

Chittenden Central Supervisory Union
Prudential Committee School Board Meeting
Albert D. Lawton School Cafeteria
September 11, 2006
6:30PM

Board Members Present: Dan Overton, Charlee Day, Beth Ward, Linda Waite-Simpson, Marla Durham (6:40PM)

Administrators Present: Mike Deweese, Judy Prince, Grant Geisler, Bruce Murdough, Bill LaWare

Others Present: Elizia Meskill, Anne O'Neill, Chuck Barry, Jude Ward, Kathy Finnie, Robin Astor Rhodes

Call to order: Dan called the meeting to order at 6:35PM. He extended condolences regarding the recent tragedy at Essex Town Elementary School and also thanked our administrators for their sound choices in the days following the incident.

Visitors to be heard: Chuck Barry asked the Prudential Committee to consider postponing the debate around the holiday and celebrations policy due to the Essex Town Elementary School tragedy.

Capital Expenditure Committee Report: Grant Geisler reported that this committee has met 3 times. He provided the Prudential Committee with a recap of the current capital replacement fund; detail around the current (FY'07) capital improvement plan; and a preview of a proposed plan for FY'08. He also provided details for additional expenditures should voters approve a unified union school district. **Marla Durham moved to accept the committee's report. Beth Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.** The board discussed expediting the installation of security cameras at the entrance of each school. According to Bill LaWare, CCSU Security Director, this installation will require an upgrade to the DVR system located at the high school, as well as a change in cabling so that the Security Department as well as the Essex Police Department will have full capability of monitoring the system by computer. Bruce Murdough suggested that we

move the Fleming roof repairs to FY'08 as it is not considered an urgent repair. **Marla Durham moved to approve an increase to the FY'07 capital plan in the amount of \$227,500 for total expenditure of \$989,500.** **Beth Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.** Marla Durham requested that the Capital Expenditure Committee Report meet once more to review the proposed changes to the FY'08 capital plan.

School Site Improvement Updates: Bruce Murdough reported the following improvements to our schools over the summer and continuing through this year:

At ADL:

- Parking lot repaved and wired for new lights
- The dumpster has been moved to the end of the building and the area around it has been blocked (bricked)
- External refrigeration unit has been blocked (bricked)
- 10,000 gallon oil tank installed as a backup heating fuel
- New boiler delivered (dual fuel - oil and gas burning) and will be installed this winter
- Gym floor sanded, repainted and sealed. New bleachers are slated for delivery next week.
- Gym has been painted top to bottom with new lights and switches installed.
- The gas meter and line have been moved from the main entrance to a less conspicuous place.
- The Science Lab improvement plans are nearly complete. The new tables will be ordered early next year for installation the next summer.

Other improvements:

- The Holy Family parking lot has been resealed and striped. Additional gravel is due for installation on the walkway as there has been some settling since the summer installation.
- The vent in the restroom in the Fleming School basement has been corrected.
- Flooring in Fleming School is being repaired: old carpet is being replaced with either linoleum or new carpet.
- A new boiler has been installed at Hiawatha School.

- Alterations to Park Street School to temporarily house CCSU IT Department (during OneCampus renovations) are underway.
- Replacement locks have been ordered for doors that cannot be secured from inside.

Marla Durham requested that administration provide an update on the district security plan so that she can respond to inquiries from the public. Mike Dewese asked Bill LaWare to brief the Prudential Committee on the current security issues.

Security Plan Update: Bill LaWare reported that overall, our district is in very good shape regarding security. He reported that almost all locks in our district can be secured from the inside (those few that require a key to lock from the outside are not classrooms but will be replaced anyway - these locks are on order.) He also reported that ID badges and visitors at our schools continue to be an issue. The district's aging schools do not have the capacity to meet current security standards due to their layout. The Security Department is reviewing some alternatives including volunteers 'meeting and greeting' and directing all incoming traffic after the school day begins. Additionally, cameras will be installed on the outside of buildings and they will continue to review and monitor the need to have cameras in common areas inside buildings.

Policy Review and Development: Judy Prince reported that, despite the loss of in-service time in August (due to teachers attending funerals of Essex Town teachers/residents killed during the shooting prior to the start of the school year,) our principals recognize the need for consistency around the issue of celebrations. Principals are not currently committed to the need for a policy addressing celebrations but will report back to the Prudential Committee in October. They are working with staff to engage them in defining and describing the issues they face in the classroom around holidays and celebrations. Principals will reach out to parents through PTO meetings and ask for their feedback as well.

Unified Union Study Committee: Beth Ward reported on the status of the unification committee's efforts to draft a charter for a new unified school district. The board was cautioned that deliberation at this time is inappropriate as the committee's work is not yet finished, however questions

to representatives are fine. Beth reviewed the status of each article, some of which have already been approved by the committee. Beth reported that she will ask the UU committee to address the communication plan at their meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2006.

Budget Calendar Preview: Grant Geisler presented the proposed budget calendar for fiscal year 2008. The order of budget development is: Central Office, Westford, Union 46 High School, followed by the Prudential Committee. We will have the first look at our draft budget in January, 2007, followed by workshops on Thursdays in February. The public is invited to provide feedback to the board at their October 9 meeting regarding guidance for budget development. Linda Waite-Simpson will draft a letter/article for publication in the Essex Reporter the week before our meeting inviting the public to address this issue.

Comprehensive Plan for Continuous Improvement: Judy Prince discussed the importance of having a consistent framework for the CPCI which replaces strategic plans for schools. The CPCI will be linked to action plans for continuous improvement at each building. Judy also provided a preview of changes to the policy on **School Action Planning and Reporting to the Public (File Code CFD)** which will have a first reading at the CCSU meeting on September 25, 2006. Changes to this policy codify aligning plans at the school building level with CCSU CPCI. It also articulates requirements for reporting to the community.

Tuition Policy Review: Mike Deweese reported that he has been in communication with a North Hero school board member concerning their preliminary work on whether or not to continue providing 7th and 8th grade offerings. Mike will report back that the Prudential Committee has no overarching concerns about these students (12-14 total) tuitioning into our district (ADL.) He will advise them of the following:

- Potential for unification of the school districts
- Possible caps to the number of students coming into the district
- Legal requirements around paying tuition
- No transportation provided by EJSD
- Students must maintain good standing within the district (behavior and academics)
- Need for a timeline to accept these students.

Committee Reports:

- There were no task team updates to report
- Negotiations: contract negotiations are in the fact-finding stage.

Consent Agenda: Marla Durham moved to approve the consent agenda - minutes of August 14, 2006 and August 21, 2006 and approval of warrants. Beth Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Future Agenda items:

- FY'06 Year-End Report
- Curriculum and Professional Development Initiatives for 2006-2007
- Extended Unified Union agenda item
- Safety Update
- Holidays and Celebrations Policies
- Skate the J
- Update from the Recreation Department before we set budget guidance
- Budget Guidance - Linda Waite-Simpson will provide information to the Essex Reporter inviting the public to attend and provide feedback as we set guidance for budget development.

Linda Waite-Simpson moved to enter executive session at 9:20PM to discuss collective bargaining and board self-evaluation. Marla Durham seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The board returned to open session at 10:15PM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16PM

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Waite-Simpson
Clerk of the Prudential Committee