

STRAFFORD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

5:30 PM

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The Sharon School

APPROVED Minutes

Newton School Mission Statement

“Our mission is to develop each child’s potential for academic success, engagement and overall well being. Through this process, we will enrich each child’s education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.”

In Attendance:

Board Members: Hilary Linehan, Erik Reimanis, Glenn Wylie, Jeff Solsaa. Superintendent: Bruce Labs. Principal: Greg Bagnato

Action items:

- Glenn – ask about contracting someone to cost out building a new SU for the alternative structure at the next meeting of the 706 study committee.
- All members – If the State denies our waiver request regarding calendar, we will send a letter of appeal.
- Kristy – remove last sentence of Look-alike weapons policy
- Kristy – 2nd paragraph, 6th word: change superintendent to principal
- Glenn – post solicitation on list-serv to serve on the 706 study committee.
- All members – bring food to share to next meeting.
- Kristy – add item to executive board meeting agenda to discuss the SU employing teachers who are part time in a number of member districts.
- Jeff – talk with John Freitag about custodial services.

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1. Call to Order: Hilary called the meeting to order at 5.34
 2. Adjustments to the Agenda – Thetford report should be added; add executive session
 3. Consent Agenda
 - 3.1. Minutes of June 22, 2016 were approved unanimously: motion (Erik/Jeff) (Hilary abstained)
 - 3.2. Hiring Recommendations
 4. Entered executive session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee at 5.36. Exited at 5.38: Hilary moved to accept Greg’s recommendation to hire an elementary teacher and a music teacher (Eric second) to hire – unanimously approved.
 5. Public Comment
 - 5.1. Allan Wylie offered to trim the lawn along the front fence. Greg will pass along.
 - 5.2. John Escheveria – asked about Act 46. No real movement to report at this time.

6. Reports to the Board

6.1. Principal's Report:

It's been a busy summer. Next year faculty will be doing literacy class for k-5; and for personal curricula (6-8). We continue to work towards standards based learning. Feedback will be given on report cards on students' habits and attitudes to learning. Technology equipment has been ordered and installed. The new Math curriculum has arrived and is being digested by the teachers. Raven's Wood – Raven's Wood asks parents to commit their children to 1 day a week. This would put parents at variance with truancy policies; and would therefore be a problem. This year we asked for money from Mascoma back to improve outdoor education. Holly Blackie sadly died, and faculty has been meeting with councilors. Tree planting on Aug 24th for her – all are welcome at school at 6.00 pm. Waiver for Spring break – waiting to hear from Bruce (see below). Kitchen project is done; School painting is done; efficient toilets have been installed. Science teacher, councilor, and food service manager all have been at school preparing for the new year. The Spanish teacher withdrew her application. Looking for reading specialist -- probable interview this week. Athletics – we have coaches for everything. Elective system for 7-8th grades, most children have signed up.

Discussion on new email accounts for the WRSU.

Heard about BYRN grant (\$3000), which was awarded; but we're waiting to hear about others.

7. Superintendent's Report:

7.1. Bruce wanted to make sure we approved new hires. We approved new hires, pending Bruce and Greg meeting with candidates (Motion: Hilary/Erik). Unanimously approved. Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI): 5 members on the board. Bruce asked for the Board to vote on whether the VT school board association chair should be on that board.

Motion: change VEHI board to eliminate the VT-NEA seat and replace it with the chair of school board association. Erik moved, Hilary seconded – unanimously approved.

Scheduling – discussion on the first day of school, and about the half day vs. whole day. And how the staff will view the extra 3.5 hours of teaching time.

Bruce sent a formal request for a waiver regarding the earlier Feb vacation. Bruce still hasn't heard back, though he has followed up with the State. Discussion on how to disseminate the information about the vacations to parents. Board decided to wait to publish calendar until we had a firm answer from State. Greg expressed frustration that the waiver request is taking so long. Board decided to send a letter appealing the decision to the State, if the answer was No.

8. Discussion Matters

8.1. Exploratory Conversations vs. Formal 706b Study Committee

8.2. Exploratory grant did not get funded. We re-applied, but when Bruce went to get the signature from Thetford, he learned that no SU can simultaneously have a \$5,000 and a

\$20,000 (706) grant. Hilary suggested that the 706 study group also investigate the amount of money required to set up a new SU.

9. Action Matters

9.1. Report: Look-alike weapons Policy – 2nd Reading. Discussion of look-alike weapons. Discussion of whether students ‘will be’ suspended vs. ‘may be’ suspended. Last sentence to be removed.

9.2. Report: Transportation: Bus Breakdown-Accident/Emergency Response Policy – 2nd Reading. Discussion of whether 911 ‘may be’ called or ‘must be’ called. Because procedures cover under what circumstances 911 should be called, the language was left as ‘may be’ called.

9.3. Report: Board Relations with School Personnel Policy – 2nd Reading. 2nd paragraph, 6th word: change ‘superintendent’ to ‘principal’

9.4. Report: Wellness Policy – 2nd Reading. No changes necessary.

9.5. Consideration of Petition to Modify VEHI Bylaws – see above.

9.6. Membership on 706 study committee board. We need 3 members, who may or may not be on the board. Glenn, Jeff and Hilary volunteered be members for the next meeting. The board solicits community members to volunteer to be on the committee since some of the board will not be able to attend all meetings.

10. Confirm Next Meeting Dates

10.1. September 13, 2016 at 5:30 pm - The Newton School

11. Future Agenda Items – none.

12. Thetford report – no information available from last meeting. TA starts on the 25th of Aug.

13. Board calendar – discussion and review of scheduled events.

14. Executive session

14.1. Entered executive session at 7.30 to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Exited 7.41. Motion (Hilary/Jeff) to ask Kristy to add item to agenda of SU executive board to discuss at next meeting (see above). Unanimously approved.

14.2. Entered executive session at 7.42 to discuss contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Exited at 7.47. No action taken.

15. Adjourn – 7.50 Hilary/Erik.