

**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Director's Meeting
August 12, 2014**

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on August 12, 2014, 5:30 pm @ Sheldon School.

Those in attendance were Board Members Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Jason McConnell and Travis Perry, Administrator Winton Goodrich, Principal Linda Keating and Board Secretary Debbie Kittell. A Channel 15 representative attended the meeting taping it for Public Access TV. Guests include State Representative Mariann Gamache.

Call to order

Mr. McConnell called the Board meeting to order at 5:32pm and led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Amendments

Mr. Goodrich shared information on a new agenda format that follows The Vermont Open Meeting Law.

Public Comments

None

Mr. McConnell invited John Ho, a representative from Efficiency Vermont to the next board meeting.

Mr. Goodrich shared the new protocol for the Board to respond to public comments made at Board Meetings. Mrs. Keating will include the protocol on the school website and Mrs. Kane-Stebbins suggested that the protocol be included in the Annual Town Report.

Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Kane-Stebbins moved to approve the July, 2014 Board minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Travis Perry. Motion passed 3-0.

Old Business

MVU Budget Passage Update

As a point of information, until 30 days after the MVU budget passes, Highgate, Swanton, and Franklin Schools will be unable to access tax dollars.

Principal's Report

Updates & Announcements

The upcoming Inservice Schedule next week is in place including discussion of the "Growth Mindset", a book Mrs. Keating has encouraged teaching staff to read. The focus of Growth Mindset fully aligns with SWIFT practices.

Ms. Keating invited Board members to the keynote session at MVU on Tuesday with Joelle Van Lent, who will speak about developmental trauma and its impact on student success. Ms. Keating has put together a team of staff including the Guidance Counselor, Home School Coordinator and Psychologist who will work with Joelle throughout the school year to help support struggling students impacted by developmental trauma.

Leading, Teaching and Learning

Mrs. Keating and many teachers attended and participated in formal learning opportunities throughout the summer including:

- Technology course with George Raynak
- Vermont Reading Conference
- BEST Conference
- VPA Leadership Conference

Sheldon School, along with many other schools in the state, did not meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) again this year. Sheldon is in year one (1) of Corrective Action in reading and year two (2) of Corrective Action in math. Our AOE Improvement Coordinator, also our SWIFT coordinator, will be working throughout the year with our Leadership Team to address necessary actions.

There was further discussion regarding the Secretary of Education's view on Vermont student learning.

Monthly SWIFTBits

Progress as a SWIFT school continues to promote changes for educating all students successfully. Ms. Keating's Principal's Report also shared SWIFT highlights.

Facilities

Sheldon School is 'ready to go!' Appliance upgrades in the kitchen are installed, the new multi-purpose room is ready and the garage addition is painted. An annual agreement with Control Technologies requires board signature and the boiler system is undergoing a routine check.

Other

Ms. Kane-Stebbins asked how the school will measure student improvement after the hiring of new staff specialist(s) and their impact on student learning. These may include weekly, monthly classroom assessments for all grade levels; which will build on prioritized learning areas, as well as continuing team meetings with ongoing discussion(s) on progress for all students.

Superintendent's Report

AOE AYP Compliance

See discussion: Leading, Teaching and Learning

Strategic Planning Process – Key Opinion Leaders

During the July Board meeting, Mr. Goodrich invited Board members to think about names of key Sheldon opinion leaders that could be part of a strategic planning committee that will among other items;

- help organize a forum
- work in small groups
- discuss educational and societal trends
- weave all five communities in the FNWSU plan

Board Members shared names; Mrs. Keating and Board Members will be contacting these Sheldon residents and invite them to an initial planning committee date on September 4th @ 5:30PM.

New Business

Board Goal Setting

Board members discussed and strategize three School Board goals:

- Develop measurement for success for student progress & school success;
- Develop stronger working relations in order to share resources & reduce spending at the SU level;
- Create a perception of centralized school gathering place.

New Board Member Email Addresses

Mr. Goodrich shared a best practice measure for school board members to create new board member email accounts that are only used to conduct school board business.

Meeting Dates

Next regular Board Meeting – September 9th, 5:30 PM @ Sheldon

SU Board Meeting - September 10th, 6:00 PM @ Highgate

a. Special Education Management Transition to the SU

VSBA School Finance Regional Meeting – October 1st, 5:00 PM @ Milton

FNWSU Carousel Board Meeting – October 8, 6:00 PM @ MVU

Adjournment

Mr. McConnell asked for motion to enter executive session; the motion was seconded by Ms.Kane-Stebbins. The motion passed 3-0. The Board entered Executive Session @ 8:20 to discuss a contract and student issue.

- Board exited Executive Session @ 9:02PM
- Contract issue did not meet executive session criteria
- Authorized Board chair to sign one year contract with Control Technologies (Ms. Kane-Stebbins moved and Mr. Perry seconded) 3-0 vote

- Moved to direct superintendent to send letter granting permission for child to attend Sheldon School per request, contingent upon receipt of supporting documents.

- Copy of contractor contract with start date and anticipated occupancy and building permit.

- Motion to deny family request to provide transportation to daycare outside the Sheldon town boundaries (moved by Mr. Perry and seconded by Ms. Kane-Stebbins) 3-0 vote

Board reviewed and signed orders.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Kane-Stebbins, Board Clerk

Debbie Kittell, Board Secretary