

HOLLAND SCHOOLBOARD MEETING
Holland Elementary School
October 6, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.
At Holland School
Minutes

Board Members:

Lincoln Petell-Chair
 Louise Campbell-Vice Chair
 Kim Champney-Clerk

Administrative Staff:

John Castle-Superintendent

Community Members:

Ernie Emerson

I Call the Meeting to Order,

L. Petell called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Remove item "B" under Unfinished/New Business because it was voted on at last month's meeting.
- Addition to item "A" under Unfinished/New Business; Community Eligibility to discuss Holland's Adult lunch price.

II Approve the minutes of September 2015

L. Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 2015. L. Petell seconded. Motion carried.

III Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens**IV Financial Report****Board Warrant FY16**

Check#	Description	Check Date	FY16 Amount
4198	Accounts Payable	9/8/15	\$11,059.80
4199-4217	Payroll	9/17/15	\$17,203.53
4218-4219	Accounts Payable	9/21/15	\$1,943.17
4220-4238	Payroll	10/1/15	\$18,338.51
4239	Accounts Payable	10/6/15	
Total Orders			\$48,545.01

Student Activities Fund

Beginning Balance		\$18,113.31
Adjustments to prior month		\$0
Deposits to date	8/4/15 – 10/6/15	\$310.95
Checks to date	8/4/15 – 10/6/15	(\$847.07)

Activities End Balance	\$17,577.19
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Action:A. Approve the Warrants

L. Campbell made a motion to approve the board warrants. K. Champney seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approve the Financial Report of September 2015

L. Campbell made a motion to approve the September 2015 financial report. L. Petell seconded. Motion carried.

V Principal's Report

Kelli was unable to attend our October meeting because of a personal matter but was able to speak with John and Lincoln about her thoughts on the Community Forum. She also provided us with her monthly report. (See Below)

PRINCIPAL REPORT

October 6, 2015

Celebrations:

September came and went with no construction! People have truly celebrated the quiet and the hot lunches. Last year at this time we had no access to our kitchen stove, which meant sandwiches every day.

Our fourth, fifth, and sixth grades participated in Fitness Day at the high school on September 25 with students from other schools in the supervisory union. Four of our 15 students earned good sportsmanship and character awards for exhibiting leadership skills and perseverance over the course of the day. It is certainly a celebration when we watch our children put into practice in the community the habits of mind and citizenship skills we teach, model, and reinforce at school on a daily basis.

Events & Activities:

September has been a month full of activities and opportunities for students to experience new learning and showcase their efforts. The younger and upper grade communities each hosted a breakfast for their families to share their classroom constitutions and expectations, as well as some of their daily routines and practices, such as breakfast with their peers in their classrooms and morning meeting.

The ENCORE Program has rolled out a number of engaging afterschool programs for students this year, including small engine repair, science sleuths, soccer, and the Holland Ambassadors program. This latter one provides a weekly opportunity for students to visit Michaud Manor and spend time with seniors there. This program has grown each week as students return from their visits with exciting stories about interacting with the residents. As one student said, "I didn't know old people could be so cool!" And another, "That old guy was awesome!"

The ENCORE Program also hosted a Friday Fun Day in September, which most of our students attended. This is an extension of the four days a week of programming that are currently offered and will happen once a month throughout the year.

There were over 50 people who attended September's Country Music Jamboree. This will be the last one that will be held for a while, however.

Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment:

With the staff this year, I talked about ensuring that the events and activities that we work into our days are closely linked to the academics we are teaching. As we move in the direction of designing our teaching and learning around a project-based model, we are working to include authentic learning experiences that allow our students to access that information in other ways that include opportunities to move and explore, interact with the community, and collaborate with peers.

We have designed our curriculum around two broad themes this year: “Community” for the first half of the year and “Sustainability” for the second half of the year. We began our year with a chunk of time that we designate as the First Twenty Days. During this time, we teach children the work habits of reading (for example, how to pick books, how to build a reading life, setting reading goals and tracking them) and writing (for example, putting ideas on paper, planning for good writing, and going over the steps of the writing process).

We also focus heavily on our Responsive Classroom practices in the first six weeks of school. Four teachers just completed Responsive Classroom I training, leaving only two teachers in the building who have not been trained in both RCI and RCII. They will receive RCII training in January. Beyond classroom management, Responsive Classroom practices include a heavy focus on teaching children the social aspects of the academic life. We heavily embed into our academics such skills as how to communicate effectively, appropriate student-student and student-adult interaction, sharing ideas and opinions in respectful ways, and developing independence. This is done through lots of modeling and positive teacher language.

The Responsive Classroom model also supports the project-based learning model as two of its practices include guided discovery and academic choice. Through guided discovery, students explore materials and the many uses for them. Then students are given options of materials to use throughout the day to produce their work. Through academic choice, students are given choice about how to meet defined learning goals. Having choices allows children a way to connect learning to their personal interests and learning styles.

The upper grade learning community is moving out of its first twenty day lesson and has begun its first major unit of the year: Rules to Live By. In this unit students will learn about rules that people choose to live by and the impact of those on themselves and their communities. In the course of this unit, students will research local community leaders, both current and past, and explore the historical period of the Roaring Twenties.

On September 24, Krista Grenier, co-owner of North Country School of Dance, and one of her senior students, visited Holland’s 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and taught them how to do dance moves from the 1920s. For an hour, students learned dance steps, created a routine, and performed their end product for the rest of the school. This is a good example of providing students with a way to access curriculum beyond traditional teaching. The students were highly engaged – boys and girls alike.

The younger grade learning community also began its big unit: Building a Community of Readers Around the World. They kicked off their unit with a guest reader – Christian Almodovar, Mrs. Almodovar’s husband – who read to them in Spanish.

Facilities:

We will be making some repairs to the playground equipment, new boards around the sandbox, removing some tires used for climbing, replacing a tire swing with regular swings, and repairing the backstop.

VI Superintendent’s Report

John provided the board with an overview of what He, Kelli and Glenn were able to put together for the community forum presentation. Last month we brainstormed about what we had hoped to include in the presentation for the community. Glenn, Kelli and John were able to compile the information requested as well as help the board with any questions or

concerns others may have. Ernie Emerson was also present to review the information because he was asked to moderate the forum on the 12th, of this month. He was very helpful with his suggestions, and expressed that he hoped to receive more information about the happenings at the school as a Holland resident. The board was pleased to receive his feedback. The board is hopeful that community members will attend next Monday's forum to receive accurate information about Act 46 and the student enrollment. Then be able to give feedback as to what they hope will happen with the school moving forward.

VII Unfinished/New Business

Information/Discussion:

A. Community Eligibility update:

Holland has recently been found eligible, on their own, for the State meal plan. However Glenn received notice from the State saying that our Adult meal prices were too low. Glenn sent the board the following letter:

To: Holland School Board Members

*From: Glenn Hankinson, Director of Business Operations
Amy Brasseur, Finance Assistant/Child Nutrition SU Designee*

Date: October 6, 2015

Re: Adult Lunch Meal Prices

"It was brought to my attention today, by the State of Vermont Office of Child Nutrition that Holland's adult lunch meal price is below the free reimbursement plus value of commodities rate. Holland's current adult lunch rate is \$3.20; the minimum adult meal price needs to be \$3.50. The approval of Holland's meal claiming site agreement is on hold until this change can be made. If you, the board, could vote on the increase at tonight's meeting then the new rate could be entered into the application website.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

The board did not feel this should affect all the hard work everyone at the Supervisory has done to provide this service for our kids nor should the students be ineligible from receiving free meals at Holland because of it thus it was agreed we should raise the adult meal price.

L. Campbell made a motion to approve raising the adult meal cost from \$3.20 to \$3.50. K. Champney seconded. Motion carried.

B. Present HES Action Plan (see below)

HOLLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTION PLAN 2015-2016

SMART Goal 1: (Curriculum) Implement a rigorous, relevant, and research-based pre-kindergarten – grade 6 program that promotes outcomes articulated in the NCSU Commitments.

Strategy #1: To create an interdisciplinary, standards-based curriculum that promotes student proficiency in all content areas

SMART Goal 2: (Instruction) To provide instruction at all tiers that is balanced, comprehensive, researched-based, and committed to the learning opportunities and outcomes of the North Country Supervisory Union.

Strategy #1: All teachers use current research-based practices and apply those practices skillfully, flexibly, and responsively.

Strategy #2: Implement fully the system for intervention initiated in FY15.

SMART Goal 3: (Assessment) By June 2016, HES will have created a comprehensive assessment system that will use multiple forms of data, feedback, and best practices to guide instruction.

Strategy #1: Develop a system and structure to support a comprehensive and balanced assessment system that will improve instruction.

SMART Goal 4: (School Climate) The school community develops meaningful and engaging practices, activities, norms, and relationships that promote social and civic responsibilities, community partnerships, and a safe school environment.

Strategy #1: Students and staff will model culturally responsive and ethical behavior. Relationships among and between staff and students will be mutually respectful, supportive, and ethical.

Strategy #2: Refine school-wide efforts designed to support students, school personnel and community members in feeling welcomed, supported, and safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically.

Strategy #3: Students and staff will be actively engaged in celebrating milestones and accomplishments as they work to achieve meaningful school and community life.

L. Campbell made a motion to approve the Holland Elementary 2015-'16, action plan.
L. Petell seconded. Motion carried.

C. Plan for Community Forum to discuss enrollment and Act 46

-Thoroughly discussed overview with John and Mr. Emerson.

Action:

A. Approve Nurse's Contract

L. Campbell made a motion to approve the nurse's contract.
K. Champney seconded. Motion carried.

IX Other Business

Action:

A. Adopt the following three revised policies

D.8 Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace

D.11 Drug and Alcohol Testing

E.26 Tobacco Prohibition

L. Campbell made a motion to adopt the three revised policies; D.8; D.11; and E.26.
K. Champney seconded. Motion carried.

X Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting

- Community Forum discussion follow-up
- Budget Discussion

- Playground update

XI **Executive Session** (*if needed*)

None necessary

XII **Adjourn** @ 8:25pm

Meetings:

Holland School Community Forum

NCSU Policy Committee

NCSU Executive Committee

Holland School Board

Day

Monday

Thursday

Thursday

Tuesday

Date

October 12

October 15

October 15

November 3

Time

6:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

Location

Holland Elementary

NCSU A219

NCSU A209

Holland Elementary