

Goffstown School District
Goffstown, New Hampshire

School Board Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2010

School Board Members, Present

Keith Allard
Philip Pancoast
Jennifer Theroux
Henry Boyle
Dian McCarthy
Ginny McKinnon (arrived at 7:27 PM)
Sue Tremblay (excused absence)
Kent Nolan (excused absence)
Kyle Carreau (excused absence)
Liz Kelly, Student Representative

Administration, Present

Stacy Buckley, Superintendent
Ray Labore, Business Administrator

Teacher Reps. Present

Peggy Zola, Elementary
Mary Grasset, MVMS
Cecile Perretta, GHS

Call to Order

Keith Allard called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM and led the Board and public in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes 4/19/10

Henry Boyle made a motion to approve the April 19, 2010 School Board minutes. Philip Pancoast seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Correspondence

- Letter from the School Board to outgoing Student Representative Kyle Carreau for his service.
- Liz Kelly stated the dance at GHS raised \$1,366; the proceeds are being donated to a family in the community with a child fighting cancer.
- Jim Hunt received a letter for MVMS from Kristen McCarthy commending the hard work of several staff members on the administration team.
- Teacher/Nurse Substitute Report

Commendations/Good News

- Peggy Zola stated four MVMS students came to Glen Lake Kindergarten on Career Day. Mrs. Zola thanked MaryClaire Barry for her support at Bartlett Elementary during the reading pilot; staff is very excited about the "Reading Streets" program starting this fall. Mrs. Zola stated Maple Ave. students read 2,153 hours between March 22 - April 22 for the Bikes for Books reading initiative. Mrs. Zola stated Grade 4 would be having NECAP testing next week.
- Liz Kelly stated the GHS Variety Show last Thursday raised several hundred dollars for a local child with cancer.

Educational Minute

None

Public Comment

Mark Eldridge stated he noticed from the last meeting's minutes the statement by Dian McCarthy regarding the Bullying Policy. Mr. Eldridge stated it was said that it was under control and there would also be a new curriculum in September. Mr. Eldridge stated he has several children in the district and one has been harassed for the last three years which has not been resolved. Mr. Eldridge stated he checked into the program from the University of Bridgewater and the responsibility is put on teachers; there is a program through New England College in Henniker that other high schools (Raymond/Bedford) use that gets the students involved. Mr. Eldridge stated the bullying policies in place are not working, that the family is looking at leaving the district as nothing has been done about their issue even with documentation. Mr. Eldridge stated he would like the Board to look into this. Philip Pancoast asked Mr. Eldridge for his consent to inquire further on this from the Administration. Mr. Eldridge stated yes. Stacy Buckley stated the issue has been dealt with.

Phillip Kendall stated it has come to his attention that MVMS 6th grade teams do not have enough textbooks to take home. Mr. Kendall suggested the Board look at replenishing them at the end of the year so there would be enough for all students. Stacy Buckley stated absolutely. Mr. Kendall stated not all families have computers to use at home and the Board has always in the past tried to have enough books for everybody; suggested maybe a new policy on this.

Administration/Finance Committee Report

Henry Boyle made a motion to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,055,653.91. Philip Pancoast seconded. Mr. Boyle briefly reviewed the manifest.
VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Human Resource Committee Report

The next Human Resource Committee Meeting will be on May 10th at 6 PM at the SAU; Keith Allard stated a quorum is needed at this meeting for recommendations on two scholarships.

Planning and Communications Committee Report

Dian McCarthy stated the Committee did not have a formal meeting tonight due to a lack of a quorum. Mrs. McCarthy stated they met informally, made some determinations on a bi-monthly newspaper column, and discussed various subjects that could be written about (budget process, what happens in the schools during the summer, core reading program, bullying, etc...).

The next Planning and Communications Committee Meeting will be on June 7th at 6 PM at GHS.

Curriculum and Education Committee Report

The next Curriculum and Education Committee Meeting will be on May 10th at 7 PM at the SAU.

Superintendent's Report

Stacy Buckley stated she would like to clarify for the School Board and public a comment made during public comment at the last meeting regarding the MVMS library. Mrs. Buckley stated the MVMS library was only closed one day in early fall as the librarian and assistant were out on the same day. Mrs. Buckley stated the library closes for special

events such as 8th grade registration/NWEA, but there were no huge number of days the library was closed due to lack of staffing.

Stacy Buckley stated there were two successful trips over April vacation: the MVMS Washington D.C. trip which 68 students went on and the GHS Music Department California trip which 85 students went on.

Stacy Buckley stated there are some road closures in town, the SAU is watching them and have a meeting with the DPW tomorrow about the roundabout on Wallace and Mast Road. Mrs. Buckley stated they are hoping to have the DPW put off the construction until school is out.

Stacy Buckley stated NECAP science testing starts next week and goes for a two week window of time.

Stacy Buckley gave an invitation for Board members to attend the End of the Year Celebration and Thank You for Maddy Enman at Frank McBride's house; the presentation for Ms. Enman will take place around 5:30 PM.

Stacy Buckley invited the School Board to attend the GHS Senior Athletes and Coaches Banquet on May 30th; please let Denise Morin know if attending. Mrs. Buckley stated MaryClaire Barry would be attending and representing the SAU, as it was a conflict of events for her.

Stacy Buckley stated the schools have been working hard on the 250th anniversary, each school is looking at doing something different. Mrs. Buckley stated the FBLA students have volunteered to work local business booths for the day at the upcoming business expo. It is a great opportunity for students to get involved.

Stacy Buckley stated Jennifer Theroux had asked about electronic progress reports and report cards for the high school at the last meeting. Mrs. Buckley stated one problem is when the school sends out "The Grizz" newsletter, a large number of them get bounced back due to bad email addresses and there are concerns on how to manage this with progress reports; the suggestion will continue to be explored.

IKFA Policy

Stacy Buckley stated this was coming back from the last School Board meeting where the Board suggested taking a straw poll on the revised version at this meeting.

**Ginny McKinnon arrived at 7:27 PM*

Henry Boyle stated the Committee has already spent a lot of time on this policy and before they spend more they would like to poll the Board on it. Mr. Boyle stated there were several items/issues mentioned at the last meeting. Keith Allard stated the big issue was if the Board wanted to give up the approval process. Mr. Boyle stated the Board would become part of the appeal process. Jennifer Theroux stated she was in favor of the new policy, to let those in closest contact with students and who understand their needs better to make the decision and have the Board as an appeal process. Philip Pancoast stated if the policy did change, he would want the Board to be able to sit down during the school year and review the applications that had come to the administration in order to make sure policy had been followed in the execution of dealing with the requests. Ginny McKinnon stated she did not understand the appeal process as they all get passed, so she

would like them to at least come before the Board so they would know about them and what is going on. The Board continued to discuss the policy, Board participation, and appeal process. Mr. Allard stated he is leaning more toward Sue Tremblay's concerns with the amount of students coming forward for early graduation and their reasons, that 5-6 years ago students were trying to get into college early or were already accepted, and now more seem to be doing it for more diversified reasons, like family reasons. Mrs. Theroux stated the Board is so far removed from the students that it would not be appropriate to make the final decision. Mr. Pancoast stated the Board gets recommendations from the administration and have the ability to ask questions. Ginny McKinnon stated with the economy bad, students who have left school, not taken harder classes, and with an 80 average, could get in trouble and not have the college choices. Stacy Buckley stated it is a fairly rigorous process before early graduation requests are approved by the administration and sent to her. The students have to start with their guidance counselor, then the guidance director, next a meeting with parents and guidance director, next to Frank McBride, and then to Stacy Buckley. Mrs. Buckley stated the face of the students doing early graduation has changed, some of these students have met graduation requirements early, and her concern is if this continues to come forward to the Board, it should be done in non-public session as there is sometimes information that she is not comfortable sharing in public. Mrs. Buckley stated one worry she has is that some of these students who get denied early graduation could drop out of school. Mr. Allard stated in the last three years the Board has only denied two students and those two students were asked to come back to the Board once they accomplished certain things. The Board will wait and see what the Committee comes back with at the next School Board meeting.

Confirmation of Committee Assignments

School Board members received a handout of Committee Assignments in their backup packets.

MVMS Field Trip Request

Stacy Buckley brought forward a MVMS field trip request; it is a repeat trip and does not need Board approval unless denying it. Team 8-1, Museum of Science, Boston, MA, June 1st

CIP Plan Review and Approval

Ray Labore briefly reviewed a handout given to School Board members on CIP. Mr. Labore stated any revisions are all pushouts from the matrix proposed last year. Mr. Labore stated a new project is to reroof MVMS in 2013-2014; roof will be 25 years old then. Mr. Labore stated the handout is for Board consideration and Administration would like approval from the Board at the next May meeting. Mr. Labore stated that there are two significant projects for 2012-2013 (Bartlett Phase II, \$4,200,000, and Maple Ave. construction of 6-8 new classrooms, just under \$10 million). Keith Allard stated there would be a tax impact, but due to expiring bonds, taxes would be going down anyhow.

Board members had various questions on handout. Henry Boyle asked that the SAU make sure Sue Tremblay received a copy of the CIP Plan before the next School Board Meeting.

Elementary Facilities Review Committee

Stacy Buckley asked the School Board to resurrect the Elementary Facilities Review Committee with a charge to develop an RFP for the architectural engineering study. Mrs. Buckley stated that they are also looking for additional Board members to serve on

committee. The committee will meet regularly over summer and next year. Dian McCarthy and Philip Pancoast volunteered to be on the committee Suzanne Tremblay has also asked to serve on the committee. ***Dian McCarthy made a motion to resurrect the Elementary Facilities Review Committee, to put together RFPs and other proposals, and come back to the School Board with recommendations. Philip Pancoast seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED***

Elected Officials Benefit Election Summary – Open Enrollment

Keith Allard stated open enrollment is the month of May. Mr. Allard explained that a few years ago the School Board had made a motion approving that Board members could purchase health/dental insurance at their own cost (100%). Mr. Allard gave each Board member a form and asked that Board members send it back to the SAU showing if they would like to purchase or if they don't elect to use it; needs to be on record.

Student Intern

Stacy Buckley brought forward to the School Board the following student intern; no Board action needed:

- Carole Donovan, Early Childhood Education, Glen Lake (May-Aug, 2010)

Teacher Nomination

Stacy Buckley brought forward to the School Board the following teacher nomination:

- Curran Pope, Special Ed, Bartlett (2009-2010)

Philip Pancoast made a motion to accept the nomination of Curran Pope as presented by the Superintendent. Ginny McKinnon seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Other Business That May Legally Come Before The Board

None

Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A: 3II(c)

None

Adjournment

Philip Pancoast made a motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM. Dian McCarthy seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Deborah Jore
School Board Secretary

*These minutes are subject to School Board Approval