

**Sheldon Elementary School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 14, 2014**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 14th @ 5:30 pm at Sheldon School.

Those in attendance were Board Members Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Jason McConnell, Laurie Oliver (arrived @ 7:30pm), Superintendent Jack McCarthy, Business Manager Becky Hart, Lora McAllister, Principal Linda Keating and Board Secretary Debbie Kittell. Guests include Franklin County Sheriff Robert Norris. A Channel 15 representative attended the meeting taping it for public access.

**Call to Order**

Jason McConnell called the meeting to order @ 5:40PM.

**Citizens and Staff**

Sheriff Norris stated that as of April 1, 2014 a patrol contract would begin with the Town of Sheldon providing town patrol; including the school. The school will continue to be checked daily.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jason McConnell made a motion to accept the December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 board notes, seconded by Celeste Kane-Stebbins. The motion passed 2-0.

Celeste Kane-Stebbins made a motion to approve the board notes presented for the Special Budget Board Meeting on January 8, 2014 seconded by Jason McConnell. Motion passed 2-0.

**Correspondence**

None

**Contracts**

To be discussed in Executive Session.

**Old Business**

**Alliance HVAC Update**

Mrs. Keating presented an Alliance Contract for board review to be discussed in Executive Session.

**Plan for Building Repairs**

Board members agreed that the school building siding will need replacement within the next couple of years. The board also agreed that the replacement siding should be

durable and cosmetically suited for the school building; possibly metal siding which is more viable than wood or vinyl. Mrs. Kane-Stebbins suggested looking into the expense of the project for future discussion taking extra time, looking at all options to make the best decision for the school.

### **Business Manager's Report**

#### **Financial Report**

Mrs. Hart presented the Financial Report reflecting a slightly higher carryover than December. Mrs. Hart anticipates a possible increase in legal services for paraeducators and teacher negotiations.

Jason McConnell made a motion to accept the Financial Report as written, seconded by Celeste-Kane Stebbins. Motion passed 2-0.

#### **FY'15 Budget**

Draft 4 of the FY'15 budget includes:

- Removal of Security Services Expenses (Shifted to Town)
- Decrease in Transportation Costs
- Personnel changes (to be discussed in Executive Session)
- Current budget increase is approximately 2.25%

#### **Announced Tuition Rate**

Tuition rates were announced and approved during the January 8, 2014 Board Meeting for the 2014/15 school year:

- \$9,757 - Grades K-6
- \$9,429 - Grades 7-8

### **Principal's Report**

#### **Budget**

Mrs. Keating thanked the Business Managers, Bookkeeper and the Board for their input and thoughtful planning to present a responsible FY'15 budget.

#### **Updates**

Mrs. Keating and staff are awaiting final NECAP results, SWIFT work continues, and teachers have started collecting data on standards-based performance. The SWIFT baseline assessment is a valid and reliable source affirming the area(s) where we will focus improvement strategies.

#### **Leading, Teaching, and Learning**

Work is moving forward on a different special education teaching model creating a design that better meets the needs of our special education students. The new format will maximize staff, better address students' needs, and be compliant with special education laws.

Work at the upcoming teacher inservice will continue to deepen our understanding of the domains and features of the SWIFT program. Work will also continue on aligning the school action plan accordingly engaging all faculty and staff.

Training will begin with Special Education Director, Linda Chaim and a national consultant in Social Thinking; developing social and emotional well being for students. Mrs. Keating will be attending this training along with eight special education and regular education teachers.

### **Facilities**

Mrs. Keating and school custodian Hazen Stone continue to move forward on future grounds and facilities cost estimates. Possible equipment options were presented for board discussion on how best to maintain the grounds of the school whether it is an outright purchase of equipment as a capital investment, compared to current yearly mowing contracts. To be discussed further in Executive Session.

Mrs. Keating will also move forward with cost estimates for siding improvements/replacements.

### **Upcoming Events**

Crossroads Coordinators, Brenda Cook and Kerri Churchill, and Mrs. Keating continue to be amazed at the number of students participating in the Crossroads Program. Session #2 begins this week with 80-85 participants enrolled.

Students in both grades 5/6 and 7/8 will be participating in the Jay Peak Ski Program. There are two trips to the mountain scheduled this month.

Science Teacher, Scott McKim has planned a trip to the National Weather Service in Burlington for grade 7 & 8 students this month and an author visit will kick off our "I Love to Read & Write Week".

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, representatives from BFA, MVU and Enosburg High Schools will present High School information for students and their parents. The meeting is scheduled for 5 – 7PM in the school library.

### **Personnel**

To be discussed in executive session.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Negotiations**

A negotiations meeting is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm at the Swanton School to work on finalizing the Educational Support Contract.

Dr. McCarthy requested each school board choose two representatives designated to be part of the negotiation process for the upcoming Teacher's Professional Master Agreement Contract negotiations; discussions should begin in February.

### **Policy Update**

School policies are now all online on the website. Policy approvals should be finalized by Spring.

### **Superintendent Search**

The Search Committee has met three times; the upcoming two meetings will evaluate and then finalize the candidate list.

### **New Business**

See *Plans for Building Repairs and Facilities*.

### **Meeting Dates**

- The Board will meet on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6PM to finalize the final FY15 budget proposal.
- Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2014 @ 5:30PM.
- First FY'15 Budget Public Informational Presentation will be on February 11, 2014 @ 6PM in the School Library.
- Next FNWSU Board Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2014 @ 7:00PM.
- Second FY'15 Budget Public Informational Presentation will be on March 3, 2014 @ 7pm in the School Library.
- Tentative date for Superintendent's Interviews scheduled for April 2, 2014 @ 7:00PM.

### **Executive Session**

Jason McConnell made a motion to enter into Executive Session; seconded by Celeste Kane-Stebbins. The meeting entered Executive Session @ 6:30PM to discuss Personnel, Contracts, Legal Issue and a Student Issue.

The Board exited Executive Session @ 8:52pm.

A motion was ;made and seconded to approve the Sheldon Elementary Schol FY15 budget for \$5,603,335. Motion passed 3-0.

The Board reviewed and signed warrants.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Oliver, Board Clerk  
Debbie Kittell, Board Secretary

