

Woodbury School Board Meeting

Minutes UNAPPROVED

November 4, 2008

Board Members Present: Chris Casey; Lindsay Whalen; Retta Dunlap, Chair; Judy Sassi.

Administration Present: Michaela Martin, Principal; Mark Andrews, Co-Superintendent.

Community Members Present: Mike McGlynn; Lisa Silk; Kim Silk; Susan Martin; Merton Silk; Jason Thompson; Robin Grant; Ted Tedesco; Cacky Peltz.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:58pm.
2. Mark provided an update concerning the situation at the OSSU offices. The building housing the OSSU offices was badly damaged by fire and is currently not usable by the staff. The OSSU staff is working out of Hardwick Elementary School right now. Temporary office space in the Daniels Building in Hardwick may be used in the near future. Mark reported that nearly everything was damaged in the fire. Fortunately, personnel records received only smoke damage. Computer hard drives have been recovered and record recovery from the hard drives is underway. Mark will keep us posted regarding the situation.
3. Consent Agenda: Lindsay made a motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Chris and passed unanimously.
There was some discussion regarding the availability of the School Board Meeting minutes to the community. Michaela reported that the minutes are posted at the school. Some discussion was made regarding the possibility of uploading the minutes to the school's website so community members could view the minutes more easily.
4. Monitoring Reports:
 - a. The Pledge:
Michaela reported to the board that the faculty and staff met on October 21st to discuss the pledge. In a desire to recognize and honor the wishes of community members as reflected by the 300 plus signatures on a petition to make the Pledge of Allegiance a part of the school-day routine, the faculty and staff voted to make the pledge a part of each school day. In addition to the ongoing recitation of the pledge at the weekly meetings and the educational component added to classroom instruction, the pledge will be recited each day at 7:55am in the auditorium of the school. Michaela said the pledge would be led each day by a volunteer from the sixth grade. A staff member would be on-hand to supervise. Students would be led from their classrooms to the auditorium where the pledge would be recited.

Any children disinclined to say the pledge for religious or philosophical reasons would remain in the classroom during the recitation of the pledge.

Although the first school board meeting of the month is a business meeting without a provision for community input, in light of the wishes of community members present to comment, the Chair permitted community comments. Some members of the community felt that the pledge should be recited in the classroom, not in the auditorium. There was concern that the staff may not be conscientious about getting the children to the auditorium. There was some concern that going to the auditorium was disruptive to the class day structure.

Retta pointed out that the petition specifically stated that those who signed the petition desired "...that the Pledge of Allegiance be made a part of the school-day routine." The plan as described by Michaela would make the pledge a daily occurrence. Retta further pointed out that the parents who wanted their children to say the pledge should make sure that Michaela and the teachers knew the wishes of the parents. She also said the teachers should abide by the wishes of the parents. In recognition of the concerns of the community members present, board members felt the plan as described by Michaela should be given an opportunity to work. If there were problems with the implementation of the plan, then this discussion would have to be revisited and the plan revised.

Chris made a motion that the board supported the decision of the staff to incorporate recitation of the pledge into the school day routine as requested by the petition. Lindsay seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

b. Differentiation of Instruction

Michaela provided a detailed overview of differentiation of instruction. This process involves daily, weekly, and monthly monitoring of each child's progress. Michaela and the staff have completed numerous hours of professional development designed to make the implementation of the program possible throughout the school.

c. Leadership Development

Mark noted that Michaela is the educational leader at the school. As such, she is required to attend numerous workshops related to curriculum development, alignment of the curriculum, etc. Michaela then brings this information to WES and makes sure of implementation. WES is such a small school that responsibility for attending these meetings cannot be divided with other staff members which means Michaela is sometimes absent from the school. In terms of the superintendent's office, Mark again mentioned the general upheaval the office is experiencing as a result of the recent fire.

5. Board Discussion/Action Items:

a. Policy Governance: Next steps

Mark recommended a professional development opportunity for the board that would provide additional information regarding policy governance. He mentioned that July 1, 2010 seemed a realistic goal for development of a set of ends policies for the school.

b. FY09 First Quarter budget summary

Mark gave an overview of the budget for the first quarter.

c. FY10 Budget Development

The board decided that the next meeting should provide an opportunity for community members to mention specific concerns they had about the budget. Obviously these would be of a more general nature, but it would give the board an idea of where community concerns lie. On December 2, a draft budget with all fixed costs could be provided to the board. The board, Michaela, and Rita Davis, the business manager, would then go over the budget and provide the board with information regarding the budget as a whole. The second December meeting would again allow for community comments and, hopefully, the board could address some of the issues raised by the community in November.

6. Executive Session: Teacher Negotiations

Lindsay made a motion to enter executive session to discuss teacher negotiations, seconded by Chris.

Entered executive session 8:13pm

Executive session ended at 9:07pm

7. Chris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lindsay. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.