kane-Stebbins moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, contracts, a student issue and negotiations. Mrs. Oliver seconded the motion.

Executive Session – The Board discussed personnel, contracts, a student issue and negotiations. Mrs. Kane-Stebbins moved to exit Executive Session; motion seconded by Mrs. Oliver. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

The Board reviewed and signed orders.

Mr. Bourdeau moved to adjourn; Mrs. Kane-Stebbins seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Laurie Oliver, Board Clerk