

**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Director's Meeting
May 13, 2014**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on May 13, 2014 @ 5:30 pm at Sheldon School.

Those in attendance were Board members Travis Perry, Jason McConnell, Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Administrators Jack McCarthy, newly hired superintendent Winton Goodrich Becky Hart, Principal Linda Keating and Board Secretary Debbie Kittell. A Channel 15 representative attended the meeting taping it for public access. Guest includes Town Auditor, Bryan Derry.

Call to order

Mr. McConnell called the board meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Citizens and Staff

Mr. McConnell introduced newly hired superintendent Winton Goodrich and welcomed him to Sheldon Elementary School.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. McConnell made a motion to approve minutes from the April, 2014 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Travis Perry; motion passed 2-0.

Correspondence

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Contracts

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Old Business

None

Business Manager's Report

Financial Report

The projected carryover is down slightly from last month but still considerably under budget. Carryover projections include the anticipated garage expansion and a new special education teaching area.

Jason McConnell made a motion to accept the Business Manager's Report as presented; seconded by Travis Perry; motion passed 2-0.

Check Warrants

(Not applicable to Sheldon agenda.)

Other

The Abbey Food Service Contract was presented to the board for signature. The contract remains the same as last year.

Travis Perry made a motion to approve the 2014-15 Food Service Contract; seconded by Jason McConnell. The Board Chair, Mr. McConnell, will sign the contract as presented.

Principal's Report

Updates & Announcements

A Literacy and Math night will be held Thursday, May 15th. Parents and students in grades K-4 were invited to the federally mandated Annual Title 1 meeting and teachers will engage both parents and students in reading and math. The theme of the night is "Polar Bears".

Sheldon's 2nd Annual Friend of Education Award will be presented on Memorial Day during our final Whole School Meeting. During this day, which meets our 175 school day obligation, students will take part in community projects and lessons will focus on service. Dismissal is at 11:30AM.

On June 16 & 17, our two additional inservice days which meets teacher contract obligations, the focus will be training on the co-teaching model.

Ms. Keating is pleased to present three newly hired teachers at the June Board Meeting. Jennifer Dodd will be the new teacher in the grade ½ classroom, Allison Saft and Jeremiah Melhuish are the newly hired Special Educators. Middle School Science teacher, Scott McKim will not be returning next year and some promising candidates are being screened for his position. Interviews are also being held this week for a new pre-school teacher.

During the May PTO meeting, Duke's Fitness attended sharing their interest in a working partnership with the school community. Bullying was also a topic and some exciting ideas were shared.

Formal committee meetings continue regarding the \$25,000 Clif Grant. One of the topics includes looking for a 'theme' to unify the students and school community.

During this last week, students planted 100 blue spruce and several blueberry and apple trees adjacent to the Garden Center building. Spearheaded by our Technology Director and Forest Committee member, Mike Weber, students participated in this place-based activity with trees purchased by an IBM Grant. Sarah Phillips' grade ¾ students plotted and measured exactly where the trees were to be planted. Students in grades K, 1 & 2, along with their older classroom 'buddies' planted the trees and will continue to care for them each year until they reach 8th grade at which time they will harvest the trees and either bring home to their family or give the Christmas tree to a family in need.

Leading, Teaching and Learning

Families continue to enroll their students at Sheldon and our enrollment is currently 257 K-8 students.

Science NECAP testing begins this week with students in grades 4 & 8.

The SWIFT Supervisory Team met in April to review steps for phase one completion; year two will begin the exploration phase.

The final meeting for the Professional Practice Form will take place in early June. Highgate, Swanton and Sheldon's new teachers met once a month during the school year to learn important practices as new professionals.

Ms. Keating attended the VPA Mental Health Summit along with many school principals, state health care and social service providers to address increasing mental health, social, emotional and economic needs of children and families, especially in rural communities, and the impact these needs bring to our schools. Collaboration and creativity with additional summits will address how agencies can come together and create a stronger infrastructure to support our children and their families and sustain education over time.

Facilities/School Improvement Initiatives

Plans for the garage expansion are underway and the new special education space for teaching will begin soon. The energy efficiency plan will continue over time, some of the lighting upgrades will be eligible for rebates. Security upgrades and mowing bids will be shared in Executive Session.

Upcoming Events

During a snow day makeup on Memorial Day, students will participate in our Whole School Meeting as well as an assembly to present our 2nd Annual Friend of Education Award. Dismissal will be @ 11:30AM.

The school will be open to parents during the school day for a place-based open house, "Our Backyard", and the annual Abbey Lunch BBQ on June 6th.

Our 8th Grade Farewell Ceremony is scheduled on Thursday, June 12th @ 6:30PM.

2014-15 Prospectus

Ms. Keating shared initiatives and changes for the next school year, including:

- A master schedule to ensure resources are reaching the students in a fair and equitable way to achieve maximum outcomes
- Three major learning blocks, keeping a flex block in the middle of the day
- Planning time for math and literacy critical, especially with co-teaching model
- What is the role of the interventionist, coach, teach in each classroom?
- The addition of a grade ½ teacher
- Change in classroom space
- ½ grade classrooms vs first and second grades in separate classes

- Looping
- Create positive learning dynamics
- Parent training including parent/child relationships
- One leadership team
- Place-based partnerships with community
- Greater accountability for teacher training
- School wide goal for fewer special education students with enhanced collaboration
- Supervisory-wide long term goals
- Continue working to improve school climate, especially respect

Other

None

Superintendent's Report

Negotiations

The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for May 14th, at 6pm @ MVU with Chris Leopold, NEA representative Suzanne Dermire and FNWSU teacher negotiation team.

Legislative Report

School Consolidation did not pass at the state level but Dr. McCarthy believes it will be brought forward again in the near future.

A state initiative to help support Teacher Retirement funds may be a factor for future school budgets.

A BIG Thank You

Dr. McCarthy's shared that he was extremely pleased regarding his recent retirement celebration. He wanted to thank everyone involved for a wonderful event.

Other

None

New Business

None

Other

Town Auditor, Bryan Derry had a question about the Dunsmore Fund and the current balance.

Meeting Dates

Next regular Board Meeting – June 10, 2014 @ 5:30 PM

Next negotiation meeting with professional staff - May 14, 2014 @ 6 PM at MVU.

Executive Session

Mr. McConnell moved enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, contracts, and negotiations; motion seconded by Ms. Kane-Stebbins. The board entered Executive Session @ 6:35 PM.

Board exited Executive Session at 7:55 PM. Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved to award the lawn mowing contract to Fitzgerald & Sons Lawn Care as discussed in Executive Session, contingent on outcome of discussion of the current lawn care contract with the Town Select Board. Motion seconded by Mr. McConnell. Motion approved 3-0.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the Behavior Specialist position and to increase the Community Outreach position by 0.5 FTE; motion seconded by Mr. Perry. Motion passed 3-0.

The Board signed Educational Support Personnel contracts and newly-hired Teacher contracts. The Board Chair signed the school's water contract with the Town. The Board reviewed and signed warrants. The Board also signed the eighth-grade graduation certificates.

Ms. Kane moved to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Mr. Perry. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Board Clerk

Debbie Kittell, Board Secretary