

1 **Chittenden Central Supervisory Union**
2 Westford School Board Meeting
3 May 4, 2009
4 Westford Commons
5

6 **Board Members Present:** Jennifer Townsend, Nathan Lavallee, Marilyn McConnell,
7 Andre Roy
8

9 **Administrators Present:** Mike Deweese, Judy DeNova, David Wells
10

11 Jennifer Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.
12

13 **Visitors to be Heard**

14 There were no visitors to be heard.
15

16 **Principal's Report**

17 Jennifer Townsend asked about the projected kindergarten enrollment. David Wells
18 estimates Westford School will get 22 new kindergarten students. This fall, the school
19 will offer a kindergarten class of 15 students and kindergarten/first grade class of 15
20 students.
21

22 **Task Team Updates**

23 • Negotiations

24 The Negotiations Committee met April 2. Marilyn McConnell asked about how
25 retirement is handled (whether it is negotiated in contracts). Mike Deweese discussed
26 some of the current progress regarding financing teacher retirement. It is not currently
27 for negotiations.

28 • Communications

29 Jennifer Townsend updated the board on the recent meeting of this task team. She noted
30 that CCSU is one year into the new web-site, which is widely used by the Westford
31 community. The second iteration of the site represents an upgrade for web-site content
32 managers, and will facilitate increased teacher usage of the school's web-site. Jennifer
33 Townsend asked who in administration should be addressed with questions regarding the
34 web-site. Questions or concerns with the Westford School's web-site should be
35 addressed to David Wells and questions concerning the CCSU web-site should be
36 addressed to Cindy Remy.
37

38 **World Language**

39 *Marilyn McConnell moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to affirm the*
40 *Board's commitment to a foreign language program for all grades in Westford School*
41 *and to form a task force to examine the issue and present findings to the Board. The*
42 *motion passed 4-0.*
43

44 Marilyn McConnell stressed the research showing that participation in foreign language
45 programs enhances student performance in all areas. She said research shows that
46 language acquisition occurs most readily before the age of 10. The Board discussed the

47 pros and cons of choosing any one particular language. Judy DeNova suggested the first
48 step is for the Board to decide if it is philosophically committed to a kindergarten through
49 grade 8 foreign language program. If so, how will the Board engage the community in
50 this discussion?

51

52 **Consent Agenda**

53 The consent agenda consisted of April 15 meeting minutes, warrants, and renewal of the
54 Food Service contract. The Food Service contract and the meeting minutes were pulled
55 from the Consent Agenda.

56

57 Minor edits were made to the April 15, 2009 meeting minutes.

58

59 *Nathan Lavalley moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to approve the*
60 *minutes as amended. The motion passed 4-0.*

61

62 *Nathan Lavalley moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to approve the*
63 *warrants. The motion passed 4-0.*

64

65 *Nathan Lavalley moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to renew the Food*
66 *Service contract with the Abbey Food Group. The motion passed 4-0.*

67

68 Andre Roy asked about the contract with the Abbey Food Group. There was concern
69 about the management being maintained at the current level.

70

71 **Future Agenda Items**

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- June 15 Carousel Meeting

73

- Foreign Language

74

- School Action Plan

75

- Voter Survey Results

76

77 **School Action Plan**

78 David Wells presented the School Action Plan (SAP), which will inform the professional
79 development plan's student achievement goals (based on the NECAP results and local
80 assessments). An addition to goals is in student achievement in science. David Wells
81 estimates a low number of students participated in the free/reduced meal program.

82 However, those few students can have a big impact on performance numbers. In the area
83 of curriculum, David Wells spoke of changes in grades 7/8 math to make greater use of
84 the Connected Math program. Professional development will include greater access to
85 the CCSU technology educator, David Davidson. David Wells presented the professional
86 development timeline for 2009-2010. The SAP will be presented for the Board's
87 approval in June.

88

89 **Meeting Re-Cap**

90 The highlight of the meeting was the foreign language discussion and the motion for
91 Board commitment.

92

93 **Executive Session: Contract Negotiations**

94 *Nathan Lavalley moved and Jennifer Townsend seconded the motion to enter into*
95 *Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. The motion was approved 4-0.*

96

97 The board entered into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. and exited Executive Session at
98 8:30 p.m.

99

100 The board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

101

102 Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Townsend