

TSB Minutes
@ Townshend Elementary School
7:00 p.m.
5-12-08-Draft

Present: Jessie Bishop, Craig Hunt, David Dezendorf, Kathy Hege, Members of the Board, Wendy Houlihan, Superintendent, Deborah Leggott, Principal, Beth Cutts, Carly Sanderson, Kris Jerz, Members of the Public, Judy Hawkins, Recorder

Absent: Gregg Morrow

Call to Order: Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for April 28, 2008: David made a motion to approve the minutes. No discussion. Motion carried.

Additions and Deletions: Kathy asked to have the following items added to the agenda: Additions: New Business: Contracts, Correspondence: Letter from Mr. & Mrs. Gleason.

Members of the Public: Beth Cutts attended the meeting to discuss the school calendar. She asked why school is being dismissed so late this year. Wendy explained the legal requirement for the State of Vermont is 175 student days with 5 staff days. The WCSU Contract says up to 180 students days with 5 days built in. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the school calendar, snow days, vacations, etc.

School Club-rear playground security: Carly Sanderson attended the meeting to discuss playground security. A large amount of money has been raised to make improvements and repairs to the playground. The School Club is concerned about putting a lot of money into this new equipment if there are security issues. David gave some information of some things that had been looked into. Video cameras have been looked at. Getting the wireless signal is a problem. The back part of the building is steel and the signal won't go thru. Another suggestion was a digital camera be used. It would need to be well protected. Kathy suggested that the School Club explore motion detectors for the lights, how many we would need, etc. and come back to the board with a proposal.

Bills and Purchase Orders: David a motion to approve the bills and purchase orders as follows: Payroll PO # 66 \$17,017.07, Payroll PO # 67 \$9,474.66, Payroll PO # 69 \$15,018.34, Payroll PO # 70 \$8,198.28, and Vendor Warrant, PO #71 for \$256, 768.09. David asked that the Leland and Gray Assessment in

the amount of \$248,364.00 be held until released by the School Board Chair. Motion carried.

Principal's Report: Deborah gave a comprehensive principal's report: The following topics were reported on: Student Learning: May Testing: NECAP, DRP, G-Made, and DRA are all tests that will be administered in the month of May. May Field Trips: Camp Keewaydin (Grade 5), VINS (Vermont Institute of Natural Science: (Grades 1 & 2): Students studied raptors in the fall and will have an opportunity to see eight live species at VINS. Teddy Bear Tea on May 9: This is for three and four year olds to get them familiar with their school. Poetry Residency: Ann Gengarely will come to the school for three days in May to work with kindergarten and first grade students. She has one day set aside to work with other students who are particularly interested in poetry. Building and Grounds: Lights in covered playground area were repaired. Informational: Teacher Appreciation week May 5-10: School Club will provide a meal for the staff on May 15th. Enrollment: Kindergarten Registration: May 6th 8 students registered for kindergarten and met their new teacher, Joyce Berry.

Superintendent's Report: Wendy gave a comprehensive report. Wendy reported on the following topics: Student Learning/Curriculum/Instruction: Tina and Janine and other staff attended a three day workshop with Bruce Wellman, the educator, author, consultant who has been working with the leadership team to help them work on facilitating discussions to improve student learning. Finance: The homestead tax rate will be \$.87 and the non-residential base rate will be \$1.36 pending the governor's signature on the bill. Policy/Regulation: A date has not yet been set for the next WCSU Policy Committee meeting. Human Resources: Two new staff have been hired for the business positions. Dana Ladd will be the new WCSU accountant and David Patterson as the new accounts payable/payroll clerk. WCSU will have some office changes within the building to allow for the new staff members.

Old Business: Bus issue update: Gregg and Jessie spoke with Mike Capra, Auto Mall general manager and they presented him with a lot of documentation concerning the problem. Mike forgave the bill totally and said this should not be an issue any longer. Deborah will draft a letter to Mike for his willingness to forgive the bill.

Septic inspection: Craig did not get down but he did talk with Jim Crozier. There appear to be no issues but a report will be forthcoming.

Student Records/Directory Information Policy: Kathy went over the changes with Wendy and she recorded them. The changes will be made and brought to the next meeting. Acceptable Use Policy: There was a lengthy discussion

around this policy. Wendy will make the recommended changes and bring back to the board.

New Business:

Administrative Asst. dental benefits: Deborah asked the board if Heidi Russ could be on the dental benefits plan? It was suggested by the board to look at the policy. Wendy will research some information concerning what other salaried Administrative Assts. benefits are and bring back to the next board meeting.

Storm windows estimate: Deborah got an estimate from Screenmobile for storm windows of \$6,000 (this includes both floors). The board would like Deborah to ask what kind of lead time, etc. Deborah will go over the estimate with him and report back to the board.

Boiler replacement estimate: Deborah got an estimate for the boiler replacement from Jeffers & Sons Plumbing. There was a lengthy discussion concerning the replacement of the boiler. Deborah was asked to get at least 2 more heating contractors to look at this job for bid.

Contracts: David made a motion to sign the teacher contracts for 2008-2009. The contracts were signed for: Joyce Berry, Judy Gould, Barbara Bedortha, Bethany Barton, Megan Richardson, Julie Dolan, Kristina Jerz, Cynthia Nau, and Charlene Morse. Motion carried.

Committee Updates:

Executive/Super Board: None

Policy: None

Technology: None

Correspondence: Letter from Mr. & Mrs. Gleason. The Gleason family is moving to Newfane but would like their daughter, Ashley to be allowed to graduate from TES with her 6th grade class. David made a motion to allow Ashley to graduate from TES even though they have moved to Newfane. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

WCSU Policy Committee-Early May

Super Board/Executive Committee-May 28, 2008 @ TES, 7PM

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: Craig made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Townshend School Board at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hawkins
Recorder