

**Minutes of School Directors Meeting
Smilie Memorial School, Bolton, VT
August 31, 2005**

Attendees: Vicky Congdon, Phil Graff, Fred Kenney, Jim Massingham, Loree Silvis, Michael Woods
Guest: Joanne Machia

Meeting came to order at 6:30 pm.

GENERAL ITEMS

1. Joanne Machia from Central Office presented a general overview of the budget, explaining account codes and expenditure categories, in preparation for building the 2006-07 Bolton school district budget.
2. Comments from community members: Vicky reported that because of road work on Stage Rd. in West Bolton, three Camel's Hump students were put on a different afternoon bus. They were dropped off at the Stage Rd. bus turnaround and had to walk home from there; two of them had to get around the open culvert at the construction site. Jim Massingham will follow up with Bob Magee and CHMS to coordinate the afternoon bus run on that route until the work is completed.
3. Vicky moved to accept the 7/6/05 minutes as amended: Fred seconded. All in favor.

4. Principal's Report

Michael reported that the first day went very well, and the kids are excited to be back.

He confirmed that on the 2005 VT Developmental Reading Assessment, 100% of the Smilie students tested met or exceeded the standards. The staff is very pleased at how the focus on literacy continues to be reflected in gains in student performance.

Kathy Smith is donating a greenhouse from Gardener's Supply to Smilie, to be used for science enrichment.

Michael updated the board on building maintenance. Phil proposed that we look at more efficient use of the exits during the heating season to conserve energy. Michael will review it with Carl.

5. Superintendent's Report

Central Office has been dealing with two grievances filed against the district: an unfair labor practice charge and a complaint about the proposed support staff contract.

The district is conducting a Transportation personnel study to address concerns about the bus garage. Tony Lamb (CESU attorney) will interview Bob Magee and bus drivers.

Fred asked for clarification of item 12 in the Exec. committee minutes of 9/15/05 regarding "significant changes" in the recently reauthorized special education law. Jim will look into it.

6. Committee reports:

Most committees did not meet in August and are scheduled to meet in September. Loree noted that Curriculum scheduled to meet on Sept. 12 (not on the meeting schedule).

Phil asked for an update on the Long-Range Planning committee. Jim will check on the status of the committee's work on the district's long-range technology plan.

Executive: The CESU Fall meeting is scheduled for October 24. It will be a carousel meeting, with a presentation by VSBA on board members roles and responsibilities, followed by individual board meetings.

CESU has been contacted by the NEA to begin support staff negotiations. Two CESU school board member reps will assist Jim Massingham and Tony Lamb in the negotiations process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Building security: Michael presented an estimate from Vermont Life Safety on upgrades to building security. The estimate of \$2,300 includes a burglar alarm system and a low-temperature monitor to protect the heating system. Michael will review the estimate with Carl Sword to see if there is installation work he might be able to complete. Phil asked about adding and upgrading window locks: Michael will check with Carl. He will also look into a possible reduction in property insurance premiums if the alarm is installed. Fred proposed that the board approach the town

about sharing the cost, given that the school is to be designated as the town emergency center and expensive generators will be installed here.

2. Truant office: Vicky moved to appoint Michael Woods as the truant office for the 2005-06 school year; Fred seconded. All in favor.

3. Fred moved to accept the Invoice Edit List in the revised amount of \$71,937.52; Vicky seconded. All in favor.

4. Loree moved to approve the refunding of the 1995 bond in order to achieve debt service savings of \$846 in interest payments; Fred seconded. All were in favor, and the tax note was authorized.

5. Fred asked for clarification on the process by which new housing developments and busing services are coordinated. Jim explained that the supervisory union receives written notification of proposed developments that come before the Development Review Board and decides how to follow up based on the number of houses proposed.

6. Fred volunteered to follow up with the Bolton Selectboard regarding designation of the school as the town emergency center, the development of an emergency plan and the grant application to Homeland Security. He will develop a list of issues to discuss and coordinate with the Selectboard, the Board of Civil Authority, and the School Board and will propose a timeline.

7. Loree asked about the status of the guidance position while Jennifer Caron is on maternity leave. Marejke Smith, the guidance counselor at Brewster Pierce, has been hired as a long-term sub. Mrs. Caron's position had been increased to 1.5 days for the current school year, but Ms. Smith is only available one day a week.

8. At 8:25 pm, Phil moved that the Board enter into Executive Session under the authority of Title I, Section 313 (3) Negotiations to discuss teacher contract negotiations; Phil seconded. At 8:40 pm, Phil moved to come out of Executive Session; Fred seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2005 at 7 pm at Smilie School.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Congdon
Approved as amended