



**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Director's Meeting
April 11, 2017**

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of the Sheldon Elementary School Board of Director's was called to order on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 5:40 pm by Jason McConnell School Board vice Chair. Those in attendance included:
- Travis Perry, Board Clerk
 - Jason McConnell, Vice Chair
 - Rebecca Holbrook, Business Manager
 - Christie Martin, School Principal
 - Winton Goodrich, Superintendent
 - A Channel 15 representative (taping for public access television)
- 2.0 AGENDA AMMENDMENTS:**
None
- 3.0 COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC:**
None
- 4.0 MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**
Discussion: The minutes from the March 20, 2017 Board of Director's Meeting meeting were presented for review and approval.
1. **Action:** *Travis Perry made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2017 Board of Director's meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Jason McConnell and carried unanimously.*
Vote: 2-0
- 5.0 BOARD PRESENTATION**
Discussion: Teachers from Kindergarten through Second Grade presented literacy statistics to the School Board for review.
- Kindergarten**
Overall, proficiency scores were higher this year than last. This is attributed to familiarizing students with the sight words used on assessment early on. Additionally, there is an established and well working co-teaching relationship between the teachers and special educators. Students that need more help get initial instruction with the teacher and then additional work with a special educator (~40 minutes of reading group time a day). The proficiency score for text level (students are expected to read a level C book or higher) is lower than the other proficiency scores. This score was decreased because there were two students who did not take the assessment. Additionally, there is a population of students in special education, combined with a population of students that are not encouraged to read at home.
- Grade 1**
F&P Students (Fontunas & Pinnell – this is a text level gradient) increased in proficiency from 40% to 73% from trimester 1 to trimester 2. For decoding, 64% of students were proficient; for writing 72% of students were proficient; and in a focused small moments unit 68% of students were proficient. This increase is attributed to breaking first and second grade students into separate reading groups. This

allowed the first grade students to focus on decoding, and to follow a reading curriculum specific for first graders. It was also noted that the transition from kindergarten to first grade is more difficult than the transition from first to second grade, and that kids learn the most reading skills in first grade than any other grade - again making it easier to have targeted first grade reading groups.

Grade 2

In October, 45% of students were proficient in F&P text level, this increased to 67% in the second trimester. This increase is attributed to targeting students that needed just a little bit of help to become proficient. Those identified students received first instruction with the teacher, and then moved into LOI groups for secondary instruction. The LOI groups are very small (no more than 4 students), and they meet for 30 minutes every day for 8-10 weeks. Students who are proficient in reading meet 3-4 times a week.

6.0. BUSINESS REPORT:

Discussion: The business report was presented for review by Rebecca Holbrook. There will not be a cash deficit this year as there is carry over from last year, but the budget is tight. This is due in part to the structure of special education dollars. These dollars have not yet been received but items have been expensed. This payment is expected within the next week or two. Becky will continue working on the budget report and finalize it by the next meeting. The Board discussed strategies to cut spending, but it was noted that there are not many areas that spending can be cut from.

7.0. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Sheldon Elementary School has three positions open (Art Teacher, Special Education Teacher 5th/6th Grade Teacher). All positions have been posted and there are several applicants being screened. Hiring committees will be formed with first interviews happening early next week
- Three middle school students attended the Vermont Associate for Middle Level Education (VMALE) Conference: Beyond Bullying: Creating a Culture of Respect in Learning Communities. The Conference was held at Champlain College, it was well attended, and the students did a nice job representing Sheldon School.
- 7 students have had their argument writing assignments published in the St. Albans Messenger. Submission for publication was voluntary, and there is a bulletin board in the school showcasing the pieces that have been published.
- 12 District "Teacher Leaders" took part in instructional rounding at the school today. An instructional round consists of observing other teachers with a focus on learning from the teacher being observed rather than evaluating the teacher being observed.
- The final Math Best Practices Studio took place last week. As part of this exercise, groups of teachers observe the Studio Teacher teaching a math lesson. Overall, this is having a positive impact student learning. Children are talking about math, spending time doing private reasoning, and having structured conversations about math. Next year will be the final year of math studio.
- There were 4 volunteers from BFA at the school today cleaning of the forest as part of BFA's community service day
- There will be a chicken dinner next week celebrating the harvest of the chickens that were raised by students last fall.

8.0. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Legislative Update

There was a legislative breakfast this week. Several issues were discussed at the breakfast:

- There has been some confusion about who is responsible for completing the background check on employees providing daycare services within the school system. It was decided that schools that provide care for 3-4 year olds will do their own background checks on those teachers.

- The Agency of Education will now be responsible for licensing SLPs that work in schools. Private practice SLPs will be licensed by the office of Professional Regulation.
- Legislators are recognizing Adverse Childhood Experiences as conditions that required additional mental health support.
- Principal contract renewals must be announced by February 1st going forward, instead of April 1st
- A Board has been appointed to address persistent racial disparities
- The Senate passed two education bills related to Act 46 that would offer more options for school district mergers, but would not postpone implementation.
- The Bill that attempted to reward low-spending districts with financial incentives will not move forward this session.

Special Services Director Search Process Update

This position was posted on March 31st. A review of 5 candidate applications started yesterday. First round interviews will be held this week, second round interviews next week. The Selection process will include representation from every building within the district and representatives from all programs.

Sheldon Water Ordinance

The School received its first water bill under the new water ordinance, however after reviewing the bill it was noted that the school was being charged residential rates. Travis Perry and Winton Goodrich will attend an upcoming Select Board meeting to discuss water ordinance further.

9.0. OLD BUSINESS

Adopt School Board Code of Ethics: This item was deferred until the May School Board Meeting when all Board Members will be in attendance.

Facilities Audit Planning:

The Board Reviewed the facilities audit and approved the following expenses totaling approximately \$15,500:

- Install 6" aluminum gutters around the building (to be scheduled as early as April Vacation): Without gutters, water runs onto cement pads outside of external classroom doors. When the water freezes, the ice has to be chipped off the cement pad so that the classroom doors can open. This chipping can cause damage to cement pads outside classroom doors.
- Replace wall and two windows behind the kitchen: Facilities tried painting this wall last year but the wood came off on the rollers. The wall will be replaced with Cedar Shiplap so the moisture won't affect it. Having gutters installed will also prevent further water damage.

Over the Sumer, facilities plan to:

- Replace vents in compressor room
- Install flex pipe for dryer
- Repair railing in the back parking lot
- Other tasks as needed

Discussed five year plan to include:

- Replace siding and windows/doors in classrooms
- Replace gym floor and interior doors that go from the gym into the office. The handles on these doors cost approximately \$1200 each to replace
- Update fire alarm system
- Replace panels and breakers in electrical room as they are outdated
- HVAC / Duct work was replaced in 1999 and should be cleared every 15-17 years

- Replace tile in the front

In the long term, it was suggested that school start thinking of ways to use space creatively for breakout groups. This item will be discussed in further detail at a future meeting.

Act 46 Update: no update at this time

10.0. FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES:

- Sheldon School Board Meeting – May 9th, 5:30 PM •
- **Special FNWSU Board Meeting - April 20th, 6:00 PM at MVU** – Approve Special Services Director Finalist Candidate
- Act 46 Independent Study Committee Meeting April 12th, May 1st, 7:00 PM @ MVU Library
- Negotiations Meetings
 - Teacher Negotiations Planning – May 2nd, 6:00 at SU
 - Teacher Negotiations w/ Assoc. - April 17th , May 10th , May 15th , May 31st, 7:00 PM, MVU Library
 - Support Staff Negotiations Planning – April 10th (5:00 PM) at MVU Support Staff
 - Negotiations w/ Assoc. – April 10th, 6:00 PM at MVU Library

11.0. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Action: A motion was made by Jason McConnell to enter executive session at 7:19 pm; the motion was seconded by Travis Perry and carried unanimously.

Vote: 2-0

12.0. ADJOURNMENT: The Sheldon Board of Director's meeting adjourned at #####

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Fenn
Secretary

Travis Perry
School Board Chair