

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**

2 Westford School Board

3 March 8, 2010

4 Westford School in the Commons

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

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

10
11 Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

12
13 **Visitor:** Dave Brisson

14
15 **Board Re-Organization**

16 Elect Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk, Three SU Board Representatives

- 17
- 18 • Elect Chair
 - 19 ○ Marilyn McConnell nominated herself for Chair
 - 20 ▪ 1 “aye” (Marilyn McConnell)
 - 21 ○ Andre Roy nominated Martha Heath for Chair
 - 22 ▪ 4 “aye”(Andre Roy, Jennifer Townsend, Allison Weinhagen,
23 Martha Heath)
 - 24 ○ *Martha Heath was elected Board Chair*
 - 25 • Elect Vice-Chair
 - 26 ○ Jennifer Townsend nominated Andre Roy for Vice-Chair
 - 27 ▪ 4 “aye” (Martha Heath, Jennifer Townsend, Allison Weinhagen,
28 Marilyn McConnell), Andre Roy abstained
 - 29 ○ *Andre Roy was elected Vice-Chair*
 - 30 • Elect Clerk
 - 31 ○ Andre Roy nominated Jennifer Townsend for Clerk of the Board
 - 32 ▪ 4 “aye” (Martha Heath, Andre Roy, Allison Weinhagen, Marilyn
33 McConnell)
 - 34 ○ *Jennifer Townsend was elected Clerk of the Board*
 - 35 • SU Board Representatives
 - 36 ○ *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to appoint
37 Martha Heath, Allison Weinhagen, and Andre Roy to serve on the SU
38 Board. The motion passed 5-0.*

39 Appoint Members to Task Teams

- 40
- 41 • Martha appointed the following:
 - 42 ○ Negotiations: Marilyn McConnell, Allison Weinhagen
 - 43 ○ Communications: Jennifer Townsend
 - 44 ○ Leaders at Work: Martha Heath
 - 45 ○ Policy: Jennifer Townsend
 - 46 ○ SU Board: Martha Heath, Allison Weinhagen, Andre Roy

47 Appoint Legal Counsel

- 48 • *Andre Roy moved and Allison Weinhagen seconded the motion to appoint the firm*
49 *of Wells, Haug and Leopold to represent the district. The motion passed 5-0.*
50

51 **Set Monthly Meetings**

- 52 • *Jennifer Townsend moved and Allison Weinhagen seconded the motion to hold*
53 *regular board meetings the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The motion*
54 *passed 5-0.*
55

56 **Establish Governance Team Planning Time**

- 57 • Administration is suggesting holding pillars of planning meetings prior to
58 carousel meetings. Non-local-board meetings would be scheduled for
59 September, November, and February. The law requires seven board meetings a
60 year. Marilyn McConnell suggested outlining a thematic approach to the
61 calendar.
62 ○ *The Board agreed with the concept of holding pillars of planning meetings*
63 *prior to carousel meetings.*
64 • *Andre Roy moved and Allison Weinhagen seconded the motion that the board*
65 *have carousel meetings on August 23, October 18, April 25, and June 20. The*
66 *motion passed 5-0.*
67 • *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to **rescind** the*
68 *previous motion to hold board meetings on the first Monday of each month. The*
69 *motion passed 5-0.*
70 • *Andre Roy moved and Allison Weinhagen seconded the motion to hold regular*
71 *board meetings on December 6, on a date determined with the Select Board in*
72 *January, March 7, and May 2. These are for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The*
73 *motion passed 5-0.*
74

75 **Authorize Superintendent to Accept/Administer External Grants and Funds**

- 76 • *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to authorize the*
77 *Superintendent to accept and administer external grants and funds. The motion*
78 *passed 5-0.*
79

80 **Grant the Authority to Pay Bills**

- 81 • *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to grant the*
82 *Superintendent the authority to pay bills. The motion passed 5-0.*
83

84 **Establish the “Burlington Free Press” as the newspaper of record.**

- 85 • *Allison Weinhagen moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to establish the*
86 *“Burlington Free Press” as the newspaper of record. The motion passed 5-0.*
87

88 **Principal’s Report**

89 David Wells reviewed with the board the assessment data. He focused on the constant
90 share of students that persistently score “partially below proficient” in reading and math.
91 He examined the data disaggregated by disability status, gender, and family income level.
92 The question is how to target the group of students scoring “partially below proficient.”
93 Allison Weinhagen mentioned that Everyday Math can sometimes be confusing for
94 parent, as they learned math differently in school and makes it hard to help students at

95 home. David Wells said administration is engaging staff to discuss how to better
96 structure resources. Marilyn McConnell brought up the need to provide support even at
97 the preschool level. Martha Heath asked to be kept updated on where the conversation
98 goes. Allison Weinhagen raised concerns about the Everyday Math program. The board
99 suggested some math fun nights.

100 101 **Task Team Updates**

102 There were no updates.

103 104 **Collective Bargaining**

105 The Board negotiations team met mid-February and authorized the administration to meet
106 with teachers.

107 108 **Annual School District Meeting Review**

109 Mike Dewese presented an overview of protocols to be followed in case a request for
110 budget reconsideration occurs. He also presented a set of talking points for board
111 members to use regarding the budget. The Board discussed how, when to appropriately
112 respond to Front Porch Forum postings. Members noted the need to encourage voter
113 turnout next year.

114 115 **Review FY'11 School Calendar**

116 The board reviewed the draft FY'11 calendar. Board action will be needed next month.

117 118 **Legislative Updates**

119 The Peltz Proposal seems to be the most “alive” legislation regarding school
120 consolidation on the agenda for this year. The board discussed the possibility of taking a
121 position by writing a letter or by testifying to the involved committees. Martha Heath
122 will draft a letter for the board to review.

123 124 **Consent Agenda**

125 The Consent Agenda consisted of warrants and February 1, 2010 meeting minutes.

126
127 *Jennifer Townsend moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to approve the Consent*
128 *Agenda. The motion passed 5-0.*

129 130 **Future Agenda Items**

- 131 • Community School Budget Planning (Marilyn McConnell)
- 132 • Select/School Board Common Planning

133 134 **Executive Session: Collective Bargaining**

135 *Andre Roy moved and Allison Weinhagen seconded the motion to enter into Executive*
136 *Session to discuss Collective Bargaining. The motion passed 5-0.*

137
138 The board entered into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. and exited Executive Session at
139 9:40 p.m.

140
141 The board adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

142

143 Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend