

Huntington School Board Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2009

Present: Becca Golden, Mike Dooling, Andrea Ogilvie, Lisanne Hegman, Jen Peterson, John Alberghini, Gail Webb

Guests: Helen Keith, Becky Cozzens

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

**Public Comment:** Becky Cozzens, a Huntington community member and Brewster Pierce teacher, asked the school board members to go back to the negotiations process with an open mind. She said it has been a challenge for teachers to focus on their jobs this fall with contract issues on everyone's minds.

**Negotiations Update:** John said board negotiators have been in contact with the teachers' union, and they have begun the process of setting up the first meeting dates. He also said board negotiators and representatives of the support staff union will be meeting with a mediator on November 4<sup>th</sup> to try to resolve the outstanding issues with the support staff contract. The two parties are currently at impasse.

**Consent Agenda:** *A motion was made by Mike Dooling to accept the consent agenda, including minutes from the June 9, 2009 meeting, the principal's report and committee reports. Seconded by Andrea Ogilvie. Motion passed.*

**Superintendent's Report:**

**Drainage project:** John reported that the total cost of the drainage improvement project was significantly less than anticipated. The project total was \$21,884.58, and this leaves approximately \$13,100 remaining in the fund.

**Support Staff Salary Comparison:** John said the board had asked for some information on support staff salaries in other school districts, and he said there really aren't any official, central sources for this information. He explained that there seems to be a wide range in terms of salary, benefits, whether the support staff are unionized or not, etc. John said he was able to get some information from the Chittenden South SU. Generally speaking, though the starting salary rates for some categories of support staff are lower for CESU employees, the upper end of the CESU salary scale is consistently higher. John noted that the health insurance benefits in Chittenden South appear to cost employees more than they do in Chittenden East. John said he will share the information he gathered with the board negotiations committee.

**Year-end Finances:** John noted that pre K-4 expenditures were approx. \$50,000 more than budgeted, but this was offset by the fact that revenues were also approx. \$58,000 more than budgeted. He also said the food service program finished the year with a \$6500 surplus. This was partly the result of revenue from the Meals on Wheels program. John said the balance of the repair and replacement fund is \$18428.

**Facilities Assessment:** John said the cost of an independent facilities assessment is about \$14,000. Though it is a large investment, he said the report would provide valuable information about facilities needs and would be the basis for planning capital improvements. The review would examine all systems, including heating, ventilation, plumbing, electrical, the building foundation, roof, etc. Repair and improvement projects would be established in low, medium and high priority categories.

**Alternate Representative for Negotiations Committee:** Currently each Chittenden East elementary school board has a single representative on the CESU negotiations committee. There are times, however, when these individuals are not able to attend committee meetings. John said the CESU executive committee is encouraging all elementary boards to appoint an alternate representative to the committee. The alternate rep would be encouraged to attend all meetings of the committee but would vote only in the event that the board's original representative can not attend. John noted that having two representatives at the negotiations sessions will also help to make sure each board gets the most comprehensive, accurate information about what happens at the meetings. Lisanne Hegman is the board's official representative on the committee, and Mike Dooling said he is willing to serve as the alternate. *A motion was made by Andrea Ogilvie to appoint Mike Dooling as the board's alternate representative to the CESU negotiations committee; seconded by Jen Peterson. Motion passed.*

**2009-2010 Truant Officer:** Following a very brief discussion, *a motion was made by Jen Peterson to appoint principal Gail Webb as the Brewster Pierce truant officer for the 2009-2010 school year; seconded by Lisanne Hegman. Motion passed.*

**Policy Review:** Andrea explained that the following three policies, Volunteers and Work Study Students, HIPAA, and Student Attendance, will be presented for adoption/endorsement at the October board meeting. Andrea said the policy committee is currently reviewing the policy on Student Education Records, though the proposed changes from the version currently in effect are fairly minimal. John will ensure board members receive a copy of the new draft policy.

**Ice Cream Social:** The board will host an ice cream social this Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6:30 P.M. Becca said there are basically two goals for the event: to provide an opportunity for parents and community members to meet Gail and to recruit new volunteers for PIE. Becca has received donated ice cream from Ben and Jerry's, and board members will take care of scooping. Gail will offer a few brief remarks to introduce herself, and Becca suggested they might be able to give a representative from PIE an opportunity to speak about the group and their projects. Gail said that teacher Harry Scott has agreed to be a liaison to the PIE group. Becca also suggested that they could have some sign-up sheets to outline some of the different volunteer opportunities at the school.

**Other Business- CESU Transportation and Policy Committees:** Becca explained that there has been some recent discussion among members of the executive committee regarding the future of the transportation and policy committees. Becca said there are differing opinions among executive committee members about whether there is a need for these committees to continue to meet on a consistent basis or whether having them as ad-hoc committees would be sufficient. As ad-hoc committees, the groups would only meet when there is a specific task to work on or a particular issue for the committee to address.

In regard to the transportation committee, Becca said her feeling is that the committee should meet on an as-needed basis. She said she feels it is important to give parents/students a forum to express concerns about transportation issues, and she sees this as one of the potential functions of an ad-hoc transportation committee. Other board members agreed.

In regard to the policy committee, Becca said some have suggested that this committee is no longer necessary given the fact that many policies in place are now mandated by statute and that school districts have model policies to work from. Andrea said she does not feel committee members are simply “rubber stamping” model policies, and she pointed out that without the committee, it is possible that individual Chittenden East school boards could adopt different versions of a policy. This would likely be a big challenge for administrators. Andrea said she feels the policy committee should continue to meet on a regular basis, and Becca said she will communicate her opinion to the executive committee.

**BPMS Warrants:** *A motion was made by Jen Peterson to approve the monthly warrants in the amount of \$141,603.21; seconded by Andrea Ogilvie. Motion passed.*

**Next Meeting:** The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Brewster Pierce library. Agenda items will include review of the first draft of the 2010-2011 budget and vote on three policies listed above.

*A motion to adjourn was made by Andrea Ogilvie; seconded by Mike Dooling.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Turner

Unofficial until approved