

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**
2 Westford School Board Meeting
3 August 4, 2008
4 Westford Commons
5

6 **Board Members Present:** Martha Heath, Andre Roy, Jennifer Townsend, Nathan
7 Lavallee, Beth Lane (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
8

9 **Administrators Present:** Judy Prince-DeNova, Grant Geisler (left at 7:30 p.m.), David
10 Wells
11

12 **Others Present:** Matt Wamzgan
13

14 Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
15

16 The board took a walking tour of the building in anticipation of discussing the parking lot
17 project.
18

19 **Visitors to be Heard**

20 There were no visitors to be heard.
21

22 **Questions and Comments on the Principal's Report**

23 Beth Lane asked about current IT thinking on moving away from Windows to open
24 source software. The school is now completely wireless and some teachers are
25 exchanging their PC towers for lap-top computers.
26

27 **Drop-Off/Pick-Up Area**

28 Matt Wamzgan and Grant Geisler reviewed the four options for the parking lot project.
29 Two proposals include a new entrance on the west side of the school. All options call for
30 paving the west lot, re-doing all pavement, and creating new drainage in the front. Andre
31 Roy asked about handicapped entrance. All options would be made handicapped
32 accessible. Administration suggested option two is the best. Matt Wamzgan believes
33 two-thirds of the cost of this project is basic maintenance. Beth Lane questioned whether
34 or not the community will support the need for the project. She also brought up security
35 concerns associated with a new entrance. Grant Geisler suggested looking at using some
36 of the fund balance to mitigate the tax impact. Nate Lavallee asked if the project could
37 be split up and phased in. Martha Heath said that now may be a good time to get low
38 bids, as firms are looking for work. She also pointed out that the front drive-in in the
39 front of the building is legally a fire lane.
40

41 **Policy Governance Discussion**

42 The board stressed the need to figure out what the results have been where a policy
43 governance structure has been introduced. Judy Prince-DeNova said the Essex Town
44 School District will share its experiences as it implements policy governance. Andre Roy
45 expressed concern over whether Westford could opt out. Board members also asked
46 what community involvement would look like. Martha Heath said its worth exploring

47 and watching how policy governance works in Randolph over the next two years. David
48 Wells offered the perspective that, while the Westford Board is very professional, others
49 in Vermont are more engaged in micromanaging and may benefit more from policy
50 governance. Martha Heath reviewed the five pit-falls as outlined by Laura Soares and
51 said it is not clear that the gain would be worth the tremendous effort required to
52 implement policy governance. CCSU has already consolidated policy manual work. It
53 was noted that supervisory unions with many different policy manuals have greater
54 incentive to pursue policy governance.

55

56 **Presentation: 21st-Century Overview for the School Board**

57 Judy Prince-DeNova presented the school action plan timeline. She discussed how the
58 action plan will be used through the year to communicate how curricula, demographic
59 profiles, professional development plans, and budgets are directed towards improving
60 student achievement. She presented an overview of the movement for 21st-century
61 education. David Wells feels our school, in terms of equipment and curricula, is on the
62 cusp of moving forward with this philosophy. Judy Prince-DeNova said this framework
63 will guide us in our future decision-making on budget and staffing allocations. She
64 reviewed the consolidated federal grant monies available to CCSU and where the
65 investments have been made.

66

67 **Review of Special School District Meeting**

68 The warning was reviewed and will be re-worded:

- 69
- 70 • Article I: Shall the voters of Westford School District reconsider the following
71 article voted on June 17, 2008?
 - 72 ○ Article: Shall the Town of Westford School District vote to adopt its
73 budget by Australian Ballot?
 - 74 • Article II: (Remains as stated)

75 Administration will re-do the warning and board members will sign it Wednesday at Judy
76 Prince-DeNova's home.

76

77 *Andre Roy moved and Beth Lane seconded the motion to approve the warning as*
78 *amended. The motion passed 5-0.*

79

80 **Board Self-Evaluation Planning**

81 The last evaluation used was okay. It included administrator feedback for the board. The
82 evaluation packet will be completed at the individual board member level, with results
83 compiled and discussed at a future meeting.

84

85 **Consent Agenda**

86 The Consent Agenda consisted of approval of the June 16 and July 24 meeting minutes,
87 approval of warrants, approval of recommendation for professional appointments,
88 approval of the warning, and an approval for a release from contract.

89

90 The board pulled the recommendation for the professional appointment.

91

92 *Beth Lane moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to approve the appointment of the*
93 *music position. The motion passed 5-0.*

94

95 *Andre Roy moved and Beth Lane seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.*

96 *The motion passed 5-0.*

97

98 **Future Agenda Items**

99 • Board Self-Evaluation

100 • Policy Governance Discussion

101

102 The board adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

103

104 Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend