

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2015

Board Members Present: President Jamie Doucette, Linda Mrowka, Laurie Finan, and William Bloethe.

Also Present: Superintendent/Principal Karen Goodwin, Business Manager Lauren Poehlman, Board Secretary Alysanne Cochrane, and community.

1. School Community Session

1.1 Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance- President Doucette called the meeting to order and led in the pledge at 6:32pm.

1.2 Public Participation- There were no questions or comments at this time.

2. Business Office Reports

2.1 Warrants Approved by Claims Auditor Sharon Patterson- The Board received three warrants, two of which were approved by the Claims Auditor. The third warrant was finished this afternoon and will be approved in the near future.

2.2 Budget Status Report- This item will be moved to the next Board meeting. Superintendent Goodwin assured the Board that they will receive reports for 2014-15 and 2015-16 at the next Board meeting.

2.3 Fuel Oil Bid (Draft)- Ms. Poehlman reviewed the draft with the Board members. She noted that this document was longer than previous bids because New York State requires has specific requirements. Mr. Shillo was concerned that the school may not receive bidders with the lengthy requirements and Ms. Poehlman stated that if the school did not received any bids on-island then the Board would need to look into other options . The Board is asked to review this document and approach Ms. Poehlman with any suggestions, concerns, or questions by September 1. They are in agreement with Ms. Poehlman, and Superintendent/Principal Goodwin that the draft will be brought to the next Board meeting for approval if there are no Board suggestions.

2.4 Reserve Funds- Ms. Poehlman recommended that the Board establish an Employee Retirement Reserve. This would allow the district to safely and legally reserve money for accrued benefits after a school employee is terminated or retired. This reserve is easy to access and allows the most flexibility to transfer funds. Superintendent/Principal Goodwin explained to the Board and the community that New York State monitors the amount of money that a district has after a school year is over and does not find it reasonable for any district to have 4% or more of their budget remaining. This is because public schools fund the majority of their budget on tax payer dollars and it is the district's responsibility to be mindful of both school district needs and taxpayer burden. Money in Reserve Funds allows the Board to save for specific future and unanticipated needs. The Board discussed this topic and agreed that it was best to create this reserve.

1. School Community Session Continued

1.3 Celebrations

- **Backpacks from CAST (Southold)-** Town Councilwoman, Louisa Evans, introduced Superintendent/Principal Goodwin to the director for Community Actions Southold Town, Inc. (CAST) this summer at the Island's Town Fathers' Day. Superintendent/Principal Goodwin informed the organization of the island's difficult location being a barrier for students in need of school supplies. As a result, CAST provided the district with 14 backpacks that were full of school supplies to give to island students. The school community is extremely grateful and looks forward to continuing a partnership.
- **Summer Reading Program/Magic School Bus-** The school's Library Resource Teacher Assistant, Ms. Smolen, and FI Library Director, Amy Harris, hosted two summer reading events this summer with special *Magic School Bus* activities in the months of July and August. The children were very receptive to the program and were enjoying reading!
- **SAT Scores-** Two students received perfect scores on their SAT exams. Elias Kane, and Thad Allen each received perfect scores in subject areas for their SAT exams.
- **Judo Award Ceremony at Nutmeg Games-** Fishers Island students won a remarkable amount of awards at the CT Nutmeg Games, which is a competition that many Dojo's from Eastern Connecticut attend. Award winners included Constance Toldo, Emma Cypherd, Jackson Eastman and Fred Toldo. Congratulations to all Judo participants and thank you to Sensei Egnor for his continued support in the Judo program.

1.4 Additions to the Agenda- None.

3. Action Items

3.1 Approval of the July 8, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Minutes- Motion made by Linda Mrowka, seconded by Laurie Finan. All in favor/none opposed. Laurie Finan abstained from voting as she was not present at the meeting.

3.2 Approval of the June 30, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Minutes- Motion made by Linda Mrowka, seconded by Laurie Finan. All in favor/none opposed. Laurie Finan abstained from voting as she was not present at the meeting.

3.3 Approval of the April 3, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes- Motion to approve made by Linda Mrowka, seconded by Laurie Finan. All in favor/none opposed. Laurie Finan abstained from voting as she was not present at the meeting.

3.4 Approval of Internet Safety Policy #4526.1- This is a second reading of the policy. Superintendent/Principal Goodwin noted that the students learn safe internet behaviors in their classes with Ms. Bean and Mr. Kaplan as part of their curriculum. Motion to approve made by William Bloethe, seconded by Thomas Shillo. All in favor/none opposed.

3.5 Approval of Revoking the Retirement Health Insurance Policy #9545- Most schools do not have this policy and it is not necessary as post-retirement benefits are referenced in the union's contract. Motion made by Laurie Finan, seconded by Linda Mrowka. All in favor/none opposed.

3.6 Approval of the Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution- This resolution will cost \$500 of budgeted money to BOCES and will increase the school's "buying power" drastically. Motion to approve made by Laurie Finan, seconded by Thomas Shillo. All in favor/none opposed.

3.7 Approval of the Retirement Contribution Fund- The Board would like to approve this item at their September meeting once the language is established and consistent between resource documents. No action was taken.

3.8 Approval of Authority for the School's Business Manager to Allocate Excess Fund Balances- The Board would like to approve this item at their September meeting once the language is established and consistent between resource documents. No action was taken.

4. Superintendent/Principal Report

4.1 Bonding of Board of Education Members and Officers- School Board members and Officers are bonded under the district's insurance policy. The Board had asked Superintendent/Principal Goodwin to research this information to insure that all members are covered.

4.2 Study of Existing Building Systems Status Report- Point One Architects investigated the schools heating, roof structure, safety communications, and alarms as requested by the Board. The report has not yet been received by the district as expected, however, once it is received it will be shared with the Board. Ms. Poehlman suggested the POA conduct the building's Five-Year Capital Facility Plan while they were inspecting. The invoice will be paid to the firm after the report has been received.

4.3 School Attendance Policy #5100- This is a first reading of the mandatory policy.

4.4 Universal Preschool Grant- Superintendent/Principal Goodwin wrote and received a grant in the amount of \$5,400 to be spent in the Pre-school. This money will be useful as the PreK teacher would like to purchase updated educational materials.

4.5 Expanded Partnership with Fishers Island Conservancy- The Superintendent met with Conservancy Members Ace Ahrens, Justine Kibbe, and President Tom Sargent to discuss partnership opportunities. Mr. Sargent would love to have an Adult Education option on the nature. The Board agrees and approves of Superintendent/Principal Goodwin perusing this option as well as other strands (i.e. art, technology, art, etc.).

4.6 Search for Speech and Language Pathologist Update- A Connecticut-based educational program, LEARN, is in the process of hiring an SLP and will share prospective applicants with the district as they have posted a part-time position. The Board will continue to be updated. Superintendent Goodwin noted that the district successfully hired five full-time employees for the 2015-2016 school year and are committed to hiring outstanding employees.

4.7 NYSIR Safety Review Findings- The only pending recommendation will be updated in the school's upcoming renovations. All other findings are being corrected.

4.8 Schedule for Faculty Housing Committee Meeting- The committee will have information for the Board by October regarding general repairs.

4.9 Pepsi Refund- Mr. Dave Denison reached out to Pepsi regarding left-over soda from previous class fundraisers. The company refunded the school over \$1,000 for the unused (outdated) beverages. Thank you to Mr. Denison for continuing to be an outstanding community member. The Board requested that the funds be split to support an elementary and high school field trip.

4.10 Sailing Program- Mrs. Finan would like the Board's approval to pursue a possible sailing program with the FI Yatch Club. Though the idea had previously been discussed a couple of years ago with little interest, several current students sail. Superintendent/Goodwin suggested a possible "Viking Voyage" regarding sailing. The Board supports efforts to pursue the possibility of a future sailing club and/or team and outreach to the Yatch Club and NESS as potential partners.

5. Information Packet for the Board of Education- For informational purposes.

6. Public Participation- There were no questions or comments at this time.

7. Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned by President Doucette at 7:31pm. Motion made by Linda Mrowka, seconded by Laurie Finan. All in favor/none opposed.

Recorded by Alysanne Cochrane