

NORWICH BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 7, 2008
7:00 PM, MARION CROSS SCHOOL

Minutes

Present: Board members Addante, Callaghan, French, Sachsse (7:20 PM), Vitt; Administrators Gersen, Aubin, Edson. No public attended and the meeting was not videotaped. Recorded by R. Lohr

1. Call to order – Chair Becky French called the meeting to order at 7:01.

2. Approval of Minutes

Linda Addante moved and Carey Callaghan seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, as submitted with changes, the Retreat of April 23, as submitted, and the executive sessions of April 2 and April 23, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. The change on the April 2 meeting minutes was in the PTO Report that the dollar donation for the spelling bee was a door entry fee.

3. Communications and Reports

a) Report of Chair

Chair Becky French announced that the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 PM at the Marion Cross School Library. She also reported that she attended a Band Stand Committee meeting and informed this committee that the school and Board did not have opinions about the deliberations regarding the grand stand.

b) Reports of Administrators

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gersen forwarded personnel issues to executive session.

Principal's Report

Principal Edson submitted his written report and for his report highlighted the math in-service meetings that were planned. He announced that he was forecasting that kindergarten and first grade enrollments would exceed projections. He also noted that the school awarded more enrichment grants than ever before.

The Board reviewed information from Dresden Facilities Director Jonathan Brush regarding projects at Marion Cross. Recommended projects included an upgrade of classroom door locks, the installation of a keyless lock entry system, renovating and insulating the art wing roof, and replacing carpet in the third grade entrance hallway. Other projects that could be tackled included rest room counter tops, playground drainage, and replacing the sump pump system. The total cost of all the projects is \$78,000. John Aubin reported that the projected fund balance of \$323,000 could be applied toward these projects. Given that the budget assumed a fund balance of \$150,000 the Board could apply up to \$170,000 to the projects. The remainder of the unexpended balance could be used to offset taxes in 2009-10. The Board wanted to highlight that these projects are responding to resident concerns about the school.

Carey Callaghan moved and Linda Addante seconded a motion to approve the expenditure of \$78,300 on Marion Cross School improvements as submitted to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Business Requiring Discussion

Student Handbook

The Board discussed the Handbook. Rob Edson asked Board members to send him specific suggestions via email. The Handbook will be approved at the next Board meeting and it will be printed in the summer. The Board suggested that the new principal incorporate her own message in the Handbook.

Board Goals

The Board discussed a document outlining the Board goals that were drafted from discussions at the Board Retreat. These goals will be posted on the school Web site. Wayne Gersen reported that the Board's concern regarding the delivery of special education in the classroom is under discussion across the school district and the Superintendent will draft an SAU-wide goal on this issue after consulting with other administrators.

5. Business Requiring Action

The present and former Board chairs will finalize the list of Board Committees via email prior to the next meeting and the list will be circulated to the Board members.

The Board discussed the LAP goal action steps regarding classroom activity to improve writing. **Mary Sachsse moved and Linda Addante seconded a motion to approve the 2008-09 LAP Gals as proposed and attached to the original meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mary Sachsse moved and Carey Callaghan seconded a motion to approve the Board's 2008-09 meeting calendar and agenda planning schedule as proposed and attached to the original meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Carey Callaghan moved and Linda Addante seconded a motion to approve the provisions of the Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP) for the Norwich School District (Supervisory Union 55) for the Fiscal Year 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Addante moved and Carey Callaghan seconded a motion to appoint Dr. Virginia Brack as School Physician for the 2008-09 school year at an annual stipend of \$300. The motion passed unanimously.

Carey Callaghan moved and Linda Addante seconded a motion to authorize the Administration to fill teacher vacancies between now and the regular meeting of September 3 by offering a one (1) week period to obtain telephone or email votes from the Board members and that three (3) affirmative votes must be obtained before a contract is issued. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Addante moved and Mary Sachsse seconded a motion to re-adopt Policy DFA-1, Investment Policy, as required in section XIV of the Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Sachsse moved and Carey Callaghan seconded a motion to approve Norwich non-union salaries as proposed and attached to the original meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Session

Carey Callaghan moved and Mary Sachsse seconded a motion to enter executive session in accordance with Title 1, Section 313 for discussion of a personnel matter.

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 8:13 PM.

7. Leave of Absence

Linda Addante moved and Carey Callaghan seconded a motion to grant Barbara Hall a one year unpaid leave of absence for 2008-09. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Linda Addante moved and Carey Callaghan seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.