

JAY/WESTFIELD JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.
AT THE JAY/WESTFIELD SCHOOL

Board Members in attendance: Sally Rivard, Myra Alix, Jeff Morse, Loren Petzoldt, Kevin Amyot, Chad Prue

Administration/School Personnel in attendance: Kristy Ellis, Principal; Tara Morse, Bookkeeper; Rebecca Velazquez, Recording Secretary

I. At 6:12 pm the J/W School Board meeting was brought to order by Sally Rivard.

II. Myra Alix moved to approve the Minutes of January 2016. Chad Prue seconded the motion, and the vote carried.

III. Principal's Report:

A. Facilities Update

Kristy Ellis reported that Helen Before has applied for a state grant that would cover roughly half the cost of a new freezer. Regardless of whether that funding comes through, the freezer will need to be replaced by year's end.

B. Celebrations and Thanks

Kristy thanked the Jay Focus Group for encouraging participation in a week-long food drive and for donating food so that all students could participate.

C. Curriculum and Instruction

Kristy spoke about initiatives to encourage student leadership and her role as a cheerleader and confidence-builder. She noted stepping back and allowing students to do the public speaking at concerts and other school events. She also spoke about the meetings now taking place each Thursday morning, led by members of the 5/6 grade climate and culture team. All students from K-6 are in attendance, as well as Kristy and the school paraprofessionals. The rest of the faculty takes the time to meet and work collaborative teams. The student-led meetings focus on safety, trust and creating a healthy, welcoming environment. Kristy has been thrilled at the students' willingness and enthusiasm when stepping into leadership roles.

IV. Financial Reports:

Actions:

A. Loren Petzoldt motioned to approve the January 2016 Financial Statement. Myra Alix seconded and it carried.

B. Orders were reviewed and signed. General Fund check numbers began with # 2798 and ended with #2881.

Information/Discussion:

A. Buildings and Grounds Fund

Tara Morse reported that, over a few years, we have ended the year well and our surplus has grown to around \$100,000. On a yearly basis we should make a plan for the funds and ask for town approval. This year, the Board has asked for \$30,000 for new cafeteria tables, leaving around \$75,000 to be moved into the building and grounds fund. Sally Rivard mentioned the

possibility of using the Fund for work on the school's parking lot. Tara estimated that the balance would come close to covering that project.

There was general discussion about the House's decision to raise the cost-containment thresholds. Sally Rivard and Kevin Amyot both expressed gratitude for Representative Mark Higley's communicativeness during that decision-making period.

V. Unfinished/New Business:

Actions:

A. The Board only received one Transportation Bid. Kevin Amyot moved to select Vendor A. Myra Alix seconded the motion and it carried.

B. Kevin Amyot moved to award Pace & Hawley the bid for Audit. Loren Petzoldt seconded and the vote carried.

Information/Discussion:

A. Transportation Bid

The Board reviewed the bid from Vendor A, \$70,600 for FY2016/17 with an increase of \$1,500 each of the following two fiscal years. The rate includes the three buses currently in use. The Board reviewed the fuel clause, ski day rates and the additional rates for routes to West Jay and/or Route 242, if they become necessary.

B. Audit Bid

Tara Morse spoke highly of Pace & Hawley, reporting that a first draft of the Audit was already in her hands and noting that they were a pleasure to work with. Tara supported the decision to award them a three year bid.

C. Town Meeting Preparation

Members of the Westfield Board said that they will bring up potential membership in the North Country Union Junior High as a "General Discussion" item, in order to get a pulse. They do not have 'creating a union school district' on their agenda. Members of the Jay Board agreed that bringing a union school district up for discussion is premature. Sally Rivard noted that the Board would have to thoroughly explore how such a union would affect the quality of education. All agreed that if a resident brings up the subject, the Board members would acknowledge that Act 46 mandates that School Boards explore the creation of union districts.

Kristy Ellis will provide Board members with student demographics and any other numbers they would like for their Town Meeting presentations.

VI. Future Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting:

A. The Board confirmed Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6pm as the date of the next Board Meeting.

B. The next Board Meeting will be a Reorganizational Meeting.

VII. Executive Session: Sally Rivard moved to enter executive session for Personnel Reasons at 7:00pm and invited Kristy Ellis, Tara Morse and Rebecca Velazquez to stay. Kevin Amyot seconded the motion, and the vote carried. Loren Petzoldt moved to exit Executive Session at 7:03pm. Jeff Morse seconded the motion and the vote carried. No Action was taken.

VIII. Other Business

A. Accolades & Future Initiatives

Kristy Ellis reported that Jay/Westfield Elementary School was ranked #6 on NICHE's 2016 list of Best Public Elementary Schools in Vermont.

Kristy expressed an interest in Jay/Westfield Elementary becoming a lab school, creating a synergistic relationship between Jay/Westfield Elementary and local colleges. She noted that John Castle would be supportive of this initiative.

Kristy explained that the size, structure, senior staff and success of Jay/Westfield makes it well suited for educational research and teacher training. Kristy feels strongly that such an initiative would serve to reenergize teachers, open students up to new people and educational experiences and preserve the integrity of Jay/Westfield's mission moving into an uncertain future. The Board was very intrigued by the possibility and expressed gratitude for Kristy's interest in and further research on the matter.

IX. Adjourn : Myra Alix motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. Jeff Morse seconded the motion. Vote carried.

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	February 18	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A213
NCSU Full Board	Thursday	February 18	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
Jay/Westfield Board	Tuesday	March 8	6:00 p.m.	Jay/Westfield School
Jay Board	Tuesday	March 8	Following J/W	Jay/Westfield School
Westfield Board	Tuesday	March 8	Following J/W	Jay/Westfield School

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Velazquez
Recording Secretary