

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**
2 *Westford School Board*
3 *December 7, 2009*
4 *Westford Commons, Westford*
5

6 **Board Members Present:** Martha Heath, Andre Roy, Marilyn McConnell, Nathan
7 Lavallee, Jennifer Townsend
8

9 **Administrators Present:** Linda Keating, Grant Geisler, David Wells
10

11 *Common Meeting Minutes*

12 **Union #46 School Board, Prudential Committee, Westford School Board**
13

14
15 **Board Members Present:** G Miller, Tim Kemerer, Jack Behlendorf, Lezlee Sprenger,
16 Brian Donahue, Linda Waite-Simpson, Charlee Day, Brenda Dawson Crocket, Martha
17 Heath, Andre Roy, Jennifer Townsend, Marilyn McConnell, Nathan Lavallee
18

19 **Administrators Present:** Judy DeNova, Rob Reardon, David Wells, Kathy Fink, Kathy
20 Barron,
21

22 G Miller called the meeting to order at 6:40 and read the CCSU Vision Statement.
23

24 **Boards' Common Topics**

25 • **“Current Realities, 2010”**

26 The Vermont School Boards Association and the Vermont Superintendents
27 Association recently released a presentation, “Current Realities, 2010. Judy
28 DeNova, invited questions or comments the boards may have after watching the
29 online presentation before the meeting. Martha Heath noted the big picture, we
30 are all aware and becoming more acutely aware that we are headed into a
31 challenging time financially for education. It was noted that VT public schools
32 have the 4th best graduation rate, 4th or better in reading, 6th or better in math, best
33 AP achievement gains. Current expenditure per pupil, rank 5th in the country,
34 NJ, NY, DC, CT then VT; 24th in income per capita. The more we are engaged,
35 more knowledgeable about present state.

36 • **Legislative Dessert Planning**

37 The Legislative Dessert is next Tuesday 12/15 in the Colonial Room (Center for
38 Technology, Essex). Open to the public, everyone invited. After the dessert, Tax
39 Commissioner Richard Westman will give a presentation on property taxes.

40 • **CCSU Board Meeting Update**

41 Judy DeNova updated the boards on the recent CCSU board meeting. The board
42 voted to inform the Commissioner's needs assessment with a recommendation that
43 the supervisory union boundaries not be changed at this time. She recommended
44 that local boards also take positions on this matter. The CCSU budget was also
45 approved at that meeting. Policy governance was also discussed; the board voted

46 not to go ahead with policy governance at this time. This issue will be revisited if
47 Essex Town is included in the SU boundaries.

48

49 **Task team updates –**

- 50 • Communications: Tim Kemerer reported the committee plans on putting the
- 51 meeting minutes in the org notes to make it more consistent what members of the
- 52 committee discuss with their boards, give more details.
- 53 • Policy: Next meeting the following evening.
- 54 • Negotiations: The next session is scheduled for 12/16.

55

56 **Recess: 7:34 p.m. Boards to reconvene individually.**

57

58 Respectfully submitted by Charlee Day, Prudential Committee

59

60

61 Martha Heath reconvened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

62

63 **Visitors to be Heard**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Topic of Interest</i>
Mike Nelson	General information
Jody Evans	Budget/class size
John Doty	General info/budget/class size/etc.
Jeffrey S. Williams	School budget, nursing coverage
Caroline Desorcie	Class size
Lise-Anne Cooledge	General information
Kristy Trask	General info/budget/etc.
Christian Frenette	Budget/class size
Diane Siegriest	Budget cuts
Paula Costello	Budget – literacy cuts
Berney Skutel	Not present – letter shown on her behalf
Sandra Keener	General info

64

65 **FY'11 Budget Discussion**

66 Martha Heath gave an overview of the budget development process and key dates. The
67 joint School Board/Select Board meeting in January will be rescheduled. Grant Geisler
68 delivered a presentation on the proposed 2010-2011 school year budget. He added more
69 data on projected revenues and expenses.

70

71 Andre Roy asked whether guidance/library staffing had been examined in regards to
72 declining enrollment. He also asked about prospects for getting the EEI grant.

73

74 Martha Heath asked board members to email any questions to Grant Geisler by Thursday
75 (12/10/09).

76

77 The board agreed to discuss the proposed staffing adjustments at the next meeting.

78

79 (Visitor) Jodi Evans asked about whether electronic means of communication can be used
80 more.

81
82 (Visitor) Paula Costello expressed concern over the proposed cut to the reading position.
83 Grant Geisler will provide more information on the Kindergarten-grade 4 literacy staffing
84 requirements.

85
86 (Visitor) Diane Siegriest urged the board to seriously consider the cut in the reading
87 position and its potential impact on the quality of the literacy program, which is currently
88 strong.

89
90 (Visitor) Kristy Trask supported those statements. She expressed concern about the
91 proposed shift of the RN position to an LN position. (Visitor) Jeff Williams also
92 expressed the same concern about that shift. Martha Heath and Marilyn McConnell
93 wondered whether the VT Department of Health can identify possibilities for
94 reimbursement.

95
96 **World Language Study Committee**

97 David Wells reported out on the work of the Westford World Language Study
98 Committee. Nathan Lavalley asked where in the schedule there will be time for more
99 instruction in grades K-4. Martha Heath asked Linda Keating whether there is
100 information from Essex Junction teachers regarding language instruction at the grades K-
101 4 levels.

102
103 Action on this topic will be waived until the next board meeting.

104
105 **Principal's Report**

106 David Wells presented his report. There were no questions.
107

108 **Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV)**

109 Jennifer Townsend is discussing this opportunity with John Quinn and may attend the
110 December 17 Select Board meeting.

111
112 **VT Department of Education Needs Assessment**

113 *Andre Roy moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to approve the letter*
114 *(below) to the Commissioner of Education regarding the potential CCSU boundary*
115 *adjustment to include Essex Town. The motion passed 5-0.*

116
117 "In response to the request from Commissioner Vilaseca, it is the position of the
118 Westford Board that a proposed boundary adjustment has the potential to further
119 exacerbate the relative size difference of the Westford School District within
120 CCSU. Although the Board supports using available educational means and
121 authority to respond to fiscal sustainability issues, consolidation is not the most
122 prudent measure to actualize such results. Since there would not be substantial
123 fiscal changes in the first 3 years, according to statute, only minimal efficiencies
124 could be actualized. The Westford Board requests the opportunity to engage in

125 further conversations, if the needs assessment were to reveal substantial cost
126 benefits and measurable enhancement to quality educational programs for the
127 Westford School District based on the redrawing of CCSU boundaries.”
128

129 **School Demographics**

130 Martha Heath asked Grant Geisler to bring more detailed information on demographic
131 projections to the next meeting.

132

133 **Class Size Chart**

134 This chart will be used at the next meeting for budget development.

135

136 **Consent Agenda**

137 The Consent Agenda consisted of approval of the November 30 meeting minutes and
138 announcement of the FY' 11 Tuition Rate.

139

140 *Andre Roy moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to approve the Consent*
141 *Agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.*

142

143 **Future Agenda Items**

- 144 • Science NECAP
145 • Budget

146

147 **Meeting Re-Cap**

148 Routine.

149

150 The board adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

151

152 Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend, Board Clerk