

DRAFT

Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Director's Meeting
April 12, 2016

The Sheldon School Board of Directors met on Tuesday, April 12 @ 5:30PM at Sheldon Elementary School. Those in attendance were Board Members Travis Perry, Jason McConnell, Julia Callan, Business Manager, Rebecca Hart, Principal Christie Martin, and Bookkeeper/Board Secretary Debbie Kittell. A Channel 15 representative attended the meeting taping it for public access television.

Guests include John Dodd, Hubert Spaulding and Bryan Derry.

Call to Order

Travis Perry called the meeting to order @ 5:45pm.

Comments and Correspondence from the Public

Mr. Derry questioned the new water meter system; at this time the school is still being billed at a flat rate. Mr. Goodrich will make some inquiries with the Sheldon Town Board.

Approval of March 8th Board Meeting Minutes

Jason McConnell made a motion to accept the March, 2016 Board minutes as presented; seconded by Julia Callan. Motion passed 3-0.

Business Report

Warrants

The Board reviewed and signed warrants.

Financial Update

The projected carryover at this time is approximately \$89,000; revenues are slightly down and tuition costs are lower than budgeted.

Ms. Callan made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented; seconded by Jason McConnell. Motion passed 3-0.

Business Manager Update

There will be a Business Manager transition beginning next year; Lora McAllister, Co-Business Manager, will be working with all elementary schools in the district.

Principal's Report

Updates, Announcements and Celebrations

- New Chromebooks, purchased by a District Consolidated Grant, will be dedicated for use primarily in grades 3 & 4;
- Kindergarten is planning an end of the year celebration with CLiF and a visit to our local library. Free books will also be given to each student!!
- Community Chest was created for staff to recognize each other for their extra efforts during each week.

- Sheldon School will be looking for a school nurse, middle school teacher (social studies and language arts, preferably) and a grade 5/6 teacher for the 2016/17 school year.

Leading, Teaching, and Learning

- Maple sugaring season ended with middle school students boiling sap to make 4 gallons of syrup. There was a lot of teaming with other classes and some classrooms continued the unit and visited local sugar houses;
- 7/8 grade science are exploring the cellular process and then will be studying genetics;
- Middle school students continue to work on Personal Learning Plans (PLP);
- Grade 3/4 students will choose a Vermont Artist and showcase their learning with a "Human Art Gallery";
- Yeshua Pastina, Sheldon's Technology Specialist, attended a Leadership Through Social Media Conference. ...*What is our story?* Yeshua will use Twitter and Facebook to share Sheldon's daily activities;
- Grades 1/2 are completing a Fairy tale and Folk Tales unit; ...*What was the problem? How was it solved? What was the lesson?*

Calendar Highlights

April 14th - 5:30 - 7PM PTO Family Game and Pizza Night Grades K-4

April 18 -22 - Spring Break!

April 27 - Dr. Muhammad visit

April 27 - School "Walk at Lunch" day

Other

Superintendent's Report

Tree Tapping Update

Mike Weber and Mr. Goodrich reached a consensus and good outcome with neighbors sharing our maple trees in the Sheldon Forest.

Legislative Update

Mr. Goodrich shared recently highlights:

- the 'dollar equivalent yield' has decreased; this could be an impact on school budget,
- the number of unfunded mandates may be reduced; what will be the financial implication if passed (House Education Finance Bill)?
- merging school districts deficit(s) would be retained by the town and municipality;
- H.656 -- move the education tax from a tax on property to an income tax;
- design to incentivize less than average education spending per pupil;
- examining feasibility of adding a weight (State Aid to Education) for rural students;

Special Education

- Special education funds be disbursed from the State to the entity that incurs the special education cost;
- the House passed a bill to make funds available (for up to 10 supervisory unions) to participate in a study designed to move forward with efficiencies in the use of special education staff while also improving service quality.

John Dodd Tree Cutting Request

Mr. Dodd and Mr. Spaulding approached the Board (before the meeting began) about cutting trees along the fence line around the school perimeter (soccer, baseball & softball fields). This is Sheldon Town land and will thin out the trees and keep the fence from further damage. There was also discussion about contracting a local forester to work with the Forest Committee and School Board to advise about possible future thinning of trees in the school forest.

Facility Audit Bids

No discussion at tonight's meeting.

Act 46 Independent Study committee

- Swanton School District wants to participate in the 706 study;
- other school districts in the Supervisory Union want to participate in an 'independent' study;
- possible independent study would take place during the summer;
- possible town discussion & vote at next Town Meeting (2017).

Vermont School Boards Trust

Eight staff members across the supervisory union will attend the summer conference.

Old Business

Mr. McConnell asked about the progress/analysis report of SBAC scores from the 2014/15 school year as well as scores across the schools in our supervisory union.

New Business

None

Other

Four supervisory staff members, including Chris Comstock from Sheldon, attended a training (ALICE) designed to increase our safety and security plan. The training was outstanding.

Executive Session

The Board entered executive session @ 6:15 to discuss a contract; adjourned @ 6:45 and re-entered the regular Board Meeting.

The Board accepted a resignation letter from Michael Weber.

The Board reentered executive session @ 7:30PM to discuss the ESP Contract, teacher contracts and the superintendent evaluation.

The Sheldon Board exited executive session at 8:55pm. Jason McConnell motioned to grant contract extensions discussed in executive session. Seconded by Julia Callan. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjournment

Future Board Meeting Dates

FNWSU Board Meeting - May 4th @ 6:30 @ Sheldon

Sheldon Elementary Board Meeting - May 10th, @ 5:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jason McConnell, Board Clerk

Debbie Kittell, Board Secretary