

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2016
Barnet School**

Members in Attendance: Louis Bushey, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Sue Roberts, Jim Schenck, David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Superintendent Mathew Forest
Members of the public: Jackie, Sarah, Rose, Jody

There was no Executive Session for this meeting.

7:32 pm The public portion of the meeting was called to order by Chair Louis Bushey.

Approval of Minutes

December 14, 2015 - The minutes of the December 14, 2015 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Sue Roberts and seconded by David Warden to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. **Approved**

Public Input

-There was discussion regarding Act 46, Act 153, and Act 156 and Louis Bushey explained some of the steps being taken to date. There was a question whether Barnet has chosen a group to join with yet. Act 153 allows for a Regional Education District, or RED, side by side that CCSU is exploring. Danville is on one side, pre-K through 12, and is talking with Cabot and Twinfield about merging. Barnet is on the other side, pre-K through 8, and is talking with Walden, Peacham, and Waterford about merging. There was discussion on the budget cap and penalty. Legislature is meeting this week to revisit the budget cap. There was a question on the proposed maintenance and food service consolidation and the loss of local control for those items. Superintendent Forest explained this is not due to Act 46 but is part of an effort to increase efficiency within the SU.

Administrative Reports

-Business Manager’s Report. There was nothing new to add to the budget; the Board approved the budget at the January 4th meeting. At that meeting, a list of cuts were presented by Principal Gonyaw and Louis Bushey went through the list for the members of the public. The Board voted unanimously not to support any of the proposed cuts.

-Principal’s Report. There were no questions on this report.

-Superintendent Report. Superintendent Forest urged community members and School Board members to contact their legislators regarding Act 46 and the budget cap. This week is a critical week in Legislature and legislators need to hear from community members regarding their school budgets. There was discussion regarding the food service and maintenance consolidation proposals. The CCSU Board discussed having a director of buildings and grounds. Currently there is no one to oversee this; however, having a buildings and grounds director is not feasible at this time. The Education Quality Standards, which all schools will be evaluated on, requires that building principals minimize their supervision of non-educational personnel. One option is to utilize Barnet’s and Danville’s facilities directors in a different way. Superintendent Forest has discussed with both Mike Bigelow of Barnet and Marvin Withers of Danville the possibility of them taking on responsibilities at Peacham and Walden. Mike could supervise custodial staff at Peacham and Marvin could supervise custodial staff at Walden. Duties such as overseeing projects and ordering supplies could be split between the two of them. Principals would still need

to be involved. Having the maintenance staff within the SU communicating will be a good thing. The proposed food service director would coordinate purchasing with all schools and handle paperwork. This would free up the cooks to cook. Each school would still have flexibility with menu planning. Food service personnel would become CCSU personnel. This would reduce hours for food service personnel.

-Curriculum Coordinator’s Report. There were no questions on this report.

-Special Services Report. Superintendent Forest mentioned at other Board meetings, discussions regarding Special Education and ways to cut costs have occurred. Out of district placements are being looked at. CCSU will be looking into an in-house program to replace the out of district placements. There was discussion on what this might look like. It was suggested that the programs used now for out of district placements be looked at to see if they are working.

New Business

-Primary Observations Assessments. Principal Gonyaw shared information regarding the assessments, which were done in December by K through 2nd grade students. The Leveled Literacy Intervention program was used. In Kindergarten, the majority of students exceeded standards for spelling, sentence dictation, writing vocabulary, and word text. In 1st grade, the majority of students met or exceeded standards for writing vocabulary, sentence dictation, concepts of print, letter identification, and work text. Second grade students also met or exceeded standards for their assessments. This may be expanded to include 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades as well.

-Policy Adoption. The recommended policies of the Vermont School Board were discussed in December but not voted on. There was some concern with the development of the procedures in most cases falls on administrators and the Superintendent. There will be an appeal process that will involve Board members at some point.

Personnel

- B7 – Tobacco Prohibition
- B9 – Personnel Recruitment, Selection & Background Checks
- B10 – Professional Development
- B11 – Complaints About Personnel
- B12 – Personnel Files
- B13 – Resignations
- B14 – Employee Conflict of Interest
- B16 – Sports Coaches Policy

A motion was made by Jim Schenck recommending Personnel policies B.7, B.9 through B.14, and B16 be adopted as written with the additions recommended by CCSU and these policies supersede any local policies currently in place. The motion was seconded by Sue Roberts and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

Approved

Students

- C11 – Student Conduct & Discipline
- C12 – Search & Seizure of Students by School Personnel
- C13 – Student Activities (Elementary)
- C14 – Student Clubs & Activities (Secondary)
- C15 – Interscholastic Sports
- C16 – Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students
- C17 – Tuition Payment

- C18 – Student Self-Expression & Distribution
- C19 – Admission of Resident Students
- C20 – 18 Year Old Students

A motion was made by Jim Schenck recommending Students policies C.11 through C.20 be adopted as written with the additions recommended by CCSU and these policies supersede any local policies currently in place. The motion was seconded by Sue Roberts and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

Instruction

- D6 – Curriculum Development & Coordination
- D7 – Tiered System of Supports
- D8 – Selecting Library Materials
- D9 – Selecting Instructional Materials

A motion was made by Jim Schenck recommending Instruction policies D.6 through D.9 be adopted as written with the additions recommended by CCSU and these policies supersede any local policies currently in place. The motion was seconded by David Warden and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

Non-Instructional Operations

- E1 – Fiscal Management
- E2 – Electronic Communications Use & Retention
- E3 – Emergency Closings
- E4 – School Crisis Prevention & Response/Bomb Threats
- E5 – Bids, Contracts & Purchases
- E6 – Fund Balance
- E7 – Subrecipient Monitoring

A motion was made by Jim Schenck recommending Non-Instructional Operations policies E.1 through E.7 be adopted as written with the additions recommended by CCSU and these policies supersede any local policies currently in place. The motion was seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

School-Community Relations

- F2 – Community Use of School Facilities
- F3 – Distribution of Non-School Sponsored Materials in School
- F4 – School-Community Relations

A motion was made by Jim Schenck recommending School-Community Relations policies F.2 through F.4 be adopted as written with the additions recommended by CCSU and these policies supersede any local policies currently in place. The motion was seconded by Sue Roberts and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

Old Business

-Act 46 Update. Superintendent Forest is testifying before both House and Senate Education committees on Tuesday regarding high spending thresholds and allowable growth. On January 25th, a meeting is being held with Barnet, Peacham, Walden, Waterford, and perhaps Concord to discuss the pre-K through 8 side of the proposed RED side by side merger. A consultant has been hired to facilitate discussions. Waterford has expressed interest in working with Barnet but nothing is firm yet. The Peacham Board is still interested in doing a walk-through of both

schools; Superintendent Forest will set something up. Superintendent Forest said that in discussions with the consultant, it appears Peacham and Barnet would not have to merge before Peacham could become a part of the RED. This would limit Peacham’s middle school choice to the schools within the side by side.

-Transportation. Robert Farlice-Rubio shared with the Board an update from the Select Board regarding the bridge issue that JPI brought to the Board in December. The bridges are inspected by AOT every two years, and the bridge in question passed inspection the last time. The Select Board could request the bridge be inspected again before the next scheduled inspection. There was discussion regarding cold weather procedures. In the past, bus drivers would beep the horn at the bus stop so children don’t have to stand out in the cold waiting for their bus. Jodie said recently the bus zoomed right by the bus stop if children were not outside waiting. Principal Gonyaw said if that should happen again, he should be called and the bus would be sent back out to pick up students.

Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

Future Agenda Items

- Busing Policy
- Staff Updates
- Act 46 Discussion
- Discussions with Peacham

Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by David Warden to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman

Ellen Hinman, Meeting Recorder