

Prudential Committee Meeting
Minutes of November 14, 2005
Recreation and Parks Department, 75 Maple Street

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Dan Overton

Board members present: Dan Overton, Beth Ward, Linda Waite-Simpson, Kevin Barber

Administrators present: Mike Deweese, Judith Prince, Brian Donahue, Linda Keating

Visitors to be heard: None

Committee reports:

Unified Union Study Committee

Beth Ward and Dan Overton reported

- The discussion has moved to transportation issues, and Parks and Rec.
- The 1st look at a budget for a unified union was presented and will continue to be discussed
- Timeline for a vote on a unified union has been pushed back. The committee is looking a November 2006 vote
- Next meeting December 1st at 7:00pm Essex High School
- On November 22nd Vermont Commissioner of Education Richard Cate will be meeting with the Essex Town School Board to answer questions

Negotiations:

Dan Overton reported:

- 1st meeting with teachers union December 15
- This is earlier than last negotiations

CCSU:

Linda Waite-Simpson reported that the CCSU district assessment will remain flat this year. Various planning groups are meeting regularly and are continuing toward their goals. The next Pillars of Planning session will be in January 2006.

Building Block Task Team

Linda Waite-Simpson reported

- The communications audit has been completed the focus group component.
- Administration should have an initial report before the end of Dec. and will present findings in January, 2006.

VSBA Conference:

- Both Linda Waite-Simpson and Beth Ward attended and reported that conference was informative. They attended sessions which included a question and answer session with Commissioner Cate.

Crossing Guard and Safety Update: Brian Donahue presented

Krebs and Lansing Consulting Engineers, Inc observed traffic during both drop of pick-up of students in the Holy Family Church parking lot several times. They made the following recommendations.

1. Direct students and bicycles and on foot away from the Holy Family Church parking lot. Students should be directed to use the Lincoln Street sidewalk and crosswalk, which is monitored by a crossing guard; another crossing guard should be stationed at the Holy Family Church parking lot to direct students to the sidewalk.
2. The church parking lot is not suitable for drive-through pick-up and drop off of students because of its remote location and the lack of space for sidewalks and queue lanes.
3. The use of the church parking lot by parents who are parking their vehicles and walking their students to the school could be improved by implementing the following measures
 - a. install a sidewalk with curbed grade separation along the south and a portion of the west side of the church parking lot
 - b. Install a five-foot wide gravel walkway from the church parking lot to the playground of the Summit Street School
 - c. Re-stripe the parking spaces and circulation lanes of the church parking lot
 - d. Continue to enforce the “exit only” circulation pattern for the parking lot exit to Route 2A
4. Vehicle circulation and pedestrian safety would be enhanced by stationing a crossing guard at the church parking lot to enforce the one way exit to Route 2A and the guide students on foot to the new sidewalks

The following cost opinion for the recommended improvements.

5 foot wide gravel walkway	160 feet	\$4,000
5 foot wide paved sidewalk and Curb	200 feet	\$6,800
Parking lot striped and directional arrows	lump sum	\$1,000

This project would not need additional funds from current budget, but some other projects would be put off to a later date.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved and Beth Ward seconded to have Brian Donahue present the recommendations of Krebs and Lansing Consulting Engineers, Inc to the Holy Family Church Council. If they are in agreement, then proceed with the \$11,800 proposal of Krebs and Lansing Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Approved 4-0

Park Street School:

No new information

Educational Presentation:

Linda Keating, Alice Weston, Gail Chase, and Victoria Anelli presented on the Balanced Literacy Initiative. The four presenters spoke about how our schools are attempting to meet all of the students' reading needs. The presentations included the following topics:

- Areas of reading
- Literacy Framework
- Evidence of success from National Reading panel
- Alignment of Priorities
- Implementation Update
- Teacher and Principal Quality
- Professional Development Strand Institute
- Literacy Teams and Teacher leaders
- Monitoring and Reporting Student Performance
- Use of Technology at ADL
- Teacher training on the use of technology in the classroom to enhance instruction
- Technology in Foreign Language
- Future Goals

Budget Guidance Review:

Mike Deweese reported

- That the Special Education Service plan for School year 2006-07 was due in October. This plan is 5% less than the current year.
- The CCSY assessment to our district will be flat even though there is a 5.1% increase in that budget
- The next piece of data we should receive is the BC/BS health insurance 'not to exceed' number

Linda Waite Simpson moved and Beth Ward seconded to continue budget guidance at level program for schools and level tax rate for the Rec and Parks department.

Approved 4-0

Recreation Report:

Mike Deweese reported that the Rec Department's needs assessment is on hold due to a funding question.

The Unified Union Study Committee is questioning what is best for the Rec department should the districts join. This includes looking at various models of a Rec department (under the control of the municipality, under the control of the school district and as an independent agency.)

Policy Review:

The board reviewed policies pertaining to Weapons, Homeless Students, Restrictive Behavioral Interventions, Pupil Privacy Rights and Student Surveys, School Community Relations, and Unexpired Term Fulfillment. The board was able to ask questions regarding these draft policies.

Consent Agenda:

The Minutes from September 14th were pulled from the consent agenda
The Budget Transfer was pulled from the consent agenda

Linda Waite-Simpson moved and Beth Ward seconded to approve the consent agenda with the 9/14 minutes and the Budget Transfer pulled.

Approved 4-0

This approval was for the minutes of September 19th and October 10th; Warrants; and for the Bid award for postage machine for Rec and Park from Pitney Bowes

Linda Waite-Simpson moved and Beth Ward seconded to approve the Budget Transfer of \$10,000 from transportation to personal.

Approved 4-0

Future Agenda items:

Educational presentation
Draft Budget
Traffic Safety
Rec and Parks

Kevin Barber moved and Linda Waite-Simpson seconded to move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 8:40pm

Approved 4-0

Board came out of executive session at 9:00
Board adjourned at 9:01

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Barber, Clerk