

Richmond Elementary School Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2010

Present: Jon Milazzo, Scott Lowe, Julie Waite, Steve Znamierowski, Kristin Fortin, Dave Cobb, John Alberghini

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

There were no comments from the audience members.

Negotiations Committee Update: John Alberghini reported that the next Negotiations Committee meeting will be held on Feb. 5. Support staff is currently performing fact-finding and they are waiting for a full report.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Alberghini said that the Governance Study Committee is studying different scenarios for have one unified Chittenden East district. The recommendation was to look at Phase 1 of the study and decide on whether to proceed to Phases 2, 3 and 4. They are looking to get it on the ballot for next March (2011). A planning committee would be formed if the Governance Study Committee elects to proceed to Phase 2, said Alberghini.

Mr. Alberghini asked if the Board would be interested in attending a carousel meeting with other CESU school boards on March 11 to focus on big issues and policy governance. Afterwards, all boards would break up into their regularly scheduled board meetings. The members agreed to participate in the carousel meeting.

Mr. Alberghini reported that the district was recently audited by a professional firm. Their recommendation was that the deficit in the food service funds be eliminated. That concern will be addressed this year and next year, Alberghini said.

Approval of Annual Town Meeting Warning: Mr. Alberghini asked that each board member signed the Annual Town Meeting Warning before passing the document around. The budget listed in Article 9 of the warning is the same one the board approved last month.

Setting Budget Information Meeting: Because it must take place within 10 days of Town Meeting Day, the board scheduled the annual budget informational meeting for Feb. 23.

****MOTION to approve Tuesday, Feb. 23 as the date for the budget informational meeting was SECONDED by Kristin Fortin. Motion carried.***

Tuition Rate: **Ms. Fortin made the MOTION to set the 2010-11 tuition rate at \$9,112. Scott Lowe SECONDED it. Motion carried.*

Facilities/Capital Planning Discussion

Mr. Alberghini said that Richmond Elementary received a site and building assessment. It found that the roof is in disrepair and they are anticipating that it may soon start to leak. It requires repair this summer. Other findings included some erosion in the back of the building, draining issues around the perimeter of the building, and the need for handicap railings and ramp. The school's bay windows also require repair as they are showing significant deterioration. In addition, the main entrance is difficult for

attendants in the front office to see in case of an intruder, and the fire alarm needs to be upgraded since it doesn't currently meet ADA guidelines. The roof repair was listed as the only high priority, while the other concerns are considered medium priorities at this point.

Steve Znamierowski asked if the board could add the roof repair as a bond vote in March. Mr. Alberghini said there isn't enough time to get it on the March ballot but that they are allowed to hold a bond vote any time of the year. Mr. Znamierowski said his first inclination is to include all the medium priorities on any bond vote along with the roof repair, but recognized that that might not work given the economy at the moment. Dave Cobb said that while it may not be quite as high a priority as the roof that he considers upgrading the fire alarm system and making all the doors fire-safe to be a high priority as well.

Ms. Fortin estimated that the roof repair would require eight weeks of construction. Mr. Znamierowski said that would mean they would have to start repairs by July and that he's not sure how they could get the bond vote through by then. Mr. Alberghini conceded it would be a stretch. Mr. Znamierowski suggested that the board make the roof repair subject known through a public presentation by Rob Fitzgerald. The members agreed and decided to have Fitzgerald make such a presentation on Feb. 23 at the budget informational meeting.

Principal Search Update: Mr. Alberghini said that the new principal search needs more members on the search committee. The first meeting is set for Feb. 4. Jon Milazzo and Scott Lowe agreed to join the committee. The committee is still looking for several community members to volunteer.

Items for Future Discussion: Julie Waite said that at Town Meeting Day she would like to see the school dispel the notion that all enrollments are declining when Richmond Elementary's is not.

Principal's Report: Mr. Cobb said there could potentially be as many as 53 new preschool applicants next year, so there may be a waiting list. He added that the school library is in need of a digital projector and an ELMO.

Approval of Minutes and Warrants: The minutes from the previous RES board meeting were approved as written. Warrants in the amount of \$71,541.13 were also approved.

Other Business: Mr. Milazzo said several parents asked why Chittenden East schools held school on Martin Luther King Day while other districts did not. He said that the hope was to focus the school curriculum on Martin Luther King and his legacy that day. The idea was to honor MLK in school since most students probably wouldn't use their day off to do that.

Mr. Milazzo noted that Jim Massingham has announced his retirement as CESU Superintendent and that John Alberghini will take his place. Mr. Milazzo said that goes toward the plan of keeping good people in the district. CESU is currently searching for a new assistant to the superintendent.

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 8:35 p.m.