

Minutes of Bolton School Directors Meeting
Sleepy Hollow Inn, Huntington, VT
June 24 , 2006

Attendees: Vicky Congdon, Phil Graff, Fred Kenney, Jim Massingham, Loree Silvis, Michael Woods
Guests: Karen Glitman, Steve Peery

Meeting came to order at 9:05 am.

GENERAL ITEMS

1. Public comment: There were no comments from community members.
2. JES board member Karen Glitman made a presentation on introducing a foreign language program at the elementary school level, focusing on the benefits of studying a second language and beginning study at a young age, the costs and challenges of fitting the program into the school day, and how to build support among teachers and community members for it. She reviewed the CESU foreign language curriculum, giving examples of how cross-curricular connections can be used to enrich the existing GLEs (grade level expectations). She would be happy to give her Power Point presentation to the Bolton community.
3. Steve Peery gave a demonstration of VCAT (Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Tool), the new software program CESU is using to monitor student achievement on local assessments and the different ways the data can be summarized both on an individual student and a classroom basis to drive decision making for academic programs.
4. Academic programs: Michael Woods reviewed the structure of academic programs and the looping and team teaching approaches that will be place for the 2006-07 school year.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The board reviewed Laura Nassau's memo with the bids from three banks for the Tax Anticipation Note. Fred moved that the board accept Laura's recommendation to borrow \$546,000 from TD Banknorth; Vicky seconded. All in favor.
2. Vicky moved to accept the June 7, 2006 minutes as written; Fred seconded. All in favor.
3. Wellness Policy. The Board reviewed the VSBA model Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy developed to comply with the federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. The policy is required of schools participating in the National School Lunch program. In its draft policy, the CESU policy committee is recommending that VSBA's Policy Statement form the policy and the goals be used for the policy guidelines. The federal law mandates public input in the development of the policy; two community forums were held in the district in June. This policy will be on the Policy committee's September agenda.
4. Smilie lunch program: The board discussed whether to bring an item before the voters to fund a subsidy for the lunch program or to fund the program adequately by increasing the budget. It was agreed to monitor the effect of the breakfast and lunch price increases the Board approved in June and factor that into the budget as it's built in November. The board continued its discussion on improving the nutritional quality of the food; Phil suggested getting the New England Culinary Institute involved in CESU lunch program, with students doing internships in school cafeterias as part of their training in institutional food preparation. Fred will attend the MMU ad hoc nutrition committee and report back to the board.
5. Foreign language program: The board is in favor of pursuing a foreign language program at Smilie and will schedule a presentation to staff and community members in the fall. Fred recommended that the board bring this item before the town at the March 2007 Town Meeting as an informational item and at the March 2008 Town Meeting as a budget item in the 2008-09 budget to allow adequate time to build community and staff support for the program.
6. Smilie web site: The board reviewed the current content of Smilie's web site and discussed ways to make it more useful for parents and community members. Michael will look into adding a counter to determine the number of visits

to the site. One suggestion was to have a high school student or community member maintain the site to keep it updated. Loree raised the issue of reproducing student work from the newsletter on the web when it is identified by name, noting that parental permission is needed. She will share with the board a copy of the permission form that The Vermont Institutes uses for this purpose.

7. Community Club: The board discussed the long-term role of the Community Club and how the club chooses equipment or programs to fund-raise for. Loree recommended that the board review long-term technology needs and the technology budget to be sure it is adequate so Smilie is not dependent on support from CC to stay current. She also suggested Smilie host a community service work day in the spring, noting that that had been a very effective way at Brewster Pierce E.S. to involve community members in the school and get a lot of projects completed. The board will invite CC coordinators to attend a fall board meeting to review long-term fund-raising goals. The board discussed the Breakfast with Santa event held at Smilie in December. Jim recommended adding a section of Upcoming Community Events or Community News to the Smilie newsletter and announcing the event there, so that it is not a school-sponsored event with a religious association.

8. Loree will email board members in mid-August regarding bringing food for the teacher appreciation brunch to be held on August 23 (inservice day) from 7:45 to 8:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2006 at Smilie Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Congdon
Approved as amended