

TROY SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (REGULAR)
Troy School
Tuesday, October 19, 2017

APPROVED MINUTES

- I. Call the Meeting to Order: Gaston called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Recited to open the meeting.
Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda: None requested.
- II. **Action:** Approve the minutes of:
- August 3, 2017 (*revised, Attachment A*) **Motion** to accept minutes as written. Forster/**APPROVED**
 - September 7, 2017 (*Attachment B*) **Motion** to accept minutes as written. Forster/**APPROVED**
 - September 19, 2017 (*Attachment C*)
 - Cliff commented that he did not agree with all suggestions listed as some would increase costs rather than save money. Chris confirmed his concern. Gaston reiterated that suggestions were not legally binding.**Motion** to accept minutes as written. Bathalon/**APPROVED**
- III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens:
- Betty informed the Board that she, Chris, and Gaston agreed on a strategy for the 8th grade class to support and participate in the American Legion Auxiliary-sponsored Americanism Essay Contest.
 - The Board agreed to Cliff's recommendation to move agenda item III (Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens) to after agenda item VII (Superintendent's Report) to allow public comments to be made with the Superintendent present to agenda item III.
- IV. Program Presentation – "NFL Fuel-Up to Play 60"
- Mary Lou Bonneau, accompanied by a parent chaperone (Ms. Amanda Pepin) and a team of students provided an overview of the "NFL Fuel Up to Play 60" program. The program was launched by National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to encourage students to adopt healthier eating and exercise habits.
 - A short video of TS students participating in a student designed and led obstacle course was presented. Travis Pepin, responded to questions about the program clearly demonstrating why he *was named as a Vermont Student Ambassador for NFL Fuel-Up To Play 60*.
 - The student team was engaged and clearly enthused about the program.
 - Given the successes of the program (received a \$1500.00 grant; Travis being named a Vermont Student Ambassador with an all-expense paid trip *to Minneapolis for peer leadership training; trips to Gillette Stadium where students met NFL players sponsoring the program, and participated in a program on the field after the 3rd quarter; and, novel student-led exercise classes*) *it is clear that Mary Lou seeks to improve the lives of TS students.*

Chris recognized Mary Lou for being awarded the 2017 "Outstanding Achievement in Child Nutrition" Award for her commitment to excellence, child nutrition and learning, from the School Nutrition Association of Vermont. That she was cited "for representing the best of school nutrition in Vermont, and for your love and care for the students of the Troy School" is a credit to her hard work.

V. Financial Report

Action:

A. Approve Board Warrant –

- Glenn provided the warrant with orders for signature by a majority of the Board.

Motion to approve the Board warrant totaling \$453,599.08. Currier/**APPROVED**

B. Approve the Financial Report of September 2017 (*Attachment D*)

- Glenn reviewed the September 2017 summary and responded to specific questions.

Motion to approve the Financial Report. Forster/**APPROVED**

Update:

A. Clarify August Pre-K encumbrance for unbudgeted electricity expense:

- Glenn explained that the 2018 budget did not provide for electricity to the pre-k modular classroom as an expense under Total Pre-K Operations and Maintenance. Rather, \$28,000.00 was budgeted for electricity as an expense under Total Operations and Maintenance (for the school building). The anticipated \$4000.00 surplus would more than cover pre-K electric needs. **Motion** to transfer \$2000.00 from line 01-100-2600-5622-00-209-00 Electricity (Total Operations and Maintenance) to line 01-100-2611-5622-00-209-11 Electricity –Pre-K (Total Pre-K Operations and Maintenance).

Forster/**APPROVED**

VI. Principal's Report (*Attachment E*)

Action: Accept Principal's Report

Chris made the following recommendations for action by the Board:

- Bus Driver - Hire Cindy Daigneault pending successful licensing.

Motion to hire Cindy Daigneault as bus drive (pending successful licensing). Currier/**APPROVED**

- Athletics - Hire Richard Wells as Athletic Coordinator.

Motion to hire Richard Wells as Athletic Coordinator. Forster/**APPROVED**

- Para-Educator - Hire Whitney Adams as full-time para-educator.

Motion to hire Whitney Adams as full time para-educator. Bathalon/**APPROVED**

- Act on Sarah Standish's request for unpaid leave.

Motion to approved Sarah Standish's request for unpaid leave. Forster/**APPROVED**

- USDA Grant guidance

- After discussion, the Board agreed to three prioritized projects. Chris indicated that the USDA allows for some flexibility in supporting projects addressing school safety and security that are added to an existing grant. That being said, the listed projects may/may not be supported by the USDA grant. In no particular order: northwest wall of school/gymnasium (only wall not addressed in recent building renovations/bond with concern being that it is on the 'wet' side of the building and is shaded); renovations to nurse's office (removed from recent building renovation/bond, but need for an expanded treatment area and shower remain); paging and clock systems (outdated intercom that compromises the administration's ability to communicate directly to students and staff directly in the classroom)

- Gaston noted the detailed River Road Property Management Plan prepared by Jeff Parsons, an ecologist with Arrowwood Environmental. Chris indicated that there was enough grant money to prepare the property management plan and provide assistance to teachers to develop meaningful lesson plans.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Action: Accept Superintendent's Report

Update:

John was unable to attend the meeting and so Gaston provided the following updates on behalf of the Superintendent:

A. Insurer guidance - alcohol consumption on school property:

- It was noted that parents from the Troy School PTA were in attendance to participate in the Board's discussion.
- At issue is whether alcohol consumption at the annual PTA-sponsored fundraiser, held at the school's off campus ballfield, created a potential legal liability.

- Gaston read from NCSU common policy F.9P, 'Regulations Concerning the Use and Possession of Alcohol Beverages and Drugs by Students and the Public', calling attention to the prohibition of alcohol on school property.
 - NCSU legal representation from the Vermont School Board Insurance Trust strongly urged the Board to enforce the current policy, correct noncompliance, and to contact law enforcement should visitors insist on challenging the policy.
 - Jessica voiced the PTA's support and reiterated they neither promote nor encourage alcohol consumption by tournament participants or guests. Tournament rules state that "no alcohol is allowed on the playing field."
 - The Board was advised that the ballfield was used by the local summer softball league and that, at times, litter was left at the ballfield.
 - The recommendation to the Board was to strategically place signs at the ballfield identifying the alcohol prohibition.
 - **ACTION** – Gaston will research requirements for placement of signs on school property and identify the POC for the summer softball league.
- B. NCSU proposal for alternative structure (Act 46/49)
- Gaston reported that he is a member of the NCSU Executive Committee Subcommittee assisting John prepare the Alternative Governance Structure plan. The NCSU Executive Committee will review the plan at its October 26 meeting.
 - The TS Board will have the AGS plan to review and approve at the November 2 meeting. Review of the AGS plan would coincide with the Fall Community Forum (refer to New Business).

VIII. Unfinished/New Business

A. Unfinished Business

Information:

1. Board Guidance - agenda and meeting minutes (*Attachment F*)
 - Gaston informed the Board that Abby will not be taking minutes for the Board. As an interim measure, he would prepare Board minutes.
 - It is hoped that by detailing requirements and guidelines for documenting business brought before and conducted by the Board the task of preparing minutes will be less onerous.

B. New Business

Action:

1. Appoint member to fill Board vacancy
 - Concomitant with hiring Board member Richard Wells as the Athletic Coordinator is his resignation from the Board (refer to Principal's Report).
 - By statute, the appointment ends at the time of the Annual School District meeting (Town Meeting Day) at which time the appointee may step down or be voted to serve a full term by the voters of the Troy School District.
 - In order to participate fully as a voting member, the appointee must be sworn in by the Town Clerk prior to the November 2 meeting.
 - Allyson Bathalon was nominated for appointment to the School Board.

Motion to appoint Allyson Bathalon to the School Board to fill the seat vacated by Richard Wells.
Bathalon/**APPROVED**
2. Approve NEKEA 1-year Collective Bargaining Agreement
 - Glenn summarized the MOA for a one year contract reached with the Northeast Kingdom Education Association (NEKEA).
 - Cliff was concerned that Board members were not given adequate time to fully review the terms of the MOA.
 - Glenn explained the timeline was shortened considerably to ensure health insurance plans were identified such that required documents could be prepared for teachers in time to select their plan during the upcoming open enrollment period.

Motion to accept conditions of the MOA with NEKEA. Forster/**APPROVED**

3. Approve interim health care plan for support staff
 - Glenn summarized the interim health care plans for support staff reached with the NEKEA and detailed in the Side Letter of Agreement. School Districts retained local cost share parameters. As indicated above, the timeline was short which precluded inclusion in the Board packet.

Motion to accept the interim health care plan for support staff. Bathalon/**APPROVED**
4. Approve health care plans for administrators and non-union employees
 - Glenn described the health care plans for administrators and non-union employees as approved by the NCSU Executive Committee.

Motion to approve the health care plans for administrators and non-union employees. Forster/**APPROVED**
5. Approve VEHI/VSBIT Proxy (*Attachment VEHI, VSBIT*)

Motion to submit VEHI proxy for health and dental programs. Currier/**APPROVED**

Information/Discussion:

1. Plan for Troy School District Fall Community Forum
 - Chris and Gaston will advertise the forum to take place at the November 2 Board meeting.
2. SFY 2019 budget timeline
 - Gaston reported that he contacted the Troy Town Clerk to confirm January 22 as deadline for submission of school district documents for the Annual Town Report.
 - Glenn suggested that a special Board meeting would likely be required for the Board to approve the SFY 2019 budget (as was required for the SFY 2018 budget).
 - Identification of budget guidelines/parameters, used to develop the budget, is next step for the November 2 meeting.
3. Cancelling / postponing regular meetings:
 - Gaston's decision to cancel/reschedule the Board's October 5 regular meeting was to allow him to attend the mediation session with NEKEA (as the Troy School representative on the NCSU Negotiations Committee).
 - Cliff felt that his decision inconvenienced Board members who have set aside the first Thursday of the month for regular Board meetings.
 - Gaston's concern was that his absence may have jeopardized establishing a quorum and that he did not want to miss the October Board meeting.
 - Cliff suggested that the Vice Chair could have chaired the meeting in Gaston's absence, members would have made certain that a quorum was met, and reiterated Board members should not have been inconvenienced so that he could attend the mediation session.
 - Cliff abruptly gathered up his meeting material, stated his availability for Board meetings was on the first Thursday of the month, left his seat and, while making his way to the door, stated "you can go and [expletive deleted] yourself" [directed at the Chair], and pointed out that we no longer had a quorum, and left.

NOTE: with two Board members remaining a quorum no longer existed.

- IX. Next Board Meeting: November 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Suggested Agenda Items: AGS plan; Fall Community Conversation; TS Annual Report; budget guidelines/parameters; signage placement on school property; identify summer softball league POC
- X. Executive Session - NA
- XI. Adjourn: Having completed all items on the regular agenda and with no quorum Gaston adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted,
Gaston Bathalon

Present:

Gaston Bathalon, Chair
Carol Currier
Cliff Forster

In Attendance:**Administration:**

John Castle, Superintendent, NCSU
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Business and Finance, NCSU
Chris Young, Principal, Troy School

Community/Staff:

Sara Standish (staff)
Sharon Desjarlais Rosenberger
Jessica Rondeau
Amanda Elie
Betty Mason
Andrea Machado
Dawn Greenwood