

## WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

June 8, 2021

### Approved Minutes

#### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Annemarie Redmond at 6:05 p.m.

Those present were JeanMarie Oakman, David Baker, BJ Esty, Annemarie Redmond, Jacqui Antonivich, Kristen Bruso, Mark Yuengling, Jaimie Turner, Wendy Allen, Meredith Kelly, Tara Smith, Jessica Kischko, Ethan McNaughton, Carrie Jewell, Chelsea Chase, Crystal Bickford, Elizabeth Craig, Jessica Brown, Kirsten McNamara, Leanna Robinson, Lora Powers, Lori Small, Susan Brown, Tim Knapp, Mavis Shand, Candy Fuller, Julian Villa, Christine Bourne, Katie Murphy, SAPA and Becky Chrisinger.

#### II. CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Add Mario Bevacqua Scholarship Award

#### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Minutes From 5/11/21

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning the minutes from 5/11/21. Kristen Bruso made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Jaimie Turner seconded the motion. NFD. All in favor. This motion was approved.

#### IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Fuller thanked JeanMarie Oakman on behalf of the Weathersfield community for all of the time she spent worrying about our kids,

Wendy Allen presented a request from the PTO to have the annual car show on October 2, 2021, with a rain date of October 3, 2021 pending the opening of school grounds by the task force. The PTO would also like to have continuous online fundraising.

#### V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

David Baker said that JeanMarie is the most dedicated person he knows. She puts the students and school first. This will be JeanMarie's last board meeting as she is retiring. She will be greatly missed. JeanMarie Oakman thanked Bryan Martin and all of the custodial staff for all they did for the graduation. The graduation went very well. The librarian raised \$3,000 for the library. They are having a penny book sale right now.

a) Mario Bevacqua Scholarship Award

Katie Murphy is being awarded the Mario Bevacqua Scholarship Award. Katie will be going to UVM and studying Parks and Recreation and Tourism. JeanMarie and all of the Board congratulated Katie.

b) Recovery Plan

Mark Yuengling asked about the job description for the Assistant Recovery Coordinator. Angie Ladeau explained this role and that she has been doing all of this required reporting for the COVID funds. David Baker said that this was the one position that is required. Ethan McNaughton asked for a copy of the recovery plan report. Right now it isn't public, but the Board members have copies. Annemarie Redmond told Ethan she'd check into this and see if it can be shared with the public.

c) Summer Academy

Everyone was reminded that we had to cut summer school from our budget this year so we didn't have the option of having it here this summer. This decision was a hard decision and was made back in January/February. The SU is offering a summer school in Windsor for the entire SU. This program will be using some COVID funds. Jacqui Antonivich said she doesn't feel this program is inclusive, as it isn't reaching enough students. There was a large discussion on the cost and that was explained and discussed in detail. Katie Ahern and Angie Ladeau went over the numbers and what is driving the cost. The largest cost is personnel. There will be special education teachers, SLP's, BCBA's and a clinician. At this time, only 9 Weathersfield students are attending this program. It is hoped we can have our own summer school again next summer and can serve more Weathersfield students.

d) Sports Update

Jessica Kischko said that Panther Pride Night went very well. They gave out snacks, drinks, certificates and t-shirts. Jessica went over survey results. Jessica proposes having fall sign ups be from 8/2-8/27. There was discussion and input from parents and Board members. It was decided to go ahead and open up registration now as some parents might sign up now. Parents also gave input about getting off a bus at home and having to be back at school for sports fairly soon afterwards. This led to a discussion about after school programs. JeanMarie feels there will be some kind of program. There was discussion about what time the school will open and if there could be some sort of supervision in the morning that will still work with the master contract. There were various ideas such as finding a way to still use a paraprofessional, having volunteers or people writing grants for programs to be done before school.

D. 7th Grade Options/Staffing

JeanMarie said Weathersfield was able to hire another middle school teacher using stimulus funds. After interviewing candidates, the committee recommended hiring Zachary O'Brien, who is a Weathersfield and Windsor graduate. He will be graduating from Johnson State.

We need a K-4 Math Interventionist due to a transfer of the present teacher to a classroom teacher.

Candidates were interviewed for the regular education paraprofessional opening and the recommendation is to hire Crystal Surrell. Crystal has worked in Bellows Falls for eight years.

VI. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

David said his favorite part of his job is going around to the graduations in each town in the SU. We will find out later about COVID restrictions for the next school year. David thinks we will have a fairly normal day,

VII. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

a) Legislative Report - John Arrison

John Arrison said that 45 bills were introduced from the Education Committee. Of those bills, 11 made it out of the committee. John Arrison went over several bills.

- 1) H 101 Literacy Bill - The goal of this bill is to have competent readers by 4th grade.
- 2) Community Schools Bill - The goal of this bill is to have schools wrap around the community. These funds have to be applied for and the most needy schools will be given funds for this program.
- 3) H426 School Assessment Bill - All of the schools in the state will be toured and reviewed in regards to their building. This will give the state the tools to know if a school needs to be

rebuilt or just needs improvement. Our school is in good shape since we renovated and combined our two schools.

- 4) S100 H32 Uniform School Breakfast - This bill is around having free breakfast for all students.

There is going to be required radon testing in all schools. There will be other building requirements and inspections.

The state is looking at the possibility of sending money to religious schools in certain instances.

They are weighing the factors of how to make education equitable.

The AOE is aware that E-Finance is having severe problems.

b) Recovery Plan

David Baker said there was a lot of input and feedback at the last meeting in regards to the recovery funds. They also received feedback from others in the SU. It is good to know that across the SU, students hadn't lost as much educationally as expected.

The Recovery Plan needs to be in by mid June. Weathersfield has been given recovery funds for a third grade teacher, middle school teacher, intervention and increased after school program. Amendments can be made to the plan as we go along. One of the ways we've chosen to address needs is smaller classes. We have to continually report on data.

Jacqui Antonivich thanked the team for the changes.

c) Scheduling and Restrictions

People are feeling better about the scheduling. Decisions were made based on feedback from staff and there will be some added time at the end of the day. The school is going to take care of the time slot between 2:15-3:15.

There was a lot of discussion around after and before school coverage and various ways to support this need. Various suggestions were given such as writing grants and submitting to Hicks Nichols for a program in the morning for students, using volunteers and the possibility of using a paraprofessional as has been done in previous years and still honor the master contract. There was talk of sending out a form for parents to volunteer.

## VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

a) PTO Car Show if possible

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning the PTO fundraisers.

Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to allow the PTO Car Show on Oct 2, 2021 or October 3, 2021 as a rain date as well as online fundraisers to help with their depleting funds. Mark Yuengling seconded this motion. NFD. All in favor. This motion was approved.

b) Paraprofessional - Crystal Surrell

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning the hiring of Crystal Surrell. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to approve the hiring of Crystal Surrell for the regular education paraprofessional in the upper grades who will be floating between sixth and seventh grades. Jaimie Turner seconded this motion. NFD. All in favor. This motion was approved.

c) Zachary O'Brien - Middle School Teacher

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning the hiring of Zachary O'Brien. Kristen Brusio made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to hire Zachary O'Brien pending AOE

licensing approval as a middle school teacher using recovery funds. Mark Yuengling seconded. NFD. All in favor. This motion was approved.

**IX. SETTING THE NEXT AGENDA**

The July meeting will be the Board Retreat and will take place on July 6, 2021, starting at 5:00 p.m. There will be a potluck dinner and then the meeting. The Board will talk about goals for the year. This meeting will be warned but not open.

**X. TENTATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION - VSA.11 Section 313 - Personnel**

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. Kristen Brusco seconded this motion. NFD. All in favor. The Board went into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mark Yuengling second this motion. NFD. All in favor. This motion was approved. The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:30PM. No action was taken.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Brusco made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jaimie Turner seconded. NFD. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Chrisinger