

Westford School Board meeting minutes for 10/17/11

Common Portion of Meeting with Union #46 School Board and Prudential Committee

Board Members Present: Mark Drapa/Martha Heath/Allison Weinhagen/Andre Roy

Other Board Members Present: Jack Behlendorf ,Albert Bombardier, Erin Knox, Lezlee Sprenger, (Missing were Ryan McLaren, Brian Donahue, Marilyn McConnell)

Administrators Present: Michael Deweese, Judy DeNova, Grant Geisler, Amy Cole, Robert Reardon, Bob Travers

Others Present: Andrea Sharp, Joshua Sharp

Charlee Day, Chair of the Prudential Committee and CCSU Board, called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M.

Common Board Topics:

-Michael Deweese and Judy DeNova briefed the boards about current improvements to their web site. The Parent Portal was available to Westford, EHS, and CTE students and parents on October 3rd. The four schools in Essex Junction will be up and running at a future date. Judy demonstrated how to navigate within the Parent Portal. A large number of students and parents are already using the Parent Portal.

-Amy Cole shared with board members the initial findings of the Science NECAP scores. Please see attached report.

-Jack Behlendorf , one of the Executive Committee Chairs, discussed the direction of a pending School Climate Advisory Committee to include teachers, principals and board members.

- At a prior meeting, the board members charged the Leaders at Work Committee with developing a revised Superintendent's evaluation model. Michael Deweese updated the boards with the progress to date. Please see attached report/examples of the committee's work.

The three boards recessed at 7:15 P.M.

Common meeting minutes submitted by Marla Durham, Prudential Committee Clerk

The Westford School Board reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Administrators present: Grant Gieselor/Judy Denova/David Wells

Board members present: Mark Drapa/Martha Heath/Allison Weinhagen/Andre Roy

Visitors present: Eric Henshaw/Mark Drapa

Principal's Report

Principal's report presented by David Wells (was also mentioned that report was available on school website)

The report was prepared using the same template/format which is being used throughout by the other principles within the ccsc

Budget discussion/guidance

Maintain the high level of education in a qualitative manner that is also sensitive to the taxpayers

The present staffing level is being reviewed (this is routine part of the budget process)

1st work session is 12/5/11

High school tuition for fy 13 (projected increase in students and then anticipated the levels will drop)

Identifying repair needs/anticipating setting monies aside for repairs that are absolute and future needs possibilities

For special education, the transition to being under the supervisory union and not under the local school districts

This is under review/ there is a possibility that the employees for special ed will transition to being under the su. This continues to be reviewed

At this time, this does not impact on the FY 13 budget that is being developed

It is likely that some form of abatement of taxes on properties affected by hurricane Irene will occur.

It is possible that there will be an increase of .02 cent in the statewide property tax (homestead tax rate fy 12 homestead .87, non residential: 1.36/income sensitivity 1.80% (will have more information regarding this available in the near future)

Recommendation will come from commissioner regarding the impact of Irene on the statewide property tax will possible be available in December

Base education amount: held \$8,544(state) likely to remain the same/no allowance for inflation

Likely that budget will impact taxes negatively (still early to project actual impact)

Small increase in utilities/fuel/wood chips

Projecting small increases in other areas of budget

Asking for equipment inventory/purchases/etc

Questions regarding overtime salaries: admin increase; need for overtime/reasons for such

Numbers for wood/oil questioned

More efficient to burn oil versus wood chips?

Entered executive session at 8:06

Reentered open session at 8:53

Motion made by Martha/2nd by Andre

School board members who were present at in-services were appreciated by staff/e-mail of appreciation well received

Scheduling for board planning day

It was noted that the board planning day allows for the free flowing discussion of ideas

November meeting? Will e-mail Alison with days of preference/days not available

Traffic planning committee

Traffic safety more of the issue rather than traffic planning committee

Budget implications not determined/ emphasis on pedestrian safety

Form a committee to study safety (traffic and pedestrian) working with minimal budget implications

Goal is for committee goal is to present in December

Solicitation will go out for committee

Andre will serve on committee as board representative

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of: approval of warrants, meeting minutes, and a VSBIT proxy vote.

Consent agenda moved by Martha 2nd by Mark. Consent agenda approved 4-0

Executive Session: Personnel

Motion made by Andre/2nd by Martha to go into executive session to discuss personnel

Martha left meeting at approximately 9:00

Entered executive session at 9:16

Left executive at 9:42

Motion to adjourn made by Mark, 2nd by Andre

Motion passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:45

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andre Roy, Board Clerk