

**Chittenden Central Supervisory Union
Union #46 School Board Meeting
Westford School (Commons, Library)
December 8, 2008**

Board Members Present: Jeff Culkin, G Miller, Tim Kemerer, Jack Behlendorf, Al Bombardier, Craig Smith

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

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

Jeff Culkin called the meeting to order at: 6:35

Educational Presentation: Literacy and Math

Judy DeNova gave overview of Curriculums as applied to Literacy and Math. The boards reviewed CCSU CPCI actions to date and did a quick review of each CCSU School Action Plan steps.

The Writing program from Westford was reviewed. The Math program from ADL was reviewed, with a focus on how to change the old formula of deciding who takes Algebra in 8th grade. The school is now using Seminar format in addition to connected Math so anyone who wants to can do it. The Curriculum is closely aligned and multiple hours are spent working together.

Judy DeNova noted policies exist to establish consistent standards, reporting mechanisms and metrics used.

The board recessed at: 7:55 p.m. and moved to the Library.

The board reconvened at: 8:02 p.m.

Also present: Kathy Finck

Visitors to be Heard: None present

Principal's and Director's Reports:

Kathy Finck discussed CTEs joint EHS venture in Robotics, which is in the planning stage this year and the program will begin next year. There are comprehensive subject areas, which culminate in 6-week problem solving using a robot. Kathy Finck also showed examples of graphic design program, along with advertising for CTE on-line.

Collective Bargaining

Progress continues. Meetings are in progress. CESU fact finding should be available soon.

Athletic Training

Moved to next month

Continuous Improvement

Moved to next month when Rob can be here to present

VSBA Annual Meeting

Jeff Culkin, G Miller, Mike Deweese, and Judy DeNova attended the conference. One negative: there was 100% Superintendent participation (65) and only 64 total board members (but decent representation from CCSU – approximately 25%). Current data was presented, there were workshops on policy governance, and two sessions from Policy Governance implementers (attended by G Miller) where they discussed real life scenarios and talked about how policies under Policy Governance relate to them. There was also an introductory session with panel of current users, along with an opportunity for general questions. Those users were positive, though not an easy process. Tough first year, expect many changes as doing it.

Other topics covered: Children in poverty: eye opening percentage of participants in Free & Reduced Lunch (20.7% in 2000, 29% in 2007); fairly similar numbers for us in Essex (real issue for us) - closing achievement gaps is the issue.

Keynote speaker: discussed the importance of the relationship of a single adult in child's life! EHS is addressing these issues in small groups (12:1 w/ grades 9-10). There is an opportunity to get that connection within the school community. Responsive classroom in Elementary Schools ensures social connection. Data reviewed from 3 million surveys shows: Adults and students think very differently about school (much lower relevance and connection to school and education reported by students). Cost would be \$5K/school house. Also found it difficult for both students and teachers to accept praise from peers. More information can be found at www.QISA.org. The Board indicated interest in getting this done at EHS and CTE if Directors feel it would be beneficial and we have some idea what we would do with the information.

The second keynote speaker: discussed debunking data myths, profile of the nation 5-10yrs ahead and effects on schools.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of October 20 and November 6 meeting minutes, warrants, and authorization for the chair to sign the revised 403(b) Plan Document.

Adjust minutes from Nov 6 student matter meeting as follows in red:

Administrators Present: Mike Deweese, Rob Reardon, Tom Faris

Others Present: Paul O'Brian, Chris Leopold, Lars Baris, a student.

Jack Behlendorf moved and G Miller seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 6-0.

Future agenda items:

Metrics on continuous improvement (Rob)

School action plan review; how did we do on the ones w/ dates past?

Revisit w/ Rob alignment w/ dept chairs on SAP (Mike)

Athletic Training (Ed Hockenbury, Leo Labonte)

SIS (Grant)

Warrants (connection to budget categories)/Overview of accounting system (Grant)

Executive Session: Collective Bargaining and Evaluation

G Miller moved and Jack Behlendorf seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of Collective Bargaining and Evaluation. The motion passed 6-0.

The board entered into Executive Session at 8:54 and exited Executive Session at 10:08

No action taken.

Adjourn

The board adjourned at 10:09

Respectfully submitted by Timothy Kemerer, Clerk