

**Barnet School Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 14, 2015  
Barnet School**

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**Members in Attendance:** Louis Bushey, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Sue Roberts, Jim Schenck, David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Superintendent Mathew Forest, Business Manager Pat Amsden

- 7:05 pm        The meeting was called to order by Chair Louis Bushey.
- 7:07 pm        A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations. **Approved**
- 7:17 pm        A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to exit Executive Session. **Approved**
- 7:33 pm        The public portion of the meeting was called to order by Chair Louis Bushey. Superintendent Forest, Pat Amsden, Andrea Wasson, Joyce Evans, Mike Bigelow, Paula Ingerson (JPI), Tiffany Barnes (JPI), Matthew Charron (JPI), Kevin Bressette (JPI), and Ellen Hinman joined the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**November 9, 2015** - The minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by Sue Roberts to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. **Approved**

**Public Input**

Andrea Wasson has been handling some bus issues from the Central Office. A bus stop change has been requested by a parent. JPI has concerns regarding a bridge crossing on this route and with turning around at the family’s house. The Board said the bridge issue should be brought to the Select Board. Changing the bus stop would be up to the School Board. An issue on another route which has many stops within a short distance was discussed. JPI requested there be only one stop. There was discussion regarding the bus turning around at the Bigelow house; there is concern with that driveway not always being plowed and with liability issues having children waiting for the bus there. Mike Bigelow suggested using his parents’ driveway as the stop and will discuss this further with the families involved. The bridge issue was tabled until the Select Board was brought into the discussion and evaluated the safety of the bridge.

**Administrative Reports**

-Business Manager’s Report. Pat Amsden presented the draft budget for 2016/2017. The total budget is up 7% from last year; salaries and health insurance account for much of that increase. There was discussion on the cost of replacing door locks. David Warden asked why the facilities committee was not made aware of this issue. The locks are not working properly and is a safety issue; Principal Gonyaw asked if the facilities committee would be making decisions on safety issues. Mike Bigelow has been working on existing locks to make them work until they can be replaced. There was discussion of spending some of the anticipated surplus for this year on lock replacement. A motion was made by David Warden and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to replace the locks as soon as possible. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

There was discussion on keys and having a master key. There was discussion on the facilities

committee and whether that committee should meet to discuss the lock issue. This committee is advisory to the Board and meetings should be warned and recorded. Sue Roberts mentioned her son Jeff is interested in being part of the facilities committee.

Revenues were discussed. Some numbers are not yet available so last year's figures were used. The tax rate will be down from FY2015 but with the anticipated penalty added it will be about 5% higher than the FY2016 rate.

There was discussion on the proposed food service consolidation. This budget is based on the scenario of having a centralized food services director. Joyce Evans expressed concern that Barnet's food service staff would have hours cut if a food services director is hired.

The warnings for Town Meeting were discussed. The amount of the budget, cost per pupil, and how much that cost per pupil is increasing needs to be in the warning.

There was discussion on whether another meeting is needed to discuss the budget before Pat Amsden leaves for vacation on January 8<sup>th</sup>. A more detailed budget will be needed before then. There was discussion on what line items could be taken out of this budget and done using the anticipated surplus. Superintendent Forest reminded the Board the cost of the roof is to come out of that anticipated surplus. Principal Gonyaw was asked to look at the budget and come up with options to lower it. Cuts for items such as tuition costs and CCSU costs cannot be cut, so that would leave staff and program cuts.

-Principal's Report. Barnet kindergarten, first, and second grades are working on POA. The students are doing extremely well. Many are exceeding standards in reading for those grades.

-Superintendent Report. There were no questions on this report.

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

-Special Services Report. There were no questions on this report.

### **New Business**

-Budget. There was nothing else to discuss regarding budget.

-Request from Peacham School Board. Superintendent Forest reported the Peacham School Board has requested a walk-through be done of both schools with both School Boards. Peacham is interested in doing a joint study grant to explore a merger with Barnet. Board members agreed to do this and requested the building administrators be present for the walk-through as well as teaching staff representation. Superintendent Forest agreed the building administrators should be present and will work on setting something up as soon as possible.

-Policy Adoption. There was discussion on the proposed policies. Sue Roberts asked if C13 and C15 were existing policies; they are. Superintendent Forest explained the policies are very broad and the procedures will be developed to be more specific. Procedures will be included in the student handbook. Adoption of the policies was tabled until the January meeting.

### **Old Business**

-Act 46 Update. Louis Bushey attended the meeting put on by the ECSU in early December. ECSU Superintendent Clark proposes forming a large pre-K through 8 district. There are 11 or 12 schools that could be in this district. Louis thought the idea was not well received at the ECSU Board level. Waterford is still interested in working with Barnet and being part of the study grant. Superintendent Forest mentioned a contractor who might be appropriate to do the study grant work. Twinfield and Cabot are using this person and it might be helpful to have the same person working on all the grant projects.

-Roof Project Update. There was nothing new to report on the roof project.

-Solar Project Update. Mike Bigelow presented information regarding solar at Barnet School. He

met with Solaflect, a company from White River Junction. An energy audit was done and Barnet was rated 91%, which indicates this is a good location for solar panels. Three ground-mounted, rotating panels are proposed; panels are made to order, would take a year to produce, and would cost about \$60,000. The company does all permitting, construction, and maintenance. The Board discussed making this a community project. A committee consisting of Mike Bigelow, Robert Farlice-Rubio, Jim Schenck, Sue Roberts, and members of the facilities committee will explore the project further. The Board thanked Mike for his work on this project.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Budget Discussions
- Recommended Policies Adoption
- Busing Policy
- Staff Updates
- Act 46 Discussion
- Discussions with Peacham

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Jim Schenck and seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio to enter Executive Session to discuss a parent request and negotiations. The motion passed unanimously and Executive Session began at 9:43 pm. **Approved**

A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio and seconded by Jim Schenck to exit Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously and Executive Session ended at 9:50 pm. **Approved**

A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio to approve a parent request to allow a pre-schooler to finish the school year at Barnet and possibly collect tuition from St Johnsbury. The family plans to return to Barnet by the beginning of next school year. The motion was seconded by Jim Schenck and passed unanimously with no further discussion. **Approved**

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Robert Farlice-Rubio and seconded by Jim Schenck to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ellen Hinman*

Ellen Hinman, Meeting Recorder