

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**

2 Westford School Board

3 June 1, 2010

4 Westford School in the Commons

5
6 **Board Members Present:** Martha Heath, Andre Roy, Jennifer Townsend, Allison
7 Weinhagen, Marilyn McConnell

8
9 **Administrators Present:** Mike Deweese, Judith DeNova, Grant Geisler, David Wells

10
11 Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

12
13 **Executive Session: Collective Bargaining and Personnel**

14 *Andre Roy moved and Allison Weinhagen seconded the motion for the Board to enter into*
15 *Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and personnel matters. The motion*
16 *passed 5-0.*

17
18 The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m. and exited Executive Session at
19 7:12 p.m.

20
21 Martha Heath reviewed the agenda for the evening.

22
23 **Accept Resignations**

24 *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to accept the resignations*
25 *of a world language teacher, a reading teacher, and a para-educator/receptionist. The*
26 *motion passed 5-0.*

27
28 The Board expressed their gratitude for their years of dedicated service to the school.

29
30 **Reports of the Superintendent/Budget Recommendations**

31 Grant Geisler provided an overview of the redeveloped 2010-2011 budget. Mike
32 Deweese reviewed data prepared by the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) for
33 CCSU.

34
35 Grant Geisler presented guidance used to redevelop the budget. The proposed reductions
36 include \$46,780 in salaries; \$9,440 in high school tuition; \$5,000 in overtime; \$4,644 in
37 benefits; \$2,000 in liability insurance; \$540 through conversion to G-mail, and \$5800 in
38 miscellaneous to bring total reductions (from the originally proposed budget) to \$74,204.
39 He also compared the redeveloped budget figures to the originally proposed budget.

40
41 **Citizens to be Heard**

- 42
- 43 • Sue Conklin asked about staffing adjustments and savings.
 - 44 • Chris Howard expressed concern about potential tax increases.
 - 45 • Mark Joffler asked Grant Geisler about the projected salary reduction.
 - 46 • Eric Henshaw stated that residents have been seeing tax increases for a while and
47 would like to see a surplus year.
 - 48 • Chris McBride questioned whether the board would want to end the year with a
zero balance.

- 49 • Karen Forbes expressed concern about classroom size and raised concern that
50 budget cuts do impact students.
- 51 • Barb Peck asked how the board operates the school district. Martha Heath
52 clarified that the board does not run the school, the administration does. Grant
53 Geisler spoke about cost saving measures.
- 54 • Joan Farmer expressed appreciation for the budget and the board’s work. She
55 stated that the school is at bare bones and that there is no big hunk of money to be
56 cut from the budget.
- 57 • Christian Frinette expressed appreciation of the budget and the board’s work. He
58 noted the school needs to attract and retain qualified educators.
- 59 • Conrad Racine asked whether teachers have been asked to forgo raises this year.
- 60 • Stuart Hunt asked about revenue enhancements and are there opportunities for
61 after-school activities to supplement school programs by using teachers to work
62 after-hours.
- 63 • Chris McBride asked about the early education grant. Martha Heath said that, if
64 the grant is not received, the school will have to restructure the program.
- 65 • Sue Conklin asked for details on the “miscellaneous” reductions.
- 66 • Ed Farmer expressed appreciation and encouraged the board to continue to
67 provide more trend analysis data.
- 68 • George Lamphere expressed appreciation for the community and board’s work.
69 He said third grade education is not adequate.
- 70

71 **Board Work Session**

72 Martha Heath asked for board members’ thoughts on the redeveloped budget. Marilyn
73 McConnell, Andre Roy, and Jennifer Townsend supported the budget. Allison
74 Weinhausen expressed concern over the parental comments (during the Citizens to be
75 Heard portion of the meeting) regarding issues in third/fourth grade and whether the
76 redeveloped budget allows for hiring a paraeducator. David Wells expressed confidence
77 that the budget will provide adequately for staffing.

78

79 *Andre Roy moved and Marilyn McConnell seconded the motion to approve a budget of*
80 *\$5,194,034 for the 2010-2011 school year. The motion passed 5-0.*

81

82 **Finalize and Warn Proposed 2010-2011 School Budget**

83 Mike Dewese recommended having a public informational meeting on Thursday, June
84 10, 2010 and the vote on Tuesday, June 15, 2010.

85

86 *Allison Weinhausen moved and Marilyn McConnell seconded the motion to have a Public*
87 *Informational Meeting on June 10, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the budget vote on June*
88 *15, 2010. The motion passed 5-0.*

89

90 **Communication**

91 The public meeting will serve as an engagement opportunity for citizens to learn more
92 about the budget. Administration presented a draft post-card to be mailed to all voters’
93 homes notifying them of the meeting and vote dates. Board members assigned
94 themselves dates to monitor/reply to Front Porch Forum postings. The school newsletter
95 presents an opportunity for information to be distributed. Additionally, the board

96 discussed having signs and banners made. The board then discussed creating a tri-fold
97 informational pamphlet to be mailed to all voters' homes. Administration will design this
98 tri-fold and Allison Weinhagen will edit it. Jennifer Townsend will divide the "critical
99 friends" lists and assign lists to board members. Mike Deweese will communicate with
100 the *Burlington Free Press*. Jennifer Townsend will also communicate information at the
101 upcoming PTO meeting.

102

103 The board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

104

105 Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend, Clerk