

Chittenden Central Supervisory Union
Prudential Committee School Board Meeting
Albert D. Lawton School
Essex Junction, VT
6PM, Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Board Members Present: Dan Overton, Beth Ward, Linda Waite-Simpson, Charlee Day

Administrators Present: Mike Deweese, Judy Prince, Brian Donahue, Linda Keating, Paul O'Brian, Peter Selikowitz, Bob Clifford, Grant Geisler

The meeting was called to order at 6PM. Dan Overton introduced new committee member Charlee Day.

1. Board reorganization:

Beth Ward moved to nominate Dan Overton as board chair. Motion seconded by Linda Waite-Simpson. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to nominate Beth Ward as vice-chair. Motion seconded by Charlee Day. Motion passed 4-0.

Beth Ward moved to nominate Linda Waite-Simpson as Clerk. Motion seconded by Charlee Day. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to nominate Charlee Day as Assistant Clerk. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. The board chair explained that this new position is being created to provide continuity in the recording process. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to nominate Beth Ward, Dan Overton and Linda Waite-Simpson as representation to the supervisory union board. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to nominate Beth Ward and Dan Overton to the Negotiations Committee. Motion seconded by Charlee Day. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to nominate Beth Ward and Dan Overton to the Unified Union Study Committee. Motion seconded by Charlee Day. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to nominate Charlee Day to the Recreation Advisory Council. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 4-0.

Dan Overton, Board Chair, appointed the following committee members to CCSU Task Team positions:

Building Blocks - Linda Waite-Simpson

Leaders at Work - Dan Overton

Future Framing - Beth Ward and Charlee Day

Dan Overton, Board Chair, appointed the following committee members to the Principal Search Committee:

Linda Waite-Simpson and Beth Ward

Dan Overton, Board Chair, will sit on the Superintendent Evaluation Committee as a member of the CCSU Executive committee.

Dan Overton, Board Chair appointed the following committee members to the joint school district/municipal task force on Facilities:

Marla Durham and Dan Overton

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to appoint Christopher Leopold of Wells, Haug and Leopold as legal counsel for the Prudential Committee. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular Prudential Committee meetings will be set for the second Monday of each month at 6:15PM with 3 meetings to be held in 'carousel format' in conjunction with other CCSU board meetings. Superintendent Deweese recommended that all meetings be held at Albert D. Lawton School. In deference to Marla Durham's absence at tonight's meeting, the locations of future meetings will be determined at our May 8, 2006 meeting.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to authorize the superintendent to accept and administer external grants and funds. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to authorize payment of warrants prior to board approval. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Visitors to be heard:

Ann O'Neil addressed the committee with 2 concerns: she questioned the composition of the principal search committee. Superintendent Dewese stated that we have 7 teachers, 2 support staff, 4 parents and 2 board members ready to begin the interview process on Thursday, April 13, 2006. Mrs. O'Neil distributed a timeline on the holiday complaint submitted to our board last December and asked for agenda time in May to discuss her continuing concerns. Dan Overton stated that someone would meet with her after the meeting to determine how we can accommodate her request.

Chuck Barry - asked the Prudential Committee to encourage district principals to allow holiday parties at our schools.

3. Recreation and Parks Director Report on the Skate Park Site

Peter Selikowitz, Director of Essex Junction Parks and Recreation Department, presented findings from his site study for the proposed skate park. Dan Overton questioned the reversal of Essex Town funding. Citizen Bonnie Carton stated that the Town of Essex had determined that since they were using impact fees for this funding, that they were required to insure that the skate park was located within the Town of Essex. It was noted that the village is located within the Town and Dan Overton encouraged Mrs. Carton to revisit the issue with the Town Selectboard. The site location report is remanded to the Recreation Advisory Council and to Skate the J to determine the best location for the park with the following issues directing the outcome: concerns about long-term maintenance; concerns about long-term cost (including possible skate park attendants); liability issues; 'attractive nuisance' issues. Linda Waite-Simpson requested that administration share this report with Village Trustees and to keep them apprised of the progress.

4. Committee Reports

Unified Union Study Committee - Dan Overton reported that they are making significant progress. They have already completed the transportation policy and review; they have determined class size assumptions for budgeting purposes; and they are beginning to look at the blending of assets and debts. This last issue prompted the Prudential Committee to meet with Village Trustees on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 8PM to begin discussions of space/facility planning. It was decided at the April 11 meeting that the Prudential Committee would host a community-wide forum and invite representatives from 9 groups (PC, Union 46, Westford School District, Unified Union Study Committee, Ad Hoc Municipal Merger Committee, Village Trustees, Town of Essex Select board, Essex Town School District, Vo-tech Directors) to review a space analysis work commissioned by the PC and performed by John Alden of Tyler Scott Architects. This forum is intended to provide a format for all groups to identify assets, discuss needs, to identify the various merger and unification scenarios and to begin planning the potential uses of these community assets. The next Unified Union Study Committee meeting will be held on May 11, 2006.

The Prudential Committee temporarily recessed at 7PM to allow for the public reading and community forum on the proposed CCSU Wellness Policy.

The Prudential Committee meeting recommenced at 8:11PM.

Supervisory Union Board Meeting - Linda Waite-Simpson reported that the SU addressed the first reading of the Wellness Policy, passed the SU budget, approved administrative contracts, renewed Superintendent Deweese's contract, and approved the school calendar.

Task Team Updates:

Future Framing - Beth Ward reported that they will be meeting soon to prepare for the upcoming CCSU Pillars of Planning session on May 31.

Building Blocks - Linda Waite-Simpson reported that this group has been involved in developing a strategic communications plan. Several members took parts of the plan and they are now melding those pieces into a whole. This included an informal inventory of current communication

practices. Their next meeting will include work on the final 'draft' of the strategic communication plan and will include both resource and calendar mapping for presentation to the CCSU Pillars of Planning meeting on May 31.

Leaders at Work - Dan Overton reported that this group will meet soon to commence the superintendent evaluation.

Negotiations Committee: Dan Overton reported that the recently scheduled meeting with the teachers' union representation was cancelled due to illness. The next meeting is scheduled for May 9.

Recreation Advisory Committee - no report.

5. Educational Presentation : NECAP Results

Curriculum Director Linda Keating presented the district's NECAP results. The biggest concern is centered around the effects of poverty on children and learning. The district's School Action Plans will evaluate current initiatives paying particular attention to achievement gaps. The CCSU Pillars of Planning meeting on May 31, 2006 will include a look our district's Continuous Improvement Plan.

6. Consent Agenda

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to approve the consent agenda with minutes from March 13 and April 4, 2006 pulled and leave of absence request removed. Motion seconded by Charlee Day. Motion passed 4-0 with notation that the principals' resignations are accepted with regrets.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to approve corrected minutes of March 13, 2006. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 3-0 (Charlee Day abstained as she was not a member of the Prudential Committee at the time.)

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to accept the minutes of April 4, 2006. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 3-0.

7. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Processing

Wellness Policy - the questions arose about how much additional communication we might want to pursue in light of the negligible parent attendance at tonight's forum. Linda Waite-Simpson reported that she had attended all PTO meetings in conjunction with the One Campus presentations and spoke with approximately 50 parents about the Wellness Policy. Principals have publicized the policy in Friday notes and the policy is publicized on our school web pages as well. It was decided that we would not pursue more rigorous communications at this time, but that Linda would draft a letter to the editor inviting the public to comment at our May 8 meeting.

Holiday Policy - Ann O'Neill's request for agenda time in May. Linda Waite-Simpson has been asked to contact Mrs. O'Neill to clarify the specific areas of concern and report back to administration for response. A specific amount of time will be allowed on the May agenda based upon this information.

Educational Presentation - Social Studies Curriculum and alignment with Essex Town School District initiatives.

Update on kindergarten registrations and report on status of full-day kindergarten program.

Professional Appointments

Board Self-Evaluation

Capital Plan

Committee charge for facility review

Form for the new meeting minutes format

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to enter executive session at 9:20PM to discuss contracts and a student matter. Motion seconded by Beth Ward. Motion passed 4-0.

The Prudential Committee returned to open session at 10:39PM. Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Waite-Simpson
Board Clerk