

These minutes are subject to School Board Approval

Goffstown School District
Goffstown, New Hampshire

School Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2010

School Board Members, Present

Keith Allard
Philip Pancoast
Henry Boyle
Jeffrey Tate
Lorry Cloutier
Ginny McKinnon
Sue Tremblay (via speakerphone)
Kyle Carreau, Student Representative
Peggy Zola, Elementary Representative

Administration, Present

Stacy Buckley, Superintendent
Ray Labore, Business Administrator

Call to Order

Keith Allard called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM and led the Board and public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Correspondence

- Copies of various letters
- Teacher/Nurse Substitute Report

Approval of Minutes 2/01/2010

The Board had the following changes to the minutes: motion after non-public session, Lorry Cloutier stated she had voted against the motion and wanted her reason put into the minutes; add after vote: Ms. Cloutier voted against the motion as voters made it clear that not adding to it or subtracting from it, that they were happy with the number. ***Henry Boyle made a motion to approve the February 1, 2010 minutes as amended. Lorry Cloutier seconded. VOTE 5 yes, 2 abstain (Ginny McKinnon, Sue Tremblay) MOTION PASSED***

Commendations/Good News

- Peggy Zola briefly reviewed Maple Avenue's NECAP results with Board members; will be having a "Brain Party" in March to celebrate the 3rd and 4th graders high results. Ms. Zola stated the Maple Ave. students have been collecting toothbrushes for Haiti relief.
- Peggy Zola stated Bartlett Elementary has started collecting Pennies for Haiti. Ms. Zola stated Bartlett is also reinstating the "Wee Deliver" Program. Ms. Zola discussed a book program at Bartlett where families were given a copy of Charlotte Web to read; there will be a "country fair" the Friday night before vacation with blue ribbons and character dress-up.
- Peggy Zola stated Glen Lake Kindergarten had 300 people attend the Math Night/Book Fair last week; was fantastic with the enrollment of 185 students. Ms. Zola stated Mr. & Mrs. Tisbert, who were expecting, welcomed a baby boy to their family.
- Kyle Carreau stated this week is Winter Carnival Week at GHS; classes are working on skits. Mr. Carreau stated 13 GHS students were nominated and recognized by the NH

Athletic Award Program. Mr. Carreau stated the GHS Theatre had a showing of Aida over the weekend, which was outstanding. Mr. Carreau stated Mr. McDermott, Human Behavior Honor Class teacher, is starting a community service project for seniors; will have more information for Board as it proceeds.

- Ginny McKinnon stated she went to the Aida musical this weekend and they did a really great job. Mrs. McKinnon stated 16 GHS students were accepted into the GHS All-State Festival. Mrs. McKinnon stated Kyle McNamara was awarded the Goffstown Good Citizen award. Mrs. McKinnon stated she went to a GHS boys basketball game this week, it was a great game, and the pep band and students were wonderful.

Public Comment

Donna Pinard, Goffstown resident, stated a couple of weeks ago she talked to a colleague who works in Pembroke, who told her that her superintendent had come by during her prep and asked if there was anything she needed and how she was doing. Ms. Pinard stated she was amazed this had happened and thought it would be a good thing for Goffstown's superintendent to start doing.

Scott Gross, Goffstown resident/Goffstown Selectman, congratulated the District on their test scores, stating it was phenomenal to see how the scores have climbed. Mr. Gross stated it would be nice to see how this tracks with the new kindergarten; thinks the investment as a community is paying dividends. Mr. Gross stated he had seen "Aida" and it wonderful; he commended the theatre group and recommended the public to attend. Mr. Gross expressed his appreciation on the Board eliminating half-days on the school calendar. In regards to the issue of communication, Mr. Gross stated it is great that we talk about successes in our schools, but he would encourage the School Board to be more active in writing letters to the newspaper and having TV shows to keep the public aware. Mr. Gross asked about reinstating "Honor Roll Sundaes" at the middle school, stating his 7th grader really enjoyed them.

Administration/Finance Committee Report

Jeffrey Tate made a motion to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,278,571.41. Philip Pancoast seconded. Mr. Tate briefly reviewed the manifest. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Jeffrey Tate stated the Bus Committee met and has scheduled meetings with two providers so far.

Jeffrey Tate stated the Finance Committee spoke about having principal meetings to discuss the previous year's budget and shortfalls and where they could be made up. Mr. Tate stated this would be ongoing.

Human Resources Committee Report

The next Human Resources Committee meeting will be on March 8th at 6 PM at the SAU.

Curriculum and Education Committee Report

Philip Pancoast stated C&E talked about the GAP Program and had a nice overview on how it is going; need to work on advertising it more. Mr. Pancoast stated some of the programs are doing very well, but others could benefit from higher enrollment. Mr. Pancoast stated there is a grant that is being used to further promote activities.

Philip Pancoast stated C&E talked about the RTI Leadership Group and that the framework of five committees has been established. Mr. Pancoast stated there would be a meeting this month and next

month; Mr. Pancoast will attend next month's meeting. Mr. Pancoast stated he would come back to the Board near the end of March with information on what RTI will look like in the schools.

The next C&E Committee meeting will be on March 8th at 7PM at the SAU.

Superintendent's Report

Stacy Buckley stated in the next few days all Board members would be receiving an updated copy of the Special Education Procedures Manual. Mrs. Buckley stated Brian Balke and all the special ed facilitators have been working on this and it will go to all three districts. Mrs. Buckley stated Board members could email her or Mr. Balke with any questions

Stacy Buckley stated they have had several telephone calls from parents of Villa students about potentially bringing their students back to Goffstown schools; Maple Ave. received four such calls. Mrs. Buckley stated she does not know what is happening at the Villa.

Stacy Buckley stated she and Ray Labore would be meeting on Wednesday morning with Maddie Enman, Suzanne Pyszka, and Frank McBride to talk about maybe starting a breakfast program at GHS and Maple Ave.

Stacy Buckley stated the climbing wall is up at Mountain View; a thank you card has been sent to the MVMS parent organization who funded the wall. Mrs. Buckley stated they would be integrating the wall into the curriculum.

2nd Read Policies

- *Policy BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings.* Lorry Cloutier stated the only change to Policy BEDH was the removal of Section 2. ***Lorry Cloutier made a motion to accept Policy BEDH as presented. Ginny McKinnon seconded. VOTE 6 yes, 1 no (Philip Pancoast)*** Mr. Pancoast stated he was voting no on this as in the past people running the meetings have done an adequate job and that the audience has had adequate time to speak. Mr. Pancoast stated he felt the Board needed to rely on that and this policy limits the Chair and his/her designee in running a meeting. Mr. Pancoast stated he does not support this policy and preferred the Board retained authority over making decisions. ***MOTION PASSED***
- *Policy IJOC – Volunteers and Procedures as Developed by the Superintendent.* Lorry Cloutier stated they had worked on this policy quite a bit over the past few months and the gist of the policy is they will have a definition of a designed volunteer, the volunteers will be fingerprinted and have a background check. Jeffrey Tate asked who would pay for the fingerprinting and background check. Mrs. Cloutier stated the volunteers, who would later be reimbursed by the school district after five hours of service. Stacy Buckley stated she had sent this information to all the school support groups and they were fine with it. ***Lorry Cloutier made a motion to accept Policy IJOC as printed. Philip Pancoast seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED***

First Read Policy

The following policies were brought forward as a first read and will be brought forward again at the second meeting in March for a second read:

- Policy JEB – Age of Entrance
- Policy KE – Public Complaint
- Policy KFB – Complaints about School Personnel

2010-2011 School Calendar Review

Stacy Buckley stated the School Calendar Committee met after all three School Boards had a chance to meet individually and give feedback on proposed calendar; the Committee decided, given all the budget concerns, that this was not the right time to reduce April vacation. Mrs. Buckley gave Board members a copy of the school calendar proposed by the Committee which still includes a February and April week-long vacation. *Lorry Cloutier made a motion to accept the 2010 School Calendar as presented. Ginny McKinnon seconded. VOTE 6 yes, 1 no (Jeffrey Tate)* Mr. Tate stated he hears the response that it was not the time to change the calendar, that unfortunately people have problems with change, that he had hoped to have a three month on, one week off calendar. **MOTION PASSED** Mr. Pancoast stated he felt the Board should continue to look at and explore what upcoming school years look like and how vacations could be arranged.

2010-2011 School District Budget Review

Keith Allard stated it was decided at Deliberative Session that the School Board cut \$999,050 out of their proposed 2010-2011 school budget. Mr. Allard stated they have charged the superintendent and staff to come up with a proposal of how to make these cuts. Mr. Allard gave Board members a budget spreadsheet handout. Stacy Buckley stated she met with Jerry Agate, the school principals, athletic director, and Gary Girolimon to look at what was in the best interest of students, what could be eliminated and what could be put off. Mrs. Buckley highlighted the following budget eliminations from the handout for the District:

- Removed \$15,000 in paving projects
- Elimination of the two late buses, \$23,000,
- Elimination of PowerSchool University and Atomic Learning

Mrs. Buckley highlighted the following budget eliminations from the handout for Bartlett Elementary:

- Removed some maintenance items
- Removed all technology in budget
- Removed field trips admissions/field trip transportation
- Reduced an Art teacher by .2
- Removed a ½ time secretary

Sue Tremblay stated she would be really heartbroken to see the late buses go, that they took years to get and are the only safe late transportation for some kids for after-school programs. Jeffrey Tate asked how many secretaries Maple Ave. has. Mrs. Buckley stated one full-time and two part-time.

Mrs. Buckley highlighted the following budget eliminations from the handout for Glen Lake Kindergarten:

- Eliminated assemblies
- Eliminated additional security camera
- Removed United Streaming
- Cut some supplies
- Eliminated A/C's
- Removed technology

Mrs. Buckley highlighted the following budget eliminations from the handout for Maple Ave. Elementary:

- Removed furniture lines
- Removed field trip/field trip transportation lines
- Removed some books and printed materials

- Cut technology
- Cut professional development books

Mrs. Buckley highlighted the following budget eliminations from the handout for Mountain View Middle School:

- Cut \$30,800 for floor and tile replacements
- Eliminated calculator line
- Eliminated book line
- Eliminated field trip fees/field trip transportation
- Eliminated a PE teacher, .8 time
- Eliminated one attendance secretary
- Eliminated one para-educator
- Eliminated one fifth-grade teacher
- Eliminated a SPED teacher
- Eliminated a SPED facilitator

Ginny McKinnon stated we are having economic problems in the country and a lot of big companies are behaving badly due to the economy and saying they can reduce pay, hours and lay people off. Mrs. McKinnon stated she really does not want to be that type of employer that adds to the economic problem, to the unemployment problem. Mrs. McKinnon stated when she went to the meeting and listened to all the talk, she did not hear any one person say they could not afford this, that it was a hardship to them; she heard people saying “oh my goodness, the taxes”, but that every year we have this group that comes in and wants to slash to the budget. Mrs. McKinnon stated in the past the elderly with their limited incomes have been the ones with the problems, but now with the budget, it is not the people on fixed incomes, but those losing their houses, and Mrs. McKinnon stated she did not think anyone in Goffstown was losing their house due to the school taxes, that there are other reasons. Keith Allard stated he understood this, but the Board was required to make cuts due to what happened at the Deliberative Session. Philip Pancoast stated that Ginny McKinnon was absolutely correct and he disagreed with Mr. Allard. Mr. Pancoast stated he understood there was action at the Deliberative Session, but the School Board does not necessarily need to embrace that action, that it is a decision the Board has to make. Mr. Pancoast stated the schools are a convenient target. Mr. Pancoast stated the need to be mindful of the fact that everyone in the room is a taxpayer and no one likes a tax bill better than anyone else, but that this is not what it is all about, that is all about our responsibility to educate our children. Mr. Pancoast stated he understands arguments about doing with less, but agreed with Mrs. McKinnon in that there was a lot of talk about generalized people being affected, that no one got up saying the school district was doing a bad job or spending money inappropriately. Mr. Pancoast stated decisions made as a School Board should be guided by their mission and obligations. Mr. Pancoast stated that people are losing their jobs, but whether someone has a job tomorrow is not of consequence to what they pay in taxes and what their tax bill will be. Mr. Pancoast stated the Board has a demonstrated track record for doing as much as they can with as few resources as they can and this budget is what it will take to continue doing so. Mr. Pancoast stated when the schools get more revenues than anticipated it goes back to the taxpayers and he cannot remember the last time the school came back to the taxpayers and said they needed more. Keith Allard stated the list of eliminations they are discussing tonight are not something they are voting on tonight to adopt or not, that they are doing this so the public would be informed if cuts have to be made. Jeffrey Tate stated he felt the co-curricular fee should be revisited, that it could remove a lot of excess expenditures from the budget. Mr. Tate stated a lot of sports and activities are participated in by a relatively small amount of students versus an attendance secretary who is supporting an entire school. Mrs. McKinnon stated with the cuts recommended you are asking parents to come up and pay more fees, that you are hitting taxpayers who

cannot afford to pay more. Stacy Buckley stated some athletics has been cut, all equipment was cut and any new uniforms. Mrs. Buckley stated she did not cut any athletic sports or extra-curricular activities, but could discuss it if the Board wanted. Mrs. Buckley stated they tried to balance cuts and tried to make reductions that would affect education the least. Mr. Tate stated he understood that co-curricular fees put a burden on parents, but that parents choose to have their students do these activities. Mr. Tate stated educating children is the Board's responsibility and if you want to talk to people about getting back to basics all the mission statements talk about academia, not about track and wanting to be in a play. Lorry Cloutier stated one cut she did not see was the School Board stipend; Ms. Cloutier suggested level-funding it for next year and putting something back in for one of the schools.

Mrs. Buckley highlighted the following budget eliminations from the handout for Goffstown High School:

- Cut painting and new doors by Tech wing
- Cut security camera
- Cut bathroom partitions
- Eliminated furniture line
- Eliminated \$15,000 for shed
- Cut calculators
- Eliminated field trip fees/field trip transportation
- Cut \$127,000 for phone system
- Cut \$120,000 for English/Language Arts Curriculum Cycle
- Eliminated science cabinets
- Eliminated technology lines
- Cut supplies
- Cut LCD projectors
- Cut library access fees
- Cut replacement CRT
- Cut replacement computers
- Eliminated one Tech Support employee
- Eliminated one part-time Science teacher

Keith Allard expressed his frustration with cutting the English/language arts curriculum cycle and stated he is against any changes in delaying the cycle. Mr. Allard stated if you looked back 10-15 years, the reason they created the curriculum cycle was because they were not good at keeping the curriculum up to date. Mr. Allard stated they would have to cut quite a few sports in order not to cut this, that there is value to sports, and he hates to say they should do this, but he is extremely uncomfortable in cutting this line. Philip Pancoast stated that all things being cut are not things that do not have a need, that it needed to be kept in mind that these things are being given up. Mr. Pancoast stated what they are doing today and what they are talking about having to do with less money is something they are going to be scrambling to do about next year. Mr. Pancoast stated they are not a business that is selling less product next year or one that sold less this year, that they still have the same number of students to educate. Mr. Pancoast stated the students are our most valuable asset and we have an obligation to give them an opportunity and here is where it is done. Mr. Pancoast encouraged all to talk with their friends and family and have them look at numbers. Mr. Pancoast stated if this major cut passes, they will start behind the eight ball again and will be playing catch-up, that he wants people to listen and pay attention to the consequences of their decision. Ginny McKinnon stated she had a problem with the science cuts, that we have been working for years on the science labs and getting the appropriate equipment. Mrs. McKinnon stated this is not the time to cut

science electives, that they are a big part of the school's accreditation. Mrs. McKinnon stated this budget is not just money being thrown after the Board's idea of what an education should be, but money paying for programs needed to run an accredited high school for the community. Kyle Carreau stated Mr. Godfrey is his teacher this year, that is naturally phenomenal, and he would hate to see him gone. Mr. Carreau stated Mr. Godfrey does a great job with AP and he would be a huge loss to the chemistry department. Jeffrey Tate stated they moved to Goffstown thirteen years ago and had been told at the time not to move there as the school and town were awful. Mr. Tate stated there has been a huge turnaround and to start chipping at that is disheartening. Mr. Tate stated he really likes the school system here, that they do a lot with a little and it would be frustrating that they have gone all out, really pared down budget, and got it to a point this low without losing people and are now seeing this. Mr. Pancoast stated if you ask any of the local realtors the question they get asked most, they would say, "how are the schools?"

GHS Field Trip Request – FBLA State Leadership Conference, April 1-2, 2010

Stacy Buckley stated she received a field trip request from GHS for twelve students and two staff members to attend the annual FBLA State Leadership Conference; this is an overnight field trip held at the Manchester Radisson April 1st – 2nd. *Ginny McKinnon made a motion to approve field trip request as presented. Philip Pancoast seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED*

Graduation Date – June 17th

Stacy Buckley stated the date for the GHS Graduation has been set for June 17th at St. Anselm College. Mrs. Buckley stated this is also the date of the Senior Barbeque.

Track Changes (Effective 2/1/10)

Stacy Buckley brought forward to the School Board the following track changes:

- Lea Brazell, Maple Ave, MA +15 to MA +30
- Kendra Tisbert, Glen Lake, MA to MA +15

Long-Term Substitute

Stacy Buckley brought forward to the School Board the following long-term substitutes:

- Jillian McPhail, Glen Lake
- Lynne Movassaghi, MVMS

Co-Curricular Sport Nominations

Stacy Buckley brought forward the to the School Board the following co-curricular sport nomination:

- Rob Cathcart, GHS, Strength and Conditioning (33%)

Philip Pancoast made a motion to approve the co-curricular sport nomination as presented by the Superintendent. Ginny McKinnon seconded. VOTE 6 yes, 1 abstain (Sue Tremblay) MOTION PASSED

Public Comment

Donna Pinard stated, in regards to comments of not knowing someone who could not pay taxes, that her parents are on a fixed income and the tax and budget certainly directly affects them and if one passed away, trying to maintain a home would be difficult. Ms. Pinard stated she knows a couple with two young children who are thinking of moving away because of the town's taxes. Ms. Pinard stated she also has children saving up payments to buy a home, that it is a struggle for kids who have grown up in this town to stay in this town. Ms. Pinard stated as far as budget cuts, she suggested Ms. Buckley talk to the teachers, that they know what is working and where money could be saved; discussed a

success room. Ms. Pinard stated the School Board members do not know everything that is going on and where money could be saved, neither do department heads, but the teachers do know.

Scott Gross stated he did not envy the School Board members, that looking at the list of cuts is very painful. Mr. Gross stated one area he thought was not balanced was co-curricular and athletics. Mr. Gross stated there have been a lot of new programs brought on and A teams and B sport teams, and he felt the co-curricular cuts looked light.

Other Business That May Legally Come Before the Meeting

None

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

Ginny McKinnon made a motion to enter non-public session at 8:48 PM to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation. Henry Boyle seconded. The Chair took a voice poll of each School Board member. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Henry Boyle made a motion to leave non-public session at 9:08 PM. Ginny McKinnon seconded. The Chair took a voice poll of each School Board member. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Adjournment

Ginny McKinnon made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 PM. Sue Tremblay seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Deborah Jore
School Board Secretary

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