

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

Members in Attendance: Louis Bushey, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Sue Roberts, Jim Schenck, David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw

- 7:00 pm The meeting was called to order by Chair Louis Bushey.
- 7:01 pm A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Sue Roberts to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and a student issue. **Approved**
- 7:10 pm A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to exit Executive Session; no action was taken. **Approved**
- 7:35 pm The public portion of the meeting was called to order by Chair Louis Bushey. Ellen Hinman joined the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

February 8, 2016 - A motion was made by Sue Roberts and seconded by Jim Schenck to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2016 Barnet School Board meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. **Approved**

February 8, 2016 Special Meeting - A motion was made by Sue Roberts and seconded by Jim Schenck to approve the February 8, 2016 Barnet School Board special meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. **Approved**

February 15, 2016 Special Meeting - A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to approve the February 15, 2016 Barnet School Board special meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. **Approved**

March 14, 2016 Special Meeting - A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Sue Roberts to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2016 Barnet School Board joint meeting with the Peacham School Board as written. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. **Approved**

Public Input

Robert Patenaude joined the meeting. He asked the School Board if there were any funds available from the school to help cover the cost of sending his grandson to a college course in the spring. The cost for the course is roughly \$3,100 and would provide two college credits. Louis Bushey suggested contacting VSAC; Mr. Patenaude did contact VSAC and submitted paperwork but has not heard anything. NEK Human Services could possibly provide \$250 towards the expense. Principal Gonyaw suggested contacting the Good Neighbor Program as well. Information was sent to Andrea Wasson at CCSU. Woodsville High School was contacted but there was some question on whether the course is legitimate. The Board requested more information from Mr. Patenaude and asked him to return to the May meeting to discuss the request further.

Administrative Reports

-Principal's Report. Principal Gonyaw recognized the work of Cindy Mosedale, Sue Persson, and

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Beverly McCarthy with the Vermont Creative Schools Initiative (CSI) project and Val Gombas for work on costumes. Barnet School will be on WCAX’s cool schools segment on the morning news. Principal Gonyaw asked for a School Board member to be on the hiring committee; Sue Roberts volunteered. SBAC testing is coming in May. Work is being done on ways to make the most of the testing situation. During the week of testing, from 8:30 to 10:00 there will be an open snack bar for students and Mr. Bogie will be in the gym in case students need some down time. Some students test better in a smaller setting and some test better in their classrooms so there will be more choices offered to students to accommodate this as well.

-Special Services Report. There was a question from David Warden regarding high school requirements and special education. David was concerned about students in the S.U. graduating from the Cornerstone School and whether these students are really ready to graduate. Bobby Farlice-Rubio asked about the personal learning plans. Principal Gonyaw reported that Barnet is experimenting with PLPs this year and will be jumping into it next year. The PLPs are only a requirement for grades 8 to 12 but Barnet will be starting with 5th grade. Staff will be working with students to select a goal and learn how to accomplish that goal. Students will be working with an adult mentor on their goal and building some independence as well.

New Business

Jim Schenck asked about the VSBA training on “Negotiating the New VEHI Plans” scheduled for April 18th. There was discussion on whether someone from the Board should attend and how much negotiating the Board would be doing anyway. Following discussion, it was decided that Jim Schenck would attend this training on April 18th.

Old Business

-Bus Route. There was discussion regarding the bridge on Joe’s Brook Road and whether the bus should be taking this route. The bus company has not taken any action regarding the route. According to the Select Board, the bridge is inspected by VTrans every other year and passed inspection last year. There was discussion regarding any extra cost for sending the bus on this route; it was not on the original bus route but a family has moved in that needs transportation. If Wild Leek Lane is used as a turn around, it was suggested some signage might be a good idea. A motion was made by Jim Schenck that the bus company be instructed to add the additional student to the route on Joe’s Brook Road and that extra compensation for that is not necessary due to previous changes to the bus route over the last year. The motion was seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio and passed unanimously with no further discussion.

Approved

-Act 46 Discussions. It was mentioned that Concord, Lunenburg, and Waterford have been invited to join the CNSU merger group. Barnet has not heard from Waterford since that happened. There was discussion on whether the RED side by side could be formed without adding Waterford. The next Act 46 merger group meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Waterford School.

-Options for Peacham. The Peacham School Board is looking at different options at their meeting tonight to see if any of them are appealing. If they pick one that involves Barnet, the two School Boards should get together and discuss that. Principal Gonyaw mentioned that it would be challenging to be the principal of Peacham and Barnet. If that is the route Peacham decides on, he is willing to work with someone at Peacham School. Principal Gonyaw and Barnet staff met to discuss the idea of sharing staff. Superintendent Forest joined the meeting at 8:20 p.m. from the Peacham meeting. He reported that the Peacham School Board is interested in advertising for a Dean of Students for Peacham School and not involve Barnet. If hired, the Dean of Students would be the lead administrator

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in the building. Peacham is interested in discussions with Barnet regarding merger options down the road and looking at the bigger picture, if Barnet is still interested. Principal Gonyaw suggested it would be nice to have an end goal in sight and discuss what would work best to get Barnet to that end goal. Superintendent Forest said the relationship between Peacham and Barnet needs to be discussed and suggested holding joint meetings or carousel meetings with Peacham to start those discussions and involve the community in the meetings. Following discussions, a meeting was scheduled for **Monday, March 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Barnet School**; Superintendent Forest will inform the Peacham School Board.

Other Business

-FY2016/2017 Staffing List. The proposed staffing list was discussed. Jim Schenck asked if there would be more teachers in the building next year than there are this year. Principal Gonyaw said no and the FTE would go down by .1 FTE. A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by David Warden to approve the FY2016/2017 staffing list as presented by the Principal. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

-There was discussion regarding the letter dated April 5, 2016 from Superintendent Forest and Louis Bushey regarding staffing arrangements between Barnet and Peacham. The letter was posted on Facebook and on the Barnet School web page. The letter was written in response to community concerns following the Peacham School Board meeting where sharing staff with Barnet was discussed.

-Tuition Issue. There was discussion regarding the request from a parent for tuition to Barnet School and the residence of the family. A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by David Warden to deny the tuition request on the basis that the family does not reside in Barnet. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

-School Board participation in Graduation. There was discussion regarding which School Board member would speak at graduation. Sue Roberts will be speaking anyway and it was decided she could also speak on behalf of the Board.

-School Calendar. There was discussion regarding the school calendar and whether a day off for staff should be added in October. Following discussion, a motion was made by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to approve the FY2016/2017 school calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Schenck and passed on a voice vote of two ayes, one nay, and one abstention. **Approved**

Future Agenda Items

- Act 46 Discussion
- Candidates for the job openings

Adjournment

A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio and seconded by Sue Roberts to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman, Meeting Recorder