

Chittenden Central Supervisory Union
Prudential Committee School Board Meeting
Westford Commons, Westford, VT
December 8, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Linda Waite-Simpson, Brenda Dawson Crockett, John Gazo, Dave Riester

Administrators Present: Mike Deweese, Judy DeNova, Linda Keating, Laurie Singer, David Wells

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

Linda Waite-Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Educational Presentation: Literacy and Math

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

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

learning, it is also informative to compare the scores of the same group of students over time.

The board recessed at 7:50 p.m.

Administrators Present: Judy DeNova, Linda Keating

Others Present: Laurie Singer, Kathleen Legg

Linda Waite-Simpson reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

ADL Math Curriculum: Laurie Singer and Kathleen Legg spoke specifically about the math program at ADL - the philosophy, her work with power standards, etc. Laurie Singer shared her communication plan for parents and citizens.

Collective Bargaining: Progress continues in planning for collective bargaining.

Summer 2009 Projects at ADL and Hiawatha: Property Services Director Bruce Murdough and Grant Geisler updated the board on two major projects slated for next summer. The ADL project includes renovation of the library and computer lab, along with construction of an additional exit for individuals with a handicap. The Hiawatha project is driven by the need for an elevator to provide handicapped accessibility to the lower level and includes a small addition to recapture some space, centralize the main office, and open up some additional space for a kitchen. John raised concern about the "look" of the addition.

This issue will be on the agenda of our next meeting by which time more detailed drawings will be available

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda consisted of approval of the November 10, 2008 meeting minutes and warrants.

The November 10 meeting minutes were tabled until a future meeting.

Motion made by Brenda Dawson Crocket to approve the Consent Agenda (just the warrants, as the Nov. 10 minutes were tabled). Motion seconded by Dave Riester. Motion Passed by: 4-0

Future Agenda Items:

1. Update on the Hiawatha addition, specifically that administration direct the architects to ensure the addition is integrated into the architectural style of the building.
2. Approval of November 10 meeting minutes

Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,
Dave Riester