

1 **Westford School Board Meeting**  
2 **6:30 p.m., Monday, April 25, 2011**  
3 **Essex High School Library**

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5 ***Common Meeting with Prudential Committee and Union #46 School Board***  
6

7 **Board Members Present:**

- 8 • U46 Board: Jack Behlendorf, Lezlee Sprenger, Al Bombardier, Brian Donahue, Ryan McLaren, Erin Kennedy-Knox
- 9
- 10 • Prudential Committee: Charlee Day, Michael Smith, David Riester, John Gazo, Marla Durham
- 11
- 12 • Westford School Board: Allison Weinhagen, Martha Heath, Andre Roy, Marilyn McConnell, Mark Drapa
- 13

14  
15 **Administrators Present:** Dr. Michael Deweese, Judith DeNova, Rob Reardon, Karen Archer,  
16 Grant Geisler, Linda Skelding

17  
18 Jack Behlendorf Chair called the meeting to order at: 6:33 PM

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20 The Chair reordered the agenda in consideration of the presenter's time/availability.

21  
22 **Act 153 Presentation: (Part 1) Dr. Vaughn Altemus DOE**

23 From a Regional District perspective, Vaughn discussed merger possibilities, study cost  
24 reimbursement, waivers and if merger occurs potential tax savings. Consulting and legal  
25 services are also available to address unique District needs.

26  
27 **Act 153 Presentation: (Part 2) Dr. Vaughn Altemus DOE**

28 In part 2, Vaughn discussed how the authority of Superintendents and Boards would increase  
29 and that the Union would have to increase accountability (i.e. books, chart of accounts, etc.).

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31 Martha and Andre asked clarification questions regarding representation, and expressed a  
32 concern regarding the loss of High School choice. Vaughn agreed that High School choice is an  
33 issue.

34  
35 Vaughn advised that public meetings are being scheduled in order to document concerns and  
36 identify potential changes in the Law.

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38 **Food Services Presentation: Mr. Bob Clifford, Director**

39 The CCSU Food Program continues to face many challenges/changes:

- 40 - Proposed USDA changes will increase meal cost by 35 cents

- 41 - Reduction of staff hours
- 42 - Commodity price increases are concerning:
  - 43 Corn +69% Wheat +47 % Soybeans +44% Sugar +15%
  - 44 Tomatoes: from \$18 to \$48 per case
  - 45 Cucumbers: from \$22 to \$43 per case
- 46 - In FY 2012, the food program received a food subsidy of \$90,000.00.

47  
48 In spite of an EHS/CTE closed campus (additional students buying meals) there appears to be  
49 little progress in closing the end of year deficit gap.

50  
51 Al asked if the Food program was tracking revenues/cost on a school by school basis in order to  
52 identify deficit related cost drivers. Bob replied that the Food Program was not collecting any  
53 data from individual schools. Clerk note: Follow-up is in progress.

54  
55 Bob is actively involved in the “FREE MEALS for all VERMONT CHILDREN COMMITTEE.”

56  
57 **No Child Left Behind Update: Dr. Mike Deweese**

58 Mike presented an overview of the major factors that resulted in almost all Vermont schools  
59 failing their “Annual Yearly Progress” goals.

60  
61 The challenge remains for the “whole school” and “all subgroups of students “to meet their  
62 annual yearly progress goals while the progress bar increases each and every year.”

63  
64 Faced with a 2014 deadline of achieving these goals, schools must establish action plans that  
65 meet struggling student needs. Linda commented that a “Smarter Balanced Assessment”  
66 should be utilized as a methodology to assess student progress.

67  
68 *Minutes for Common Board meeting respectfully submitted by Al Bombardier, U46 Clerk*

69  
70 **RECESS:** *The Westford School Board recessed, and then reconvened in the large seminar room at*  
71 *the EHS Library to hold their regular board meeting.*

72  
73 **Westford School Board – Local Meeting**

74  
75 **Administrators present:** Grant Giesler, Erin Maguire, Mike Deweese (arrived at 9:24)

76  
77 **Others present:** David Brisson, Eric Henshaw

78  
79

80 **Visitors to be heard**

81 David Brisson voiced concerns on current negotiations and the lack of information available to  
82 the public

83

84 Question regarding negotiations and when was decision made not to engage in open  
85 negotiations? Board response was that presently engaged in joint negotiations with member  
86 districts; the sharing of information regarding Westford negotiations would make it difficult  
87 during these current negotiations unless all members agreed to this. Both parties must agree  
88 to it. David continued to ask on process and current status of negotiations, response was that  
89 negotiations currently underway and cannot share the information regarding proposals/or  
90 what aspect of the process the bargaining members are in.

91

92 Another question raised by Eric Henshaw: number of staff that pay for benefits (cert and non-  
93 cert), number of fte's and part time (cert and non-cert).

94

95 **Principal's Report**

96 Questions on principal's report: primary report on necap results: Westford is above state  
97 average in math Compared to state, Westford does well

98

99 Over time (grades3-8) from years 06 to 10, progressions upward with slight decrease/dips in  
100 years 08 and 09.

101

102 Have seen progress over time with students on special free/reduced lunch but have not  
103 realized ultimate goals with scores for this segment of the school population

104

105 Westford has about 12% versus state average of over 15% of student population that is on free  
106 and reduced lunches

107

108 Current status for math in this year is that school is approx. 3% away for target goal, consensus  
109 is to stay on task for instruction

110

111 For reading scores: reading scores higher than state average

112

113 Similar dips in scores from years 06 to 10, slight dips in years 2008 & 2009. Reading approx 2%  
114 away from target for current year

115

116 Writing assessed only grades 5 & 8, school is at state average. Current status for writing is that  
117 school is 27% away from target for current school year. Will continue to stay on course with  
118 current instruction and continue to use instructional strategy to reach goals

119

120 Grade 8 over time has made good advances for over time. Current status of grade 8 writing is  
121 that currently 5% over goals/target. Next month will see action plan to continue to address this  
122 Request for data to encompass from 2006 to 2010 in math/reading/writing.

123

124 **May Board Meeting**

125 Suggestion for alternate meeting in May versus May 2 as scheduled/will review.

126

127 **Recap of Joint School Board/Select Board Meeting**

128 Will have another meeting in November to discuss further collaborations for joint purchasing of  
129 commonly used items.

130

131 **Consent Agenda**

132 Approve warrants: *motion by Andre, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martha, approved 5-0*

133

134 Minutes of 3/14 and 4/12: pulled for minor edits. *Motion made by Martha 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark to*  
135 *approve minutes as edited/corrected, approved 5-0.*

136

137 Tentative date for next board meeting in May 26<sup>th</sup> (will discuss other meeting dates if it appears  
138 this date has conflicts)

139

140 **Future Agenda Items**

141 Capital planning: future big ticket items/formalize capital plannings

142 Will discuss current traffic pattern at school regarding bus drop off/pick up

143

144 **Executive Session: Personnel**

145 Entered executive session: 8:58 PM, *motion made by Andre, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martha to discuss personnel*  
146 *issues, approved 5-0.*

147

148 Exited executive session at 9:45

149

150 Board adjourned at 9:46

151

152 Minutes respectfully submitted by Andre Roy, Clerk

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