

Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10th, 2015
Barnet School

Members in Attendance: Robert Farlice-Rubio, Shellie Samuels, Mary Skovsted, David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Superintendent Mat Forest

6:05pm

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shellie Samuels.

A motion was made by Mary Skovsted and seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to enter Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of Superintendent Mat Forest. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved

6:20pm

At this time, the meeting was joined by Louis Bushey.

6:35pm

A motion was made by Bobby Farlice-Rubio and seconded by Mary Skovsted to exit Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Dave Warden to approve the minutes of the January 13th, 2015 meeting without amendments. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

Approved

Public Input

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Administrative Reports

After distributing copies of the administrative reports and budget, Superintendent Mat Forest brought the Board's attention to the addendum in the Financial Report regarding the availability of funds from the State of Vermont Food Service Equipment Grant.

In discussing the various ways the Barnet School could use the \$3,500 in matching funds, Mat Forest emphasized the urgent need for new software in managing expenses and student accounts for Barnet School's Food Service program. Principal Shawn Gonyaw described the great daily difficulty in using the current software, and the

repeated unanswered requests for service and support from the software's manufacturer. Bobby Farlice-Rubio asked Mat Forest about the price of new software, and Dr. Forest replied with an estimate of roughly \$8,000. Mat Forest then added that this cost could be for the entire Supervisory Union, and Barnet's share would be a proportional fraction of that amount.

In reference to the Principal's Report, Shawn Gonyaw noted that the Playground Committee had nearly completed the grant application process for an expected combined total of \$160,000 in funds from the Vermont Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Esden Fund. Chair Shellie Samuels reminded the Board that only the interest generated by the Esden Fund could be used. Principal Shawn Gonyaw commended the Playground Committee members for their excellent work. Shawn Gonyaw informed the Board that one important stipulation of the VT LWCF grant was a permanent conservation easement for the land affected by the playground project. Principal Gonyaw added that the easement rules were flexible enough to accommodate any foreseeable additions or expansions of the Barnet School building.

In reference to the Superintendent's Report, Mat Forest directed the Board's attention to the upcoming Central Caledonia Supervisory Union Open House on Monday, February 16th, 2015, from 4pm to 7pm at the CCSU Office in Danville. Superintendent Forest mentioned the fact that this event was sponsored by the four school's Parent Teacher Associations, and that it was well publicized with advertising in the Caledonian Record newspaper, etc.

Mat Forest informed the Board that he had received a petition from parents wishing to have the Jenks Studio reinstated as the designated photographer for school portraits. Dr. Forest acknowledged the great dissatisfaction with the Lifetouch photography session during this current school year, but added that the low price of their services made portraits affordable for families who previously had not been able to purchase school pictures. Mat Forest stated that the future hiring of photography services will emphasize a desire for local businesses, and will be open to bids from all companies, including Jenks Studio. Mat Forest mentioned that many local businesses had already presented affordable and desirable offers, and that he expected the formal bidding process to occur in the spring. At that time, Mat Forest would inform the public about the winning bidder and present, in a document, the rationale for their selection.

In reference to the Curriculum Coordinator's Report, Shellie Samuels asked about when students would begin taking the new Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) standardized test. Shawn Gonyaw replied that the testing would begin in mid-March, but that the nature of the test did not require a specific completion date: some students could work on the test one piece at a time, others could take it all at once. Bobby Farlice-Rubio commented that this methodology would surely be a great relief to those students who are made anxious by intensive standardized testing.

Prompted by the Special Services Report, Shellie Samuels asked Shawn Gonyaw to explain the policy regarding work duties for any paraprofessionals who work with a student that subsequently sustains a prolonged absence. Shawn Gonyaw replied

that such paraprofessionals are temporarily reassigned to other duties around the school until his or her student returns from said prolonged absence.

New Business

Chair Shellie Samuels directed the Board to consider the preparations necessary for the upcoming Barnet Town Meeting on March 3rd, 2015, and the preceding explanatory meeting on February 24th, 2015. The Board discussed various events and locations at which the budget could be presented and explained to Barnet voters. Shellie Samuels listed Senior Meal Sites and Barnet Public Library's Story Hour as potential opportunities; Louis Bushey added Cribbage Tournament Night at the Lakeview Grange, and David Warden offered the Grange meetings as another chance to present the budget. Mary Skovsted mentioned that the slides for the accompanying "Powerpoint" presentation should be made publicly available prior to the Town Meeting.

The Board agreed to schedule a brief meeting on Tuesday, February 24th, 2015 at 6:30pm, immediately before the "Pre-Town Meeting" which begins at 7pm. Louis Bushey reminded the Board that this meeting would need to be publicly warned. Shawn Gonyaw emphasized the fact that the Barnet Town Meeting itself would have free child care provided by the Jazzy Children's Fund as a way to encourage more parents to participate.

Old Business

Chair Shellie Samuels declared that there were no items of Old Business that were in need discussion of this time.

Other Business

Superintendent Mat Forest informed the Board that recent Vermont legislation regarding school consolidation was likely to have an effect on the CCSU, and particularly on the future of the Peacham and Barnet Schools. Mat Forest wanted the Board to have this topic on the next meeting's agenda to allow the public to hear about possible solutions to this issue. Louis Bushey reminded Mat Forest that March's meeting would feature at least two newly elected School Directors, and that it would perhaps be preferable to have this topic featured in the meeting to be held on April 7th, 2015. Mat Forest also expressed his intention of having the School Board conduct a second reading of the newly drafted CCSU Financial Policy.

At this time, Superintendent Forest stepped out of the room to allow the Board to discuss his evaluation in a second Executive Session.

7:36pm

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to enter a second Executive Session to evaluate Superintendent Mat Forest. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved

8:26pm

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to exit Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved

A motion was made by Louis Bushey and seconded by Bobby Farlice-Rubio to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobby Farlice-Rubio, Board Clerk