

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**
2 Westford School Board Meeting
3 December 8, 2008
4 Westford Commons
5

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

9 **Administrators Present:** Mike Deweese, Judy DeNova, Linda Keating, Laurie Singer,
10 David Wells
11

12 **Others Present:** David Goss, Cindy Capossella, Mary Stinson, Kathleen Legg
13

14 Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
15

16 **Educational Presentation: Literacy and Math**

17 The meeting began with a common presentation on math and writing made to the
18 Westford, U#46 and PC Boards. Westford teachers Cindy Capossella and David Goss
19 provided an overview of efforts to improve instruction in writing. David said that the
20 teaching of writing has changed significantly, to include a greater emphasis on shorter
21 turnaround pieces and more opportunity for student initiated evaluation and revision.
22 They discussed the evolution of the Painted Essay technique to include the Painted
23 Paragraph. David Wells displayed a video prepared to demonstrate how a student uses
24 the painted paragraph to analyze, evaluate and improve writing. They explained how
25 NECAP data is being used to improve teaching.
26

27 ADL Principal Laurie Singer and math teacher Kathleen Legg discussed the middle
28 school math program at ADL. The Connected Math program is now being used in ADL
29 math classes, at Essex Middle School, and is being introduced to Westford. They said
30 this program presents algebra as a major component and therefore will increase access of
31 8th graders to an algebra program. Some board members expressed concern that the
32 program will result in deterioration of math scores on NECAP. Linda Keating pointed out
33 that no single test can provide a total picture of student progress and teachers will also
34 rely on local assessments to improve instruction. Other board members pointed out that
35 in order to assess progress in learning, it is also informative to compare the scores of the
36 same group of students over time.
37

38 *The board recessed at 7:50 p.m. and moved to the Computer Lab*
39

40 **Administrators Present:** Grant Geisler, David Wells
41

42 **Others Present:** Mike Nelson
43

44 Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

45 **Preview of Parking Lot Presentation**

46 Mike Nelson asked the board for feedback on the presentation he has prepared for the
47 public hearing regarding the new parking lot proposal. Grant Geisler reviewed his
48 estimates of the tax impact. Andre Roy wondered whether we may need to pay for some
49 other capital expenditures. Martha Heath suggested that Grant Gesiler talk to Jerry
50 Shepard (Westford School Maintenance) about this.

51

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

53 There were no questions or comments on the Principal's Report.

54

55 **Consent Agenda**

56 The Consent Agenda consisted of November 3, 2008 meeting minutes and warrants.

57

58 *Andre Roy moved and Nathan Lavallee seconded the motion to approve the Consent*
59 *Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.*

60

61 **Future Agenda Items**

- 62 • Budget work
- 63 • Joint meeting with the Select Board
- 64 • Accept Announced Tuition Rate

65

66 **Collective Bargaining**

67 Progress continues in the collective bargaining process.

68

69 **Task Team Updates**

70 Members serving on the policy sub-committee and the communications task team
71 updated the board on current work (including work on Section C of the policy manual
72 and budget communications).

73

74 **Communications Task Team Work**

75 The board reviewed and made changes to the list of critical friends. They also reviewed
76 the draft letter to be sent to the critical friends.

77

78 Martha Heath suggested using flash drives as a means of delivering materials to board
79 members.

80

81 **FY'10 Budget Work-Session**

82 Grant Geisler presented the FY'10 proposed budget to the board. The budget delivers,
83 among other things, exploratory world language in grades K-4, additional access to an
84 educational technologist, and reduces the EEE program by one class. He reviewed the
85 enrollment projections. While enrollment for grades K-8 is projected to fall from 232 to
86 216, this decline is not distributed across grades and does not require a reduction in staff.
87 He outlined personnel changes, which include a realignment of clerical time, increased
88 math support, a reduction in pre-school staff, and more French instruction.

89

90 The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

91 Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend