

BROOKLINE-NEWFANE JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 18, 2011
6:30 PM @ *NewBrook Elementary School*

Draft Minutes

Present: Lee Anne Parker, Somara Zwick, Brookline; Kim Friedman, Ken McFadden, Brandy Pickering, Newfane. Amy Jo Cable, recorder; Steven John, WCSU Superintendent; Christopher A. Pratt, *NewBrook Elementary School* Principal.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & REVIEW AGENDA:** Kim Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
- II. **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** No members of the public were present.
- III. **HOW ARE WE DOING?**

Goal: Continue to review desired student outcomes, assess progress towards those outcomes and make course corrections where necessary.

A. Superintendent's Report

- Regional Education District (RED): Steven John and Lee Anne Parker gave board members a report on the August 1st meeting at Leland & Gray Union Junior/Senior High School. A discussion followed where it was suggested that as part of the Articles of Agreement the option to vote to disband after 4 years be made available. Kim Friedman will make make an update of the RED meetings a standing agenda item each month.

B. Principal's Report

- NewBrook Elementary School's new principal, Chris Pratt, discussed his report with Board members and some additional items:
 - Chris mentioned possible plans to sell books from the former Brookline School and use the profits to purchase a new area rug for the library in the *NewBrook Elementary School*. Lee Anne Parker volunteered to help clean out the building.

- Chris also mentioned plans for displaying historical photographs of both the former *Brookline School* and the *Newfane School* at the *NewBrook Elementary School*.
- Chris discussed plans for the after-school program with funds from the 21st Century Grant with board members.
- Brandy Pickering mentioned that she was disappointed that the kindergarten class will again be so large this year and she would prefer to see a smaller class size for kindergarten students.

IV. YEAR-END ACTUALS REVIEWED; BOARD CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING:

- A. Spreading federal jobs money over FY12 and Fy13 for Balanced Literacy Program and professional development: A lengthy discussion followed which included board members’ concerns regarding exactly what the federal jobs money would be used for at the *NewBrook Elementary School*. Kim Friedman moved that the Board allocate up to \$23,911 of federal jobs money to Windham Central Supervisory Union’s balanced literacy program, related professional development, or other relevant uses as permitted by the grant guidelines. These funds will be spread out over fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 as recommended by the Superintendent and Principal. Lee Anne Parker seconded. Kim Friedman called for a vote. All were in favor. Motion passed.
- B. Adding additional funds for early education to cover 20 students: Board members discussed the budget at length in an attempt to determine if funds were available to cover the additional costs for early education for the children in the Brookline and Newfane School districts this upcoming school year. Brandy Pickering moved that the Board direct the administration to explore the possibility of increasing funds for early education in fiscal year 2012 and report back to the Board at its September meeting. Somara Zwick seconded. Kim Friedman called for a vote. Ken McFadden opposed. All others were in favor. Motion passed.

TASK: Ken McFadden asked board members, as their “homework,” to review their Oath of Office.

V. DISCUSS RESULTS OF BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

Kim Friedman thanked everyone who participated in the *Board Self-Assessment* and invited board members to discuss any items from the self-assessment results which she distributed. The following tasks were identified:

- 1) Item #2: *The board regularly solicits input from the staff and community when establishing the future vision of the district. After a short discussion, it was agreed to re-visit this discussion at a future Joint Board meeting.*

TICKLER: Discuss at a future meeting ways in which we are and are not successful in soliciting input from community members when establishing the future vision of the district; explore new strategies

- 2) Item #9: *The board delegates responsibility for implementing policy to the administration.* Board members had questions regarding this item.

TASK: Contact Laura Soares regarding Board's and administration's understanding regarding policy implementation and related responsibilities.

- 3) Item #16: *Board members consistently maintain confidentiality regarding executive session information.* Brandy Pickering noted that this was a concern of hers. Steven John pointed out that he is not confident that it's being adhered to.

TICKLER: Steven John and Chris Pratt will discuss with the Board their expectations of board members (best practice) regarding regular meetings and Executive Session

- 4) Items #19 & #20: *Board members annually participate in board development activities. It was agreed to reimburse board members for the cost of their meal at the upcoming WCSU Board Summer Retreat on Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at the Hermitage beginning at 5 PM.*

TICKLER: Discuss Board development at a future Joint Board meeting.

- 5) Item #28: *The board is actively involved at both local and state levels in advocating for education legislation.* Some Board members expressed concern that this is an unrealistic expectation. Steven John agreed to discuss this issue further at a board meeting in the future, after budget approval was complete.

VI. BOARD RETREAT: It was agreed that everyone would bring their own dinner to the Brookline-Newfane Joint School Board Retreat on Thursday, September 1, 2011 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the NewBrook Elementary School.

TASK: Chris Pratt agreed to forward his and Steven John's questions and ideas regarding possible student outcomes for FY13 to board members prior to the retreat.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- June 21st Joint School Board meeting minutes
- July 26th Joint School Board meeting minutes

Kim Friedman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ken McFadden seconded. Kim Friedman called for a vote. All were in favor. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Kim Friedman moved to adjourn at 8:58 PM. Ken McFadden seconded. Kim Friedman called for a vote. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings:

- *WCSU Board Summer Retreat, 5 PM, Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at Hermitage. Please RSVP with Samantha at Central Offices. (\$25.00)*
- *Brookline-Newfane Joint School Board Retreat, Thursday, September 1' 2011, 4 PM – 8 PM. Bring your own meal.*
- *Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee meeting (RED), 7 PM on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, in the library at Leland & Gray Union Junior/Senior High School.*
- *Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee meeting (RED), 7 PM on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, in the library at Leland & Gray Union Junior/Senior High School.*
- *WCSU Board meeting, 7 PM on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at Jamaica Village Elementary School.*
- *Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee meeting (RED), 7 PM on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, in the library at Leland & Gray Union Junior/Senior High School.*

