

**Sheldon School District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 2011**

Board Members Present: Jacob Bourdeau, Laurie Oliver, Celeste Kane-Stebbins
Administrators Present: Jack McCarthy, Lenny Rosenberg
Others Present: Jenna Clark, Trula Southwick, Beth Hemmingway

Board Secretary Susan Brouillette was not in attendance. Meeting minutes were taken by Board Clerk, Laurie Oliver.

A Channel 15 representative was in attendance to tape the meeting for public access.

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Mr. Boudreau

Citizens:

Jenna Clark presented a petition to reinstate the choral program; 71 signatures have been verified and notarized by the Town Clerk. 4 additional signatures were presented but not yet verified. Ms. Clark presented her understanding that the 74 signatures would ensure the validity of the petition as the required percentage of the voters. The petition requests the Board to call a special meeting with the following article:

Article 1: Shall the Sheldon School Board reinstate the choral program at the Sheldon Elementary School?

Due to contractual issues regarding the request for reinstatement of the choral program, further discussion will be taken on this issue by the Board in Executive Session. Mr. McCarthy will respond to Ms. Clark by Thursday with an update. After discussion, Mr. McCarthy indicated that he would contact Board legal counsel to review the petition and would contact Ms. Clark by Thursday, August 11th with an update.

Ms. Hemmingway requested that the Board include a warning for the annual town meeting to expand the size of the Board from 3 to 5 and that the school budget vote be done by Australian ballot. Discussion took place regarding the request.

Minutes:

Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to approve the June 14, 2011 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bourdeau. Motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to approve the June 27, 2011 minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Oliver. After discussion, a correction to the minutes was made regarding the cost of the variable speed pumps. Motion to modify the minutes as discussed was presented and seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Correspondence:

Mr. Rosenberg presented a transportation request to be discussed in Executive Session as a student specific issue.

Mr. McCarthy presented a donation request received by FNSWU from a Sheldon school group regarding a Jr. National Leadership Conference to be held in Washington D.C. involving 4 students nominated by a

**Sheldon School District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 2011**

Sheldon Elementary school teacher, Mrs. Gray. A copy of the request was not available for review. Mr. Rosenberg presented that he was not aware of the trip involving the Sheldon students. After discussion, the Board indicated more follow-up to understand the program was needed.

Ms. Oliver indicated that she had received a phone call regarding a personnel issue that would need to be discussed in Executive Session.

Contracts:

Mr. McCarthy presented the ratified and signed copy of the teacher's Master Agreement for the period July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014.

Mediation of the support staff is to be held on August 15, 2011 at 4:30 pm at MVU.

Business Manager's Report:

Ms. Hart was not in attendance. A report was not available for review.

Principal's Report:

Staff were not present for discussion of Math Night as listed on the agenda.

Playground surfacing is scheduled for delivery on August 17, 2011. This will satisfy playground safety requirements. Some additional volunteers may be needed to help spread the surfacing in/around the equipment. Mr. Rosenberg inquired of Ms. Clark if Sheldon Cares volunteers may be available. General ground preparation and distribution will be done by Mr. Gagne.

Mr. Rosenberg presented a proposal to extend the student day from 2:30 to 2:45 to allow for more student instructional time. The contract day for teaching staff was extended by a half hour for the 2012 academic year and will be at the school until 3:30. There was general discussion by the Board and community members. A start date for the new time was not determined pending discussion by the administration with staff.

Two false alarms were responded to since the previous meeting.

A reminder of the upcoming back to school BBQ that is to be held at 6:00 pm on August 25th. This is an in-service day for faculty. Parents will have time before the BBQ to meet with teachers and tour the school.

Ms. Kane-Stebbins inquired about the Kindergarten Scavenger Hunt held previously by the Kindergarten teachers. Mr. Rosenberg presented that it went well and that home visits are occurring. Ms. Oliver presented that she participated at the Kindergarten event and also felt that it was positively received and understood the attendance rate was very good.

Superintendent's Report

A draft of the *Prevention of Harassment of Students* policy (F21) was presented as modified by the State of Vermont for the acceptance of the District. Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Board waive the

**Sheldon School District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 2011**

first reading of the policy and have one reading and action on the policy at the September meeting. There was general discussion about the changes to the policy.

A motion to waive first reading of the Harassment policy was made by Ms. Kane-Stebbins and seconded by Ms. Oliver. Motion passed 3 –0.

Mr. McCarthy provided Ms. Oliver with a current copy of the Long Term Plan dated November 10 2010 in follow-up from the previous meeting. Mr. Boudreau indicated that a meeting to review and update the plan will be held this fall. General discussion took place regarding the structure of the plan and involvement by the Board, Administration and faculty.

Ms. Oliver inquired about the status of the plan required to be submitted to the State as a result of Sheldon being an Identified School from the NECAP assessment. Mr. Rosenberg indicated this plan is being drafted and is due in September. Mr. Rosenberg represented that the plan will be submitted to the Board for review prior to submission.

New Business:

No new business was presented.

Meeting Dates:

September 14, 2011 is the next regularly scheduled Sheldon School Board meeting at 5:30 pm. This is a change from the regular 2nd Tuesday of the month to accommodate attendance at the regional Vermont School Board Association meeting to be held at BFA St. Albans on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 5:00 pm the request of Ms. Oliver. The agenda meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th at 7:30 am.

The Support Staff mediation session is scheduled for Monday August 15th at 4:30 pm at MVU.

FNWSU Board meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Swanton Elementary School.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Ms. Kane-Stebbins at 7:08 pm to enter into Executive Session to discuss student, personnel and contractual issues. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bourdeau. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made at 8:55 pm by Ms. Kane-Stebbins and seconded by Ms. Oliver. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion was made by Ms. Kane-Stebbins to authorize the principal to communicate approval of the transportation request pending verification of the pre-school start time and availability. Ms. Oliver seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

A special meeting of the Board is to be warned specifically for the purpose of further discussion of the request to reinstate the choral program to be held on Wednesday August 10 at 6:00 pm by conference call.

Sheldon School District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 2011

The Board reviewed and signed orders for July and August 2011.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Kane-Stebbins at 9:38 pm and seconded by Ms. Oliver. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie M. Oliver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Laurie M. Oliver, Board Clerk