

Brookline-Newfane School Board

Thursday, April 15, 2010
6:30 PM at Newfane Elementary School

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Amy Jo Cable, recorder; Bruce Garrow, Newfane Principal; Steven John, WCSU Superintendent; Kim Friedman, Ken McFadden, Pam Meihak, Brandy Pickering, Dan Seiden, Board members; Bettyann Runge, Brookline Principal; Molly Wilson, member of the public

Kim Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

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

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

Reports/Information-Sharing

1. Superintendent's Report
2. Newfane Principal's Report
3. Brookline Principal's Report

Old Business (for discussion)

1. Joint board retreat (time and purpose): The Board and administrators discussed the purpose and possible timing of a board retreat. The Board decided to honor staff at the Before-School Potluck and invite staff to some part of the retreat. There was general agreement to use the retreat to discuss goals and priorities in light of any legislation approved by the legislature this session. Bruce reiterated the importance of having a clear direction and actions that come out of the retreat.

Task: Pam Meihak and Kim Friedman will work with Steven John and Bruce Garrow to develop a draft agenda for the joint board retreat.

Ticklers for May:

- *review the draft agenda at May 20th joint board meeting & consider dates*
 - *Discuss the school's Action Plan in the context of the WCSU strategic plan*
2. Ad-hoc committee's recommendation regarding renaming the school: Dan Seiden made a motion to rename 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. Brandy Pickering seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bruce suggested advertising through the schools' newsletters, etc., the fact that we will be discussing and deciding on the name at the May meeting and encouraging community members to attend that meeting.

Task: Brandy, Kim Colligan and Dan Seiden will work on outreach prior to the May meeting.

New Business (for discussion)

1. Amending the joint contract

- a. How to handle a vacant seat on the Board and its impact on voting: Steven John reminded the board that even if a seat is vacant, the other board member's votes do not have more weight. It is incumbent on the town with a vacancy to fill that vacancy. No action is needed/called for on this item.
- b. Moderator at joint school districts' annual meeting: Kim Friedman moved to amend the joint board contract to state that the moderator of the joint annual school districts' meeting will be elected as the first order of business at that meeting. Dan Seiden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Task: Kim Friedman will follow up with Steven re. amending the contract to reflect this change.

- c. Set a date for joint school district annual meeting: Steven John pointed out that this meeting takes place on the second Thursday in February, which in 2011 would be February 10th. Brandy Pickering moved to amend the joint contract to set the date of the joint school board meeting for the second Saturday in February (February 12, 2011) at 10 A.M. Dan Seiden seconded. Ken McFadden opposed. All others approved. Motion passed.
- d. Definition of school "closing": Dan Seiden moved that the joint board direct Steven John to draft language regarding the legal definition of "school closing." Pam Meihak seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tickler for May: rreview Steven John's draft language regarding definition of "school closing"

2. Future Use of Brookline School: Brandy Pickering made a motion to create a joint board ad hoc committee to explore uses for the Brookline School building. The ad hoc committee shall hold an open meeting in Brookline for all interested community members and shall report its recommendations back to the school board at the joint board's June 17, 2010 meeting. Pam Meihak seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. Kim Friedman appointed Ken McFadden and Dan Seiden co-chairs of the committee and directed them to consult with administration as to next steps. Dan Seiden moved that he and Ken McFadden as ad hoc committee co-chairs bring to the May board meeting proposed membership for that committee. Pam Meihak seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tickler for May: Consider Dan and Ken's proposal re. membership of the ad hoc committee.

3. School consolidation (Newfane/Brookline): At the request of the Board, Steven John offered the following language for a motion: "The Board authorizes Bruce Garrow to move equipment and materials from Brookline School in a timely manner. This transition should start as soon as practical, but any items will be moved with the understanding that the teachers and staff at Brookline will need certain equipment and materials to support their educational programs until the last student day on June 16th." The motion was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.
4. Letter to VT Legislature regarding school consolidation: Board members reviewed Kim Friedman's letter to VT Legislature. Ken McFadden made a motion to approve and electronically send the letter as soon as possible. Dan Seiden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda (F21 Weapons Policy, F9 Transportation Policy, approve all outstanding minutes from 12-1-09 (special Board meeting), 12-10-09 (regular December Board meeting), 1-5-09 (January Board meeting), 2-9-10 (information meeting), 2-16-10 (joint annual school district meeting) and 3-18-10 (regular March meeting). Ken McFadden made a motion to pass the consent agenda as is. Dan Seiden seconded. Consent agenda approved unanimously.

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

Executive session

Entered Executive Session at 8:34 PM

Left Executive Session at 8:47 PM

Brandy Pickering moved to ratify the educational support staff master agreement for 7/1/10 through 6/30/12. Dan seconded the motion. Motion was approved with one abstention (Ken McFadden).