

****THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL****

Goffstown School District
Goffstown, New Hampshire

School Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2010

School Board Members, Present

Keith Allard
Philip Pancoast
Dian McCarthy
Ginny McKinnon
Lorry Cloutier
Henry Boyle
Jennifer Theroux
Sue Tremblay (excused absence)
Liz Kelly, Student Representative

Administration, Present

Stacy Buckley, Superintendent
Ray Labore, Business Administrator

Teacher Reps, Present

Peggy Zola
Mary Grasset
Jeanne Roy

Call to Order

Keith Allard called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the Board and public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Approval of 11/01/10 NP Minutes and 11/15/10 Minutes

The Board had the following changes to the November 1, 2010 non-public minutes: change vote to show Ginny McKinnon voted yes. Dian McCarthy made a motion to approve the November 1, 2010 non-public minutes as amended. Lorry Cloutier seconded. VOTE 6 yes, 1 abstain (Henry Boyle) MOTION PASSED

Ginny McKinnon made a motion to approve the November 15, 2010 minutes. Jennifer Theroux seconded. VOTE 6 yes, 1 abstain (Lorry Cloutier) MOTION PASSED

Correspondence

- Nurse/Teacher Substitution
- Letter from Dianne Hathaway, Goffstown Librarian
- Letter from Board of Trustees of Goffstown Library

Commendations/Good News

- Liz Kelly stated "Toys for Teens" ended last Friday; it went very well and everything will be delivered next Friday. Ms. Kelly stated grand piano pins are being sold as a fundraiser to raise money for the GHS grand piano. Ms. Kelly stated the Student Council Canned Food Drive started today; received 400 cans today and 450 at the hypnotist show. Ms. Kelly stated this Friday is Winter Sport Madness at 7:00 PM.
- Mary Grasset stated the MVMS Turkey Trot Canned Food Drive raised 1,325 cans and \$500 for the Goffstown Food Pantry.
- Peggy Zola stated Maple Ave. has started an enrichment block this year which is offered daily for thirty minutes to all students. Mrs. Zola stated teachers have grouped students in threes and everything is going great. Mrs. Zola reviewed some of the activities being done during the blocks. Philip Pancoast asked if the enrichment dovetailed with RTI. Mrs. Zola stated yes.
- Jeanne Roy stated the Future Business Leaders group that took babysitting last year are all set and both sessions next week will be fully staffed.
- Jennifer Theroux stated she is excited by the fact that student learning opportunities are being focused on certain points in their curriculum and it started her thinking there could be a cost savings measure to group similar learners more often, could be more targeted and streamlined. Stacy Buckley stated that was one main reason they added thirty minutes for instructional learning.

Public Comment

Sarah Allard and Casey Couples, MVMS students, came before the Board with two letters from students on their team. Ms. Allard read one letter from Andrea Davis out loud; the letter stated why 6th grade students should still have recess that they need to get energy out. Ms. Couples read the other letter from Genna McNeal out loud; the letter was about why students should get recess that some students do not get to play outside at home. Ms. Allard stated she only gets to see some of her friends during lunch and recess and if they do not have recess she would not see some of them as lunch is so busy. The Board thanked both students for coming before the Board with their concerns.

Donna Pinard, Goffstown resident, stated she was sure the Superintendent would be letting the Board know about the grievance that was won by the teachers. Ms. Pinard stated she had the opportunity to speak with a retired teacher in Massachusetts who mentioned twelve grievances against Jim Hunt when he was an administrator there; all those grievances were won. Ms. Pinard stated the Board would be making decisions soon on contracts and that she does not see any growth here, no changes from MA to NH. Ms. Pinard stated the teacher she spoke to is willing to talk to anyone if they would like her number and that the teacher will be speaking to prominent members of the town.

Administration/Finance Committee Report

Henry Boyle made a motion to accept the manifest in the amount of \$2,085,381.98. Dian McCarthy seconded. Mr. Boyle briefly reviewed the contents of the manifest. **VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED**

Henry Boyle stated the Food Service Coordinator would like time at the next Board meeting to give a report on the food service program, especially on the breakfast program, food prices, and changes in the federal lunch program.

Human Resource Committee Report

The next HR Committee meeting will be on December 13th at 6PM at the SAU.

Planning & Communication Committee Report

Dian McCarthy stated the P&C Committee met this evening and discussed article content through January (in-kind donations at various school levels, the budget, and a deliberative session overview of procedures). Mrs. McCarthy stated they also addressed the possibility of doing an informative show for GTV, not a permanent one, but one during budget season; Philip Pancoast has volunteered to spearhead this. Mrs. McCarthy stated the Committee also discussed sending Letters to the Editor when in-between articles; the Board was fine with this.

Curriculum and Education Committee Report

The next C&E Committee meeting will be on December 13th at 7PM at the SAU; on the agenda is discussion of class size.

Philip Pancoast stated the Program of Studies was brought forward at the meeting; there were some language changes and clarifications. *Philip Pancoast made a motion to approve the 2011-2012 Program of Studies. Jennifer Theroux seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED*

Philip Pancoast stated there is a NEAS&C Committee at the high school that will be meeting to re-evaluate the mission statement and determine if there is a need for changes; will make recommendations if needed.

Philip Pancoast stated MST continues to be a valuable asset for our students and that we are using all the budgeted slots. Mr. Pancoast stated work is ongoing on the development of competencies.

Philip Pancoast stated MVMS has been working on what has been done here at GHS on standardized testing and implementing some of them there. Mr. Pancoast stated he would not be able to report back on how everything worked until April when results are received; tremendous support was received from the school and parent groups.

Philip Pancoast discussed the ongoing School in Need of Improvement (SINI) plan, stating they are using data to differentiate student learning. Mr. Pancoast stated it was clear to him from the report that there is a high level of participation and integration from teachers and teams at the school; it is being driven from the top down.

Philip Pancoast stated the schedule for the day has been structured to maximize opportunities; that there are times when everyone gets enrichment. Mr. Pancoast stated for others it is pushing them as far as they are capable and beyond their grade level. Mr. Pancoast stated they are meeting needs and differentiating instruction.

SAU Budget Hearing, 12/7/10, 7PM, New Boston Central School

There is a SAU #19 Budget Hearing meeting on December 7th at 7PM at the New Boston Central School.

Superintendent's Report

Stacy Buckley stated the State approved educational job funding and determined, at this moment in time, that half of that money would go toward adequacy and half sent to districts to maintain jobs; Goffstown will be getting \$224,243.26. Philip Pancoast asked if the funds must be expended by a certain time and if the funds were constrained to be dedicated to salary dollar use. Mrs. Buckley stated yes, the funds must be expended by 2012 and used only for the salary or benefits of any staff person. The Board and Mrs. Buckley continued to discuss ways funding could be used. Mrs. Buckley stated the funds should be put in their back pocket right now until the budget goes through and decisions need to be made.

Stacy Buckley stated the pump and motor on the oil tank at Maple Ave. went this morning, it is about twenty years old. Mrs. Buckley stated they were able to keep it primed so it was not cold in the building and was fixed this morning at a cost of about \$800.

Stacy Buckley stated the SAU Office is being painted; hope to be done with the first floor by Monday. Mrs. Buckley stated it looks really good and if they rent a steam cleaner, the painters will do the floors as well.

Stacy Buckley stated she would bring forward information on the Parent Surveys at the next Board meeting, they had 1,025 responses. Mrs. Buckley stated there is a Principal's Meeting on December 14th and she wanted to present the information to them first.

Stacy Buckley stated there is a SBA Delegate Assembly on January 15th, 9-3:30 PM; Philip Pancoast will be attending. Mrs. Buckley stated she would scan the delegate package and email to Board members.

Stacy Buckley stated they received the arbitration decision and it was in favor of the GEA; was about the walking in of students in the morning and walking them back and forth to lunch. Mrs. Buckley stated they are now back to letting all students come back in the building in the morning without supervision. Lorry Cloutier asked if she could get a copy of the decision. Mrs. Buckley stated yes, she could email to any other Board members who wanted to review it.

Stacy Buckley stated the Elementary Facilities Committee will be meeting on Friday; they received ten parties that are interested in bidding and will have an onsite visit with the vendors this week.

Policy ECAF – Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses – 2nd Read

Philip Pancoast made a motion to approve Policy ECAF - Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses. Lorry Cloutier seconded. VOTE All in Favor - MOTION PASSED

Development of 3rd DRAFT 2011 Warrant Articles

Keith Allard stated they had done some corrections on the warrant articles and added dates. Ginny McKinnon stated she thought the wording on Article IV was confusing. Mrs. Buckley stated it is legal wording they need to use; can explain it in voter's guide, but not on the ballot. Jennifer Theroux asked about Article VII mentioned in minutes from last meeting. Mrs. Buckley stated she did not think there had been one, but would check.

Revenues

Stacy Buckley stated they would have to determine by the next Board meeting how much they would have to put into the unreserved balance fund. Philip Pancoast asked, as a placeholder, what Mrs. Buckley would recommend as an amount. Mrs. Buckley suggested \$300,000 to the capital fund and \$100,000 to unreserved fund line. Mrs. Buckley stated she could insert those numbers for Board members to look at.

MVMS Field Trip Request

Stacy Buckley brought forward the following repeat field trip request:

- MVMS, Team 8-3, Boston, MA, Freedom Trail, June 1, 2011

United Nations Field Trip

Stacy Buckley brought forward the following repeat field trip request:

- Tour of United Nations Building, April 1, 2011, Eric Romein, 105 seniors, Great Decisions class

Policy JKAA – Use of Restraints

Lorry Cloutier stated Policy JKAA is a new policy; the majority of it is straight out of the statutes, page 2 is the only portion the Committee had to write. This policy will come up at the first meeting in January for a second read and possible approval.

6th Grade Recess versus Instruction

Stacy Buckley stated with the new reading program at MVMS they are now looking at ninety minute blocks for 6th grade science and language arts. Mrs. Buckley stated the problem they have come across is that the last block is only 75 minutes long and would cut into instructional time. Jim Hunt has met with each team to look at options and is recommending reducing recess for the 6th grade. Mrs. Buckley stated they are looking at having the 6th grade students go outside as they finish lunch and be back in class by 1 PM, would gain fifteen minutes of instructional time. Jennifer Theroux asked how long recess currently is. Mrs. Buckley stated twenty minutes and looking at going to 10-12 minutes, depending on how soon students finish their lunches. Keith Allard asked about lunch and recess coverage. Mrs. Buckley stated they would be divided up as they are now. Dian McCarthy stated recess serves a purpose, and if the children have a lot of energy to burn off, how valuable would that extra instructional time be. Mrs. McCarthy stated she personally would like to see more than ten minutes for recess, but understood the need to focus on academics. Lorry Cloutier stated she was confused how the 5th grade was able to fit this in, but not the 6th grade. Mrs. Buckley stated it is how the schedules are set up. Mrs. Grassett explained the 6th grade schedule to Board members. Mrs. Buckley stated there is a committee discussing scheduling, especially ECB time, so there may be a different solution for next year. Mrs. Buckley stated they are trying to be flexible this year and do what is in the best interest of the students. Mrs. Buckley stated she appreciated the Board feedback and would come back to the Board in January with a report to let them know the decision.

Discussion on Budget Presentation to Budget Committee

Keith Allard asked if the Board had any suggestions for modifications. Lorry Cloutier asked after seeing what the default budget would be and the huge decrease in bonding, what replaced that money in the budget. Mr. Allard stated contractual obligations for salary, benefits, and retirement. Stacy Buckley stated the default decreased because of the bond and special education, that she did not think the budget increased that much as decreased. Jennifer Theroux suggested considering streamlining service delivery, to cluster like-learners. Mrs. Buckley stated they do that in special education as much as possible. Ginny McKinnon stated if they took out all the repairs and improvements, like carpeting, and if the Budget Committee would meet us half way with a recommendation that they would recommend the budget that comes out of that deduction, that she would be in favor of that; though she did not think it is the smartest thing to do as taxpayers would have to pay more when they need to do maintenance later. Mr. Allard asked how much money that would be. Ray Labore stated about \$100,000, but a large number of those projects on CIP have already been deferred and pushed out another year. Keith Allard stated the Budget Committee is in deliberation mode now and we are not in a position where we can sit and negotiate at this point. Mrs. McKinnon stated their conversation is on TV and in the Board minutes. Philip Pancoast stated in fairness, we need to look at the picture in its entirety, that if we look at something like maintenance, we need to look at the last three years and what we have not done, and need to look at the way the NEAS&C measures us, this building and middle school. Mr. Pancoast stated one thing they had enormous problems with in the past was the general overall condition of the school, the remodel was \$11 million and he could make the argument that there could have been savings there by investing earlier. Dian McCarthy stated she really felt the Board put together a good faith budget to start with and did a good job not asking for more. Mrs. McCarthy stated the need to keep up the buildings.

Other Business That May Legally Come Before the Board

Mary Grasset stated at MVMS and GSH it is required to give progress reports out to students on a regular basis. Mrs. Grasset stated they send nine progress reports home a year in the 8th grade, which ends up being about 11,000 pieces of paper when you add in all 8th grade students. Mrs. Grasset stated PowerSchool is a program in which parents have access to student grades 24/7, that parents can even have student grades emailed to them on a regular basis. Mrs. Grasset stated she would like to propose on behalf of the teachers at MVMS and others teachers in the district that the Board consider a policy in which progress reports are no longer sent home. Mrs. Grasset stated there are a lot of districts that no longer send progress reports home and parents that do not have internet access could still request paper copies. Mrs. Grasset stated she would like to see this looked at for next year and maybe this year. Stacy Buckley stated this idea had come up with the principals during budget discussions and out of seven administrators not one supported it. Mrs. Buckley stated the principals thought it gave the students more ownership having the actual paper go home with them. Jennifer Theroux suggested surveying parents as it would be where the best feedback would come from. Keith Allard asked the Superintendent to give consideration to this request and come back to the Board with information.

Jennifer Theroux stated the MVMS Partnership would be having a meeting on Wednesday at 7PM in the MVMS Media Center; all are welcome to attend. Mrs. Theroux stated the guest speaker would be Keith Allard who will be discussing the budget.

Philip Pancoast stated the Board has an open meeting and invites any member of the community to come and participate, listen, and comment publicly. Mr. Pancoast stated in fairness to anyone that may be commented about, a person has the responsibility to come forward with information rather than speech. Mr. Pancoast stated that no one here would bar or limit speech, but asked that people show up with everything, tell us how many years, how many teachers, what the nature of grievances are, that it is unfair and unreasonable to simply walk in, fire your guns off in a crowded theatre, and walk out. Mr. Pancoast stated if you come in as a member of the public and you have an agenda or are going to speak to something, bring the evidence, show the evidence, or tell Board members ahead of time or email them and then maybe Board members could begin to appreciate public comment.

Lorry Cloutier stated public comment this evening did produce information; that anyone from the Board could contact and speak directly to the source. Mr. Pancoast stated it was not evidence. Ms. Cloutier stated if the person had evidence, would Mr. Pancoast want that or the source. Mr. Pancoast stated he did not know of anything that came out of tonight other than insinuation and in fairness to this body, if you are going to do something that begs a conclusion, and then say that now it is your responsibility to get the evidence, then you should think twice about it. Ms. Cloutier stated they get evidence and then review it, that it goes both ways and the public is allowed to say what they want. Mr. Pancoast stated it is not stating evidence if you are told you have to go and find the evidence. Ms. Cloutier stated she disagreed.

Student Teacher

Stacy Buckley brought forward the following student teachers for Board information:

- Karen Lovett with Christina Howard, English, GHS
- Dayna Spinner with Sandee Nichols, Art, GHS

Co-Curricular Nominations

Stacy Buckley brought forward the following co-curricular nominations:

- Ryan Hardy, Wrestling, volunteer, GHS
- Nicholas Francoeur, Wrestling, volunteer, GHS
- Richard Alas-Chavez, Wrestling, volunteer, GHS

Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A: 3 II(c)

Ginny McKinnon made a motion to enter non-public session at 8:55 PM to discuss dismissal, promotion, compensation or disciplining of any public employee, unless that employee has a right to an open meeting and requests the meeting be open. Henry Boyle seconded.

Hank Boyle made a motion to leave non-public session at 11:40 PM. Philip seconded. The Chair took an individual voice poll of each School Board member. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Philip Pancoast made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for a period of 5 years. Hank Boyle seconded. VOTE All in favor – MOTION PASSED

Adjournment

Lorry Cloutier made a motion to adjourn at 11:45pm. Diane McCarthy seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Deborah Jore
School Board Recording Secretary

***These minutes are subject to School Board approval**