

Brookline-Newfane School Board

Thursday, May 20, 2010
6:30 P.M. at Brookline Elementary School

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Kim Colligan, Ken McFadden, Pam Meihak, Lee Anne Parker, Brandy Pickering, Dan Seiden, April Wellman, Board members; Amy Jo Cable, recorder; Steven John, WCSU Superintendent; Bettyann Runge, Brookline Principal; Sue Biolsi, Sam Bovat, Pat Pelton, Marsha Wells, members of the public.

Lee Anne Parker called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

Agenda review: No additions or revisions to the agenda were requested.

Members of the Public: No comments from members of the public.

Old Business

1. Joint board retreat

- a. Reviewed draft agenda that Pam Meihak and Kim Friedman developed. Ken McFadden made a motion to table discussion about the agenda of the retreat since Kim Friedman was not present. April Wellman seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.
- b. Consider possible retreat dates. Saturday, September 25, 2010 was decided as a possible retreat date from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. at a location to be determined.

Task: Lee Anne Parker will check with Kim Friedman and Bruce Garrow to see if the 25th of September from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. if ok.

2. Action Plan

- a. Lee Anne Parker directed [whom?] to review the WCSU strategic plan at the WCSU Annual Board meeting next week or at a retreat. Steven John also suggested a summer retreat would be a good time to revise the WCSU strategic plan.
- b. Marsha Wells gave everyone a copy of Newfane/Brookline Action Plan for 2010-2011. Marsha talked about the different points of the hand-out and also mentioned her interest in learning more about Power School. Dan Seiden moved to approve the Newfane/Brookline Action Plan for 2010-2011. Ken McFadden seconded. All in favor. *Newfane/Brookline Action Plan for 2010-2011 approved.*

3. Re-naming the School: Brandy Pickering read e-mails she had received from members of the public regarding the new name for the *Newfane Elementary School*. All the e-mails she read indicated *NewBrook Elementary School* would be a good choice. Sue Boilsi, Sam Bovat, Pat Pelton and Marsha Wells (members of the public present) all stated that they thought *NewBrook Elementary School* would be a good choice. Dan Seiden “called the question” (to vote on a motion with no further discussion) before the board. Ken McFadden seconded. Lee Anne Parker called for a vote to stop discussion regarding the motion that was tabled at last month’s meeting (to re-name the *Newfane Elementary School* to *Newfane-Brookline Elementary School*. Kim Friedman amended that motion to include that the board seek community input regarding that name and make a final decision on that motion at the next (May) Board meeting.) Ken McFadden abstained. All others in favor. Motion to stop discussion and vote on the motion which was tabled at last month’s meeting regarding the name *Newfane-Brookline Elementary School* passed. Lee Anne Parker called for a vote on re-naming the *Newfane Elementary School* to *Newfane-Brookline School*. Dan Seiden was in favor. Ken McFadden abstained. All others opposed. Motion defeated. Lee Anne Parker requested that someone make a new motion. Kim Colligan made a motion to re-name the *Newfane Elementary School* to *NewBrook Elementary School*. Brandy Pickering seconded. Dan Seiden opposed. All others in favor. Motion passed.

4. Joint contract: Per the Board’s request, Steven John presented the Board with wording changes proposed by the attorney whom he consulted. Ken McFadden made a motion to change section 1B (“General Supervision”) to add the underlined text:

The joint board shall have the powers enumerated in title 16 V.S.A. s563 and 572, powers of school board. Notwithstanding the above powers, for matters related to the sale, divestiture, conveyance or disposition of a school building in either school district, the joint board will warn an article requesting voter approval in the town school district affected. Matters concerning the use of school buildings or property and the assignment of students between said school buildings shall be the joint board’s decision.

Kim Colligan seconded the motion. Brandy Pickering noted that she felt comfortable with these changes since they still indicated that the town would still have a vote. Motion passed with all in favor. Steven John then suggested that the board wait to consider any further changes on this document until next month’s meeting after the board has had time to study the other recommended change (underlined text):

7. Voter Approval of Budget.

The school budget shall be submitted to the voters of the Brookline and Newfane School Districts at a duly warned meeting of both districts. Said meeting shall be a joint meeting of both districts. The location of the annual

meeting of the districts on the budget shall alternate between the districts. The moderator of the town in which the meeting is held shall preside over the meeting. The budget shall be voted in a lawful manner. Voting on the budget shall be by Australian ballot if the districts vote to establish the budget by Australian ballot. In the event that one district receives a petition to establish the vote by Australian ballot, the other district agrees to place such an article before its voters. The votes on whether to establish voting by Australian ballot shall be commingled. The question on voting by Australian ballot shall be in the following form: "Shall the Brookline-Newfane Joint School District adopt its budget by Australian ballot?". The establishment of voting by Australian ballot shall be approved or defeated by a majority of the votes cast.

Votes on the annual budget shall be co-mingled. The budget shall be approved or defeated by a majority of the votes cast.

Ken McFadden made a motion to table the discussion of this document. Pam Meihak seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Tickler: add this as an agenda item for next month's meeting.

5. Future use of Brookline School: Brandy Pickering moved to appoint one board member from each district (Brookline and Newfane), one administrator, one teacher from the *Newbrook Elementary School* and at least one member of the public from each town (Brookline and Newfane) to the ad-hoc committee charged with exploring possible future use of the Brookline building. Dan Seiden seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Lee Anne Parker asked for volunteers at this time from the board. Ken McFadden and Dan Seiden both volunteered. Bettyann Runge also volunteered for this committee. Lee Anne noted that when the public reads these minute, they would know that volunteers from the public were welcome and needed by this committee. Also noted was that if volunteers contacted Kim Friedman, she could then appoint those volunteers to the committee. Ken McFadden made a motion for this board's chair (Kim Friedman) to fill the rest of the slots on this ad hoc committee for possible usage of Brookline School (one teacher from NewBrook Elementary School and at least one member of the public from each community (Brookline and Newfane)). Pam Meihak seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

6. Joint Board Finances Starting July 1, 2010

- **Appointment of School District Treasurer for the joint board:** Steven John recommended to the board that Kim Friedman and April Wellman contact their respective treasurers and meet with them. At that time the two treasurers can decide how to handle the problem (two treasurers for the one new joint school board, NewBrook, where only one is needed). With no objections, Lee Anne

Parker so directed the board to accept Steven John's recommendation. No objections. So directed.

Task: Kim Friedman and April Wellman to contact their respective treasurers and meet.

- Regarding identification of one member from each **individual board to recommend to school treasurer (s) to sign payroll**, Ken McFadden made a motion to keep as is. Lee Anne Parker advised she would entertain a motion to leave it as it was. Ken McFadden made a motion to do so as long as there is a board member from both the Brookline and Newfane community. Brandy Pickering so moved. Lee Anne Parker seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

7. Reports/Information-Sharing/Short Items

- **Superintendent's Report**
 - Steven John discussed his report which included the addition of new employee, Debra Wood, who is now in charge of paying WCSU bills, payroll, etc.
 - Steven handed out a Public Preschool Partnership Draft Contract which he asked board members to review by next month's board meeting and come to the meeting with any questions they may have regarding the contract.
 - Steven also requested board members to forward any such questions regarding this contract to him prior to next month's meeting so that he may come to the meeting better prepared to answer those questions.
- **Principal's Report (Brookline):** Bettyann Runge explained that they have been experiencing problems at the Brookline school with ticks, mostly in the middle area of their playground and requested parents to check their children for ticks.
- **Other:** Steven John read a letter to the editor that appeared in *The Brattleboro Reformer* on May 17, 2010, written by Marc Pickering of the NewBrook Good Sports Club on May 4, 2010. The letter stated that the NewBrook Good Sports Club has been able to make considerable improvements in the baseball/softball field at the Newfane Elementary School, thanks to a number of businesses and individuals. The club thanked Brown and Roberts Hardware, WW Building Supply, Kelly's Northeast Equipment, Plimpton Excavating, Mike Fitzpatrick and the many parents and student volunteers of Brookline and Newfane.

8. Consent Agenda: Approve April minutes. Ken McFadden made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. April Wellman seconded. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

9. Next meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2010, at 6:15 P.M. at the Newfane Elementary School.

10. Adjournment: Kim Colligan made a motion to adjourn. Pam Meihak seconded. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:51 P.M.