

**Minutes from Prudential Committee Meeting – 10 January 2011**  
**Park Street School**  
**21 Park Street, Essex Junction**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Linda Waite-Simpson at Park Street School.

**Board Members Present:** Charlee Day, John Gazo, Linda Waite-Simpson, Dave Reister and Michael Smith

**Administrators Present:** Mike Deweese, Judy DeNova, Grant Geisler, Linda Skelding, Laurie Singer, Dan Ryan, and Mary Hughes

**Other individuals present:** Lori Houghton, Chris Catterton, Bruce Murdough

**Visitors and Staff to be Heard:** Bridget Meyer handed copies of a summary of the online survey conducted by the Essex Junction Recreation and Parks Advisory Council regarding recreation governance. The survey opened 14 Sep 10 and closed 9 Nov 10. The summary and full report of the survey can be found at <http://www.ejrp.org/m-governance>. Lori Houghton presented a petition, signed by 841 Essex Junction residents, to the board. The petition reads:

*“Dear Essex Junction Prudential Committee and Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees:*

*We, the undersigned taxpayers/residents of the Village of Essex Junction, request that the Essex Junction Prudential Committee and the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees honor the history of success of the Essex Junction Recreation and Parks Department and preserve the current governance structure under the Essex Junction School District. We request that all existing agreements, ordinances, and relationships be maintained. We request that no more time, effort, energy, meetings, or tax payer money be spent debating Essex Junction Recreation and Parks governance and that the Essex Junction Prudential Committee continues to provide administration and oversight of the parks, personnel, and programs. Further we request that, without any changes, the existing contract between the two entities which expires on June 30, 2011, is renewed at least through 2019, when the bond debt is paid off.”*

Linda Waite-Simpson accepted the petition.

**Principal’s Reports:** The board again expressed an appreciation for the level of detail that the principals have provided in their reports.

**Summit Street School Natural Playground:** Principal of Summit Street School, Mary Hughes and Chair of the Playground Committee, Chris Catterton gave a presentation of the natural playground as designed by the Natural Playgrounds Company.

They also asked that the board rule on several items necessary for the project to continue.

1. Dave Reister made a motion and Charlee Day seconded the motion to approve the design plan for the natural playground at Summit Street School. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Charlee Day made a motion and Dave Reister seconded the motion to move forward phase I of the project for Village Planning commission approval and permits. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Consideration of cost sharing (Tabled until next month)
  - a. EJSD to cover expenses related to planning commission process (copies of application materials, possible Village engineer review, zoning/construction permits) or contribute up to a predetermined amount.
  - b. EJSD to pay any specialized bidding documents required over and about those provided already by the NPC.
4. Permission to begin construction as outlined upon planning commission approval and receipt of grants. (Tabled until next month).

**Science NECAP:** Linda Skelding presented this year's science NACAP results. She discussed the various forms of inquiry that the science NECAP has taken.

ADL Principal, Laurie Singer, discussed the science NECAP results at her school. The results show that within the less than proficient group, there is a large number that just missed the proficient level. The results, when compared to NH results, are very similar. She stressed a need for professional development in the way of participation in differentiated instruction.

Fleming Principal, Dan Ryan, discussed the science NECAP results at his school. Reading based testing resulted in significantly lower scores for the FRL group. Overall, the scores remained stable. However, there was a significant drop-off for the FRL group. Work done on constructed response has had some positive impact. Staff is learning to better recognize understanding as well as misunderstandings. Some suggestions for improvements, would be to create common inquiry tasks by grade level beginning at grade 3; purchase common science resources aligned w/inquiry based learning; and, provide time for professional learning experiences with Karen Reinhart.

**Parks and Recreation Governance:** Superintendent, Mike Dewese, reviewed the current status of events related to rec governance. The consultant hired by the Board of Trustees will give their findings to BOT on 11 Jan 11. The BOT recommends extending the agreement. Linda Waite-Simpson and Mike Dewese have been invited to meet with two (2) members of the BOT on Wednesday, 12 Jan 11.

**FY12 Budget Planning:** Grant Geisler reminded the board that the first budget session is on 27 Jan 11. Of the \$19.3 million from the Education Jobs Fund, Essex Junction School District will receive \$222,000 toward meeting its \$240,000 target. It is still not clear how the money is to be used.

The Prudential Committee has decided to postpone a decision of entering into an Act 62 agreement with Heartworks until the January 27<sup>th</sup> budget session. There were some questions raised by a board member, Dave Reister, as to whether it is appropriate to offer something in which only a few can participate.

**Long Range School Facility Master Planning:** Dave Reister made a motion and Michael Smith seconded the motion that the Prudential Committee authorizes an expenditure of \$14K for the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) to conduct a review of the future “desired state” for the number of and configuration of the Essex Junction School District. The motion passed 5-0.

**Challenges for change Forum Responses discussion:** Tabled until the March 2011 meeting.

**Act 153: Prospective Compact Between CCSU and ETSD:** We need to continue to look for common areas of collaboration. Now is not the best time to pursue a merger.

**Consent Agenda:** John Gazo made a motion and was seconded by Charlee Day to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the November 17, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0. Corrections to the November 17, 2010 meeting minutes include adding that the location of the meeting took place at Essex High School and that meeting began at 5:30 pm instead of 6:32 pm. Dave Reister made a motion and John Gazo seconded the motion to approve the November 17, 2010 meeting minutes with the aforementioned corrections. Motion passed 5-0.

**Future Agenda Items:** Items for future agendas include: Summit Playground, Challenges for Change, Annual Meeting Planning, and recommendations from the Crossing Guard Committee.

**Meeting re-cap:** Michael Smith recapped the events and topics from tonight’s meeting.

**Executive Session (9:35):** Dave Reister motioned and Charlee Day seconded the board move into Executive Session. The motion passed 5-0.

The board exited executive session at 10:15 pm.

Charlie Day made a motion and Dave Reister seconded the motion to grant a tuition waiver to the Harvey Family. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**Adjournment:** The board adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Michael Smith