

**Sheldon Elementary School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 12, 2013**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 12 @ 5:30 pm at Sheldon School.

Those in attendance were Board members Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Laurie Oliver, Jason McConnell, Administrators Jack McCarthy, Becky Hart, Lora McAllister, Principal Linda Keating and Board Secretary Debbie Kittell. Guest includes Michael Clark and Paula Howrigan.

Ms. Oliver called the meeting to order at 5:37PM.

**Citizens and Staff**

Mr. Clark and Ms. Howrigan were present to hear the FY '14 Budget Presentation.

**Business Manager's Report**

**Financial Report**

Ms. Hart presented the January Financial Report; there continues to be a slight carryover.

Ms. Kane-Stebbins made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented; seconded by Mr. McConnell. Motion carried 3-0.

**FY14 Budget Power Point Review**

See FY'14 Budget Presentation

**Other**

None

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**6:00 PM FY 14 Budget Public Informational Presentation**

Ms. Oliver took the opportunity to thank board members and the principal for their input and thoughtful planning on this year's budget. Long Term Planning meetings held throughout the year continue to provide important information for Sheldon School to move forward.

**Budget Highlights include:**

**Staffing:**

Teacher salaries represent 30% of the budget. Professional staff is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a three-year contract. The FY '14 budget eliminates one middle school position to align with student populations. Sheldon student to teacher ratio is slightly less compared to other schools in the state. The average teacher salary is lower than the state average but slightly higher than the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union.

All but 1.5 paraeducators are supported by the Special Education budget because of student need; the remainder is part of the Regular Education budget. Paraprofessionals are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their two year contract. This budget includes the reduction of three para education positions due to attrition.

**Insurance:**

Insurance premiums are expected to increase by 14%. The staff contribution is currently 17.5%. FY'14 staff contribution will be 17.5%. Dental insurance has increased 5%.

**High School Tuition:**

There is currently a 105 high school student population; next year there is an estimate of 109 students. The FY'14 budget includes:

EFHS \$14,950 (13% increase from prior year)

BFA \$14,600 (6% increase from prior year)

MVU \$10,820 (3% increase from prior year)

South Burlington \$13,000

**FNWSU Budget**

The FNWSU budget includes Central Office, Special Education and Early Education budgets; the total increase is 5.4%.

**Special Education**

There is an expected 8.2% increase in the budget which includes an additional 0.8 FTE Special Educator and a 0.5 FTE position in Speech and Language. These additional positions were added to manage the special education caseload effectively. All Special Education expenditures are reimbursed at approximately 55%.

**Plant & Operation**

The Plant & Operation budget is level funded for FY'14. Anticipated needs include replacement of plumbing, security upgrades, installation of a water softener and routine building maintenance.

**Transportation Expenses**

The current Transportation Contract expires this year. This includes high school busing for students attending BFA and EFHS. This section of the budget is increased by 6%.

**Budget Decisions:**

Budget decisions are based on what is best for Sheldon Student and what is responsible to Sheldon Taxpayers. The proposed budget of \$5,463,470 is 5.69% higher than last year. This budget also includes a technology investment, a contract for a Behavior Interventionist and elimination of the Planning Room position.

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**Old Business****Hard Water**

An all-inclusive cost estimate for water softening equipment from Chevalier Drilling Co., Inc. was less than anticipated for work to be completed during the February winter break.

Celeste Kane-Stebbins made a motion to accept the bid from Chevalier, Inc. The motion was seconded by Jason McConnell. The motion was carried 3-0.

**Security Upgrades**

Bids are being completed for security upgrades; including the front lobby locking/striker system. It was noted that if projected costs are greater than \$15,000 it will be necessary to attain three bids. Work will be completed this summer. Further bid discussion and time lines will be presented at the next board meeting.

**Other**

Ms. Oliver received correspondence that will be discussed in Executive Session.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Kane- Stebbins made a motion to accept the January, 2013 board minutes; seconded by Ms. Oliver. The January board minutes were approved 3-0.

**Correspondence**

To be discussed in Executive Session

**Principal's Report****Updates and Announcements**

AlertNow has been tested and was used twice to notify parents of late buses. Parents are extremely supportive of the notification system.

The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school was celebrated this month; including an All School Meeting, indoor and outdoor games. The students enjoyed the celebration! February's scheduled FNWSU District Inservice was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Teaching and Learning**

An overview of NECAP results was presented; results are below the state average despite highly trained staff with strategic teaching in reading and math. There are also many

social and emotional student needs that compromise learning. An in-depth analysis will be presented at the March Board meeting with course of action.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing will be completed this month for Grade 4 & 8 in Reading and Math.

A district wide Special Education Audit is currently underway by the Agency of Education.

### **School Community Connections**

Monthly parenting workshops will begin in March with grade 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents. One of the workshops presented from Technicool will focus on technology (internet and cell phone) safety; how to engage in proper use, responsibility, and consequence for misuse. Problems can range from annoying to very serious. Franklin County Caring Communities will also partner in presenting parenting workshops this spring.

The Bullying Policy and its implications have been discussed by both professional and support staff.

### **Upcoming Events**

The Forest Committee and school connections continue to be strong. Ms. Keating spoke highly of an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade project in Ms. Childress' class that created forest brochures which outline the recreation our forest provides. The forest will be included in our Sheldon Theme Week Celebration in April as part of our place-based education efforts.

### **Other**

None

### **Superintendent**

#### **Policy**

The adopted Bullying Policy was distributed; there was also discussion regarding the Harassment Policy from the Vermont School Boards Association.

Dr. McCarthy asked board members to waive the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of policies lettered 'a through d'. Jason McConnell moved a motion to designate the superintendent to review policies 'a through d'; the motion was seconded by Celeste Kane-Stebbins. The motion was carried 3-0.

#### **Legislative Report**

Information was distributed to Board Members updating them on Legislative News.

#### **MVU Principal**

Dr. McCarthy announced the newly hired MVU principal is Mr. Dennis Hill. Mr. Hill will begin July 1, 2013.

**Legal Issue**

To be discussed in executive session.

**Negotiations**

The next district wide negotiation meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm at the Swanton School.

**Other**

None

**New Business****Goal for the Remainder of the year**

Ms. Oliver asked the board to prioritize what they would like to see accomplished by the end of this school year.

**Other**

Ms. Kane-Stebbins shared her concern with drop out rates for area high schools. Looking ahead, how will the school investigate this data and how best to share this information and its outcomes with students and parents?

**Meeting Dates**

Next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2013 @ 5:30 pm.

Next FNWSU Board Meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at Franklin School.

**Executive Session**

Ms. Oliver moved to enter into executive session and was seconded by Jason McConnell. The board entered executive session @7:25pm to discuss a personnel issue, student issue, legal issue and correspondence.

C. Kane-Stebbins moved to exit Executive Session; motion seconded by L. Oliver. Board exited Executive Session at 8:18pm.

Board reviewed and signed orders.

C. Kane-Stebbins moved to adjourn; motion seconded by J. McConnell. Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Board Clerk**

**Debbie Kittell, Board Secretary**