

Woodbury School Board Minutes, September 1st, 2009, 6p.m.

Board Members Present; Dana Maxfield, Monty Shatney, Lindsay Whalen, Chris Casey, Dan Brush.

Administration Present; Mark Andrews, Superintendent & Sharon Fortune, Principal.

Community Members Present; Kim Silk, Vail Leach, Lisa Silk.

Hardwick Gazette Reporter Tom Gardener was also present.

A Motion to amend the agenda was made by Chris to discuss the taking of minutes, Seconded by Monty. A friendly amendment was made by Dan to also add the July 7th minutes to the agenda which was accepted. A discussion on the motion ensued regarding the taking of the minutes and the decision was made to keep the status quo.

Monty then made another motion to amend the minutes to include Tess Martins contract which amended her pay status to a single pay rate, as she is now only performing one job as administrative assistant and no longer performing the combined positions. This will increase her pay by several hundred dollars a year. Motion seconded by Dan, Passed.

Dan had a question regarding the escrow account and money which had been withdrawn from it recently. Mark said that it was used to pay for the school lighting upgrade and he would give us a full report/ update on it at our next meeting. It was also noted that no money can be moved from this fund without the vote and consent of the school board.

Consent agenda unanimously accepted.

The board then entered into a discussion about the board workshop from last month with Winton Goodrich from the Vermont School Boards Assn.

Chris suggested that we prioritize our lists and come to a mutually agreed plan of attack at a future meeting and wondered if we should be looking at policy governance, and if it would be to much of a time drain with the other work we have before us.

The Board agreed that Chris as the chair, should have the right to voice his opinions and vote. We are a small board and don't feel that this is an issue as it sometimes is with larger boards.

Our list of issues to prioritize is;

- Select a board member to be on the OSSU Action Plan Team
- Figure out how to get the minutes and agenda's on the school website
- How to educate the town about the complaint procedures used at the school
- To establish teacher/ student presentations on programs, establishing ends first and monitoring the outcomes.
- Discuss a School Board code of conduct
- What do we want to do with policy governance

- We should establish a procedure to compare our policies to the ones on the VSBA website and update ours to be aligned with theirs.

Build a Board Work calendar;

This was a good discussion, and we all quickly realized how much of a difference this will make in planning our work for the future and we will start building it immediately. Sharon will come up with the presentations schedule and we all agreed to present our ideas/ thoughts at the next meeting.

Superintendent Updates

Sharon reported a positive reception for the first two days of school and Mark discussed the new OSSU- wide teacher evaluation process which is called “Framework for Teaching”.

Mark then updated us on the year end summary report. We are currently running a negative \$31,020.03 in the 2009 budget. Mark also informed us that our school is now benefitting greatly from ARRA grant money in the form of Karen Weeks who the OSSU hired and is now spending much of her time in Woodbury.

Questions from the Community

Kim Silk had a question regarding the minutes at the Town Clerks Office, Dan said that they will be signed as they are approved and that should eliminate some of the confusion that Kim was rightly pointing out regarding the proper identification of minutes as to their being official or not.

Kim also expressed concern for our Fire Alarm system at the school. The system at the school is fine but the connection from the building to the street needs upgrading. FairPoint Communications is not properly upgrading their equipment so alarms do not always go through. This is a statewide problem. Sharon is going to be looking into it.

Our next meeting is the 13th of Oct. and will be at Lakeview Union, a carousel meeting, dinner first and then our meeting after the carousel. Concerns were expressed about not getting enough work done in Oct. so we will have another meeting at the end of the month if needed.

Debrief. All seemed happy with the way the meeting went, with there being a good discussion about outcomes their presentation to the school board and community along with thoughts on how to communicate that there is more to the education of our children than just the test scores. Sharon will give us a presentation when we get the data sets in that she’s waiting for.

Monty motion to adjourn, Lindsay seconded @ 7:53