



**Sheldon Elementary School
Board of Director's Meeting
August 22, 2017**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Sheldon Elementary School Board of Director's Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 5:43 pm by Julia Callan, School Board Chair. Those in attendance included:

- Julia Callan, Board Chair
- Travis Perry, Board Clerk
- Christie Martin, School Principal
- Winton Goodrich, Superintendent
- A Channel 15 representative (taping for public access television)

2.0 AGENDA AMMENDMENTS: (1)

2.1. Light Changes (added as a sub-category to Facilities Update)

3.0 COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC:

The Board received and reviewed Debbie Kittel's farewell letter as correspondence from the public.

4.0 MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Discussion: The minutes from the June 13, 2017 and June 27, 2017 Board of Director's Meetings were presented for review and approval.

Action: Travis Perry made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2017 and June 27, 2017 Board of Director's meetings as written. The motion was seconded by Julia Callan and carried unanimously.

Vote: 2-0

5.0 BUSINESS REPORT:

Warrants

Discussion: Warrants were reviewed at the end of this meeting.

6.0 PRINCIPALS REPORT:

Discussion: Christie Martin, School Principal provided updates on the following:

Beginning of the Year Professional Development

The faculty and support staff returned to school for in-service on Tuesday August 22, 2017. All are participating in a variety of team building exercises, as well as work on various committees (e.g. professional learning, wellness, RTI, safety etc.). The expectation this year is that everyone participates on one committee. On Thursday, everyone will convene at MVU for the Supervisory Union kickoff meeting. This includes a viewing of the short film "Resilience" with an hour long debrief to follow.

Sheldon's Goal for this academic year is that "100% of our students are proficient or better at 100% of our priority standards by the end of the school year". Steps to achieve this goal were identified and discussed including designing a response to instruction systems that responds by student by standard;

providing high quality professional learning to support classroom instruction; cultivating a community to support us reaching our goal; and inspiring belief in collective efficacy.

Ropes Course Training

A variety of teachers completed the Ropes Course Training. The entire middle school team is either first or second year teachers, so this training turned into a powerful team building experience.

Facility Updates

- The new preschool play area is finished, and fenced in. There is a lot of space for running around
- Mulch has been added to the existing playgrounds. This was a shared cost and collaboration with Highgate Elementary School (who also needed mulch for their playgrounds)
- Some new shelving has been added to the end of the K4 hall for storage
- A wall was built in the library closing a busy pass through in an effort to decrease noise and traffic in that area. In addition, the intervention space and the library office traded spaces giving more space for intervention
- The media space has been repurposed into a middle school math classroom, but will not serve as a homeroom
- Hazen and his crew did a fabulous job this summer and for the most part had enough staff and hours available to complete necessary projects

Light Updates

- Hazen set up an energy audit for the school. The audit suggested changing existing lighting to more energy efficient lighting. The efficient lights are cheaper to operate, and currently have a \$3 per fixture incentive through Efficiency Vermont. The payback with incentive for this change over is 1.8 years. It was suggested that this be taken into consideration when discussing the upcoming facilities audit and budgeting.

Calendar Highlights

- First day of school is on Tuesday August 29, 2017
- There will be an open house in September

7.0. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Legislative Update:

Discussion: Winton Goodrich, Superintendent provided the following legislative update:

- [Act 49](#) was approved by the governor in May. Of interest in this Act is the provision that allows school merger structures to include three by one and two by two side by side structures. This would allow Sheldon to partner with other school districts (Franklin NW and Franklin NE), but to also maintain school of choice. There will be a public vote in Sheldon on November 7, 2017 prior to making a final determination.

Federal Fitness gram Assessment

There will be a physical fitness standardized test added to other standardized testing. The physical fitness test will include an assessment of sit ups, push-ups, sit and reach etc.

Sheldon Impact from 8.4 M Legislature Decrease in State Revenue

As a result of the budget passed by the governor, the school will have to cut \$19,819 from its budget this year to cover health care costs, and \$10,672 next year.

Invitation for Board Members to Attend Aug. 24 School Year Kick Off

The Board was formally invited to attend the August 24th school year kick off.

8.0. OLD BUSINESS:

Net Metering Project: A company that will be developing a solar farm in the area is requesting to build a net metering relationship with Sheldon School. There is no upfront investment required, and no equipment to purchase. Additionally, the development of the solar farm will allow learning opportunities for students. It was noted that the additional energy gleaned from this solar farm could have an impact on local rates. It was suggested tax payers may see some relief if the school partners with the solar farm and subsequently decreases the cost of utilities.

ACT 46 Independent Study Recommendations and Feedback

Discussion: The Board reviewed the Act 46 Independent Study Recommendations. ACT 46 calls for all school districts in the state to consider mergers to meet the following goals:

1. Provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities.
2. Lead students to achieve or exceed the State's Education Quality Standards.
3. Maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with the goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff.
4. Promote transparency and accountability.
5. Deliver education at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.

The ACT 46 committee that formed to research, discuss, and analyzes governance structure made the recommendation that FNWSU enhance its current governance structure to better meet or exceed the goals of ACT 46 by developing an enhanced Alternative Governance Structure (AGS).

The Board reviewed the study recommendations in detail and decided to further investigate the three by one side by side structure now permissible under ACT 49 as long as the three by structure offered savings at the SU level, that Sheldon maintains equal weight and representation on the board and that Sheldon maintains school of choice. Because a merger under ACT 46 could have an impact on taxes, the Board suggested transparency by reaching out to local organizations in Sheldon to help spread the word about the committee's recommendations. Some suggested venues include: The Abbe, Sheldon Town Offices, Sheldon Mini-Mart, WestRock Paper mill, Sheldon Fire Station, and Sheldon Baseball Field.

9.0. NEW BUSINESS

Board Goals: The Board will schedule a working session to develop board goals. As an interim measure, the board goals for this past year will be reinstated and this topic will be revisited at the September Board meeting when Jason McConnell returns.

10.0. FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES:

- Sheldon School Board Meeting – September 12th, 2017, 5:30 PM
- FNWSU Board Meeting – August 23rd, 6:30 at MVU

11.0. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was raised by Travis Perry to adjourn to executive session; the motion was seconded by Julia Callan and carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 7:27 pm. The Board Exited executive session at 7:45 pm.

Action: None

12.0. ADJOURNMENT: The Sheldon Board of Director's meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Recorded by:

Approved by:

Rebecca Fenn
Secretary

Julia Callan
School Board Chair