

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Kim Shillieto; Board Members Rick Christoffersen, Christine Ash, Lynn Terres, April Hibberd, Michael Culver; Superintendent Pierre Couture; Principal Benjamin Jellison; Assistant Principal Kyle Jacobs; Student Representatives Sam Westover, Maker Manning.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Shillieto.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REORT

Sam Westover and Maker Manning appeared before the Board to update them on student activities. The students will be participating in fundraising activities for Special Olympics which includes the Winnie Dip in March. This is part of the Penguin Plunge campaign which has students soliciting pledges for their successful dip into Lake Winnepesaukee in March.

YLTA and the student council have been working with grades 4-6 at Bethlehem Elementary School providing leadership training. They will also be working with a similar group of students at Lafayette Regional School in the near future.

The Student Council has been actively involved in Winter Carnival preparations.

The Board thanked the students for their input and they left the meeting.

MOTION BY LYNN TERRES, SECONDED BY APRIL HIBBERD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2016 MEETING AS WRITTEN. A brief discussion ensued pertaining to the proposed storage container and acquisition of exercise equipment. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DISCIPLINE REPORT

Assistant Principal Kyle Jacobs appeared before the Board to update them on recent discipline issues at Profile School. Copies of the SWIS Report were distributed for Board information and review. Mr. Jacobs advised the board that the number one discipline issue is tardiness by students. The majority of offenders are middle school students, quite often from the same family. As the year progresses, there are fewer tardy issues as students seem to begin to grasp the concept of the consequences. Mr. Jacobs further advised the Board that the second highest disciplinary issue is defiance/disruption which again is more frequent in the middle school than the high school. Mr. Jacobs briefed the Board on the course of action taken to alleviate this type of actions and appropriate measures to work with the offending students and their families.

Assistant Principal Jacobs briefed the Board on a recent fight issue and the ensuing investigation highlighting the manner in which incidents of this nature are handled and the resulting consequences.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the NCSAA (North Country School Administrators Association) has become very involved in the adequacy aid cuts of stabilization grant funds. These funds are scheduled to be reduced by 4% annually over the next 25 years. Superintendent Couture distributed a fact sheet pertaining to this situation briefing the Board on the contents and fielding questions as necessary. Superintendent Couture advised the Board that both Claremont suits in 1991 and 1997 involving the towns of Claremont, Lisbon, Pittsfield, Franklin and Allenstown) were won by the plaintiffs. However New Hampshire has not yet met its obligation stated in the Supreme Court ruling to provide a free and appropriate education to all students. Superintendent Couture briefed the Board on how adequacy aid was developed and how this program does not even come close to providing an adequate education. Superintendent Couture commented on the large

amounts that some of the forty-five towns currently receiving adequacy aid will lose and how this will effect the taxpayers. It is obvious that the majority of towns will not be able to absorb these cuts and thus will be reducing programs and staff. Superintendent Couture distributed copies of a listing of Senators and Representatives serving the various towns within SAU 35 urging the members to contact these individuals expressing their concern over the proposed cuts in adequacy aide. There is also a bill before the house which requests that these cuts be eliminated and the aid frozen at the current levels. A hearing will be held on this in the near future and he urges all who are able to do so to attend this hearing exhibiting their support for this freeze. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture updated the Board on the status of the PACE initiative and the professional staff's ongoing involvement with this program. Our principals and school staffs are fully engaged in the development of assessments for the upcoming year. Superintendent Couture continues to attend monthly meetings in Concord relative to PACE. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Governor Elect Sununu has indicated that he supports school choice. He also has indicated that he feels that this should also apply not only to public schools but private and parochial schools as well which is believed to be unconstitutional. Implementation of this would require a change in the NH Constitution.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the governor has appointed a new Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut. Mr. Edelblut is a businessman but has no educational experience. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that at the November meeting he had presented the legal opinion pertaining to Foreign Trips as outlined by Attorney Boynton. The issue was raised again at last month's meeting by a member not in attendance at the November meeting. Superintendent Couture reiterated that legal counsel advises that the Board should not sanction these trips. The question was raised as to whether this pertains only to Foreign Trips or to all trips which students participate in. Superintendent Couture will seek additional input from Attorney Boynton and report back to the Board.

Superintendent Couture requested that the Board consider seeking an engineering study as to the feasibility of adding a stage in the area of the music room. Currently Profile students practice and present plays at the Lisbon Town Hall. They no longer have the opportunity to use the Colonial Theater or the Littleton Opera House for a number of reasons. Superintendent Couture feels strongly that this would be a positive enhancement to the Profile School. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to direct Superintendent Couture to proceed with this study.

Superintendent Couture recommended the approval of the Paraprofessional Job Description for first reading. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY CHRISTINE ASH, SECONDED BY RICK CHRISTOFFERSEN TO ACCEPT THE PARAPROFESSIONAL JOB DESCRIPTION FOR FIRST READING AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS – No Report

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Jellison called the Board's attention to his written report forwarded to them via e-mail. If there are any questions please let him know.

Principal Jellison advised the Board that the recently approved purchase of a storage container has been completed and the container is on school property. Head Custodian Paul Lehmann will begin the transfer of the stage to this container in the near future.

Principal Jellison revisited the issue he presented last month pertaining to the acquisition of a fifteen passenger bus and the need for Profile to cease using the YLTA bus. Usage of this bus creates a liability issue which is of major concern to Principal Jellison. He also feels that having a bus of this type could enhance the number of students tuitioned to Profile from Concord VT by providing transportation. Principal Jellison has found a bus for lease from W. C. Cressey Co. in Kennebunk, Maine that meets all of his requirements at a lease cost of \$25,236.00 for three years. He would like to pay this upfront for the entire period from the anticipated surplus in the current operating budget. Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY RICK CHRISTOFFERSEN,

SECONDED BY MICHAEL CULVER TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF A FIFTEEN PASSENGER BUS FOR A COST OF \$25,236.00 FOR THREE YEARS WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM THE CURRENT OPERATING BUDGET AND AUTHORIZE PRINCIPAL JELLISON TO SIGN THE LEASE AGREEMENT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE:

Lynn Terres advised the Board that there are no policies for first reading this month.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

It was noted that Business Manager Peabody was not in attendance due to family issues.

Superintendent Couture briefed the Board on the proposed warrant articles for the March meeting. The Support Staff Contract and Budget Articles will be presented in that order. Superintendent Couture requested approval of the beginning balance at this time to enable the Business Manager to complete the necessary reports. Following a brief discussion, it was determined that the Board would like a beginning balance of \$300,000.00. MOTION BY CHRISTINE ASH, SECONDED BY APRIL HIBBERD TO APPROVE THE BEGINNING BALANCE FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR AT \$300,000.00. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Couture further requested Board approval of the 2017-2018 proposed budget in the amount of \$6,111,029.00. A decision was tabled until later in the meeting.

MOTION BY APRIL HIBBERD, SECONDED BY RICK CHRISTOFFERSEN TO ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION AT 7:05 PM PER RSA 91A:3 I, II TO DISCUSS PERSONAL AND BENEFIT ISSUES TAKING SUPERINTENDENT COUTURE, PRINCIPAL JELLISON. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CHRISTINE ASH, SECONDED BY APRIL HIBBERD TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 7:40 PM. ALL IN FAVOR FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY APRIL HIBBERD, SECONDED BY RICK CHRISTOFFERSEN TO APPROVE THE AUTHORIZATION OF A NON-PRECEDENT SETTING EARLY RETIRMENT OPTION AS RECOMMENDED FOLLOWING FURTHER REVIEW BY LEGAL COUNSEL. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY RICK CHRISTOFFERSEN, SECONDED BY APRIL HIBBERD TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,111,029.00. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, MOTION BY CHRISTINE ASH, SECONDED BY APRIL HIBBERD TO ADJOURN AT 7:45 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk