

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**

2 Westford School Board Meeting

3 March 9, 2009

4 Westford Commons

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

8
9 **Administrators Present:** Judy DeNova, David Wells, Mike Deweese (arrived 6:44 p.m.)

10
11 Martha Heath convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

12
13 **Board Re-Organization**

- 14 • Elect Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk, CCSU Board Representative

15 *Martha Heath was elected Chair, Andre Roy was elected Vice-Chair, and Jennifer*
16 *Townsend was elected Clerk.*

17
18 *Andre Roy moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to elect Martha Heath,*
19 *Andre Roy, and Marilyn McConnell as the three CCSU Board Representatives. The*
20 *motion passed 4-0.*

- 21
22 • Appoint Members to Task Teams

23 Martha Heath appointed the following:

- 24 ○ Communications Team: Jennifer Townsend, Marilyn McConnell
25 ○ Leaders at Work: Martha Heath
26 ○ Policy Sub-Committee: Jennifer Townsend, Marilyn McConnell

- 27
28 • Appoint Legal Counsel

29 *Andre Roy moved and Nathan Lavallee seconded the motion to approve the appointment*
30 *of the firm Wells, Haug and Leopold to represent the district. The motion passed 5-0.*

- 31
32 • Set Monthly Meetings

33 *Andre Roy moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to hold regular board*
34 *meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (with the exception of*
35 *September 8 and March 8). The motion passed 5-0.*

- 36
37 • Establish Pillars of Planning Meeting

38 This item was postponed until after the next SU board meeting.

- 39
40 • Give Authorization to Accept and Administer Grants and Funds

41 *Jennifer Townsend moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to provide authorization*
42 *to accept and administer grants and funds. The motion passed 5-0.*

- 43
44 • Grant Authority to Pay Bills

45 *Nathan Lavallee moved and Andre Roy seconded the motion to grant the Superintendent*
46 *the authority to pay bills. The motion passed 5-0.*

47

48 • Newspaper of Record

49 *There was consensus that the "[Burlington Free Press](#)" is the daily newspaper of record.*

50

51 **Collective Bargaining**

52 Nathan reported that the Negotiations Team met on February 18. They met with the
53 teacher representatives. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10.

54

55 **Principal's Report**

56 David Wells spoke about seminars given by [Alan November](#) and [David Warlick](#)
57 regarding the model of the school that needs to change. He discussed the concept of
58 making learning more child-directed and to take advantage of greater access to
59 information electronically.

60

61 Andre Roy asked whether Westford School can allow students from other schools to
62 participate in athletics, given the school's declining enrollment. Lacrosse is still a school
63 sport, not a league sport. Does this status need to be changed?

64

65 David Wells reviewed the NECAP results of the school. Marilyn McConnell asked how
66 Vermont compares with other states. David Wells noted it is useful to look at NAEP
67 results to compare schools across the nation. NECAP allows us to compare with New
68 Hampshire and Rhode Island. Andre Roy asked why testing is done in the Fall. David
69 Wells said research has shown that cramming for tests does not result in student retention
70 of knowledge. Nathan Lavalley asked why some scores are so low. Judy DeNova said
71 the curriculum is being aligned with the test. Martha Heath expressed concern with sixth
72 grade 2008 math scores (reflecting fifth grade instruction). Andre Roy wondered
73 whether data on Free and Reduced participants will be skewed as the economic situation
74 has a negative impact on family incomes. Nathan Lavalley asked whether students on
75 IEPs are tested. David Wells said all students (those on IEPs included) must take the
76 NECAP. Judy DeNova stressed the need to maintain the focus on education in arts,
77 which the NECAP does not address. David Wells offered to present more information
78 related to Westford cohort groups. He referred the board to the state database, available
79 [on-line](#).

80

81 **Annual School District Meeting Review**

82 Martha Heath noted that the Annual Meeting attendance was poor due to weather. Andre
83 Roy noted some useful changes in the presentation. Nathan Lavalley suggested a second
84 informational meeting before the vote. Frustration from the board was expressed over
85 lack of public participation.

86

87 Marilyn McConnell suggested separating budget discussions into particular topics of
88 interest to the public. Martha Heath suggested administration might think about this
89 method of communication for next year's budget presentations. The board discussed
90 various ways to improve public participation in decision-making. There was discussion
91 about the Town Meeting to involve a pot-luck fundraiser. The board will discuss this
92 concept in the Fall. Mike Deweese suggested [Front Porch Forum](#) may be useful to

93 survey why people voted the way they did. Martha Heath discussed putting a survey on
94 the school board's web-site and the newsletter.

95

96 **Review FY'10 Calendar**

97 The board was presented with a draft of the 2009-2010 school year calendar. Nathan
98 Lavallee asked about the purpose of the April early release day. Judy DeNova clarified
99 that this was for parent/teacher conferences.

100

101 **Consent Agenda**

102 The Consent Agenda consisted of February 2 meeting minutes, warrants, a reduction-in-
103 force, and an [RETN](#) resolution.

104

105 *Andre Roy moved and Nathan Lavallee seconded the motion to approve the Consent*
106 *Agenda. The motion passed 5-0.*

107

108 **Future Agenda Items**

- 109 • Planning meetings related to specific budget topics
- 110 • Newsletter schedule
- 111 • Survey to voters
- 112 • Parking lot – next steps
- 113 • Update on preschool partnership agreement

114

115 **Meeting Re-Cap**

116 The board discussed the new format for their meeting materials. Marilyn McConnell
117 asked for more discussion beyond what is presented in the board meeting materials.

118

119 The board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

120

121 Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend.