

MINUTES OF MEETING
BARTLETT SCHOOL BOARD
Josiah Bartlett Elementary School Library
October 5, 2010

1. **Call to Order:**
The Oct. 5th meeting of the Bartlett School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Vicki Harlow, Dan Perley, Nancy Kelemen, Michael Murphy, Dr. Carl Nelson and Joe Voci. There were three members of the general public present.
2. **Approve Minutes (9-7-10): Motion by Ms. Kelemen, second by Mr. Murphy, that the Minutes of the Sept. 7th meeting be accepted as circulated. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**
3. **Presentation of School Programs/FYI Items:** None.
4. **Public Comment:** Press member, Lloyd Jones, congratulated the Board on the approximately \$325,000 in surplus funds being returned to the taxpayers.
5. **Old Business:** None.
6. **Instructional Issues:** Mr. Voci reported on NECAP Science test results for grades 4 & 8, noting that both grades had 6 to 8 in each level within two points of reaching three instead of two. He noted that Bartlett “beat the State” in a number of areas – physical science, life science; however, one area still needing work is Inquiry which the State also needs to work on.

Ms. Harlow made reference to a movie being advertised “Waiting For Superman,” dealing with a study of educating children throughout the world, noting that the U.S. is 5th in the world in what we spend on education. She stated she was disappointed in the math and science scores of U.S. children compared to other countries. Mr. Voci stated we have to understand we are a truly heterogeneous society and to match up to homogeneous society is something to consider. He noted another issue is we do not have the brightest mathematicians and scientists in the teaching field, but most of our elementary school teachers are phenomenal in the literacy field. Mr. Perley agreed it is a huge challenge considering the money spent going to school and the debt incurred, and the salary you get when getting out. He stated also that with studies like the one Ms. Harlow refers to, he questions the accuracy of comparing how we are performing, whereas we are a much more inclusive educational environment - it comes down to differentiation in education.
7. **Consider Personnel Actions:**

- A. Increase Alison Moore’s Hours – Motion by Ms. Kelemen, second by Mr. Perley, that the Board approve increase in hours for Alison Moore by ½ hour per day.** [Ms. Moore is a Special Language Assistant whose services are needed for a student with an extended school day. This would extend her hours by ½ hour per day up to 5 days a week.] **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**
- 8. Business Affairs:**
- A. FYI – 2010-11 – Budget Status Report**
- B. FYI – Budget Transfer Between Functions –** Decrease G.S. by \$400, increase telephone account by \$400, required to permit the Principal to operate the school in response to changing needs since the original budget development and adoption.
- C. Consider Surplus Items –** [Misc. computer equipment and art room table – items that are outdated and in disrepair] **Motion by Ms. Kelemen, second by Mr. Murphy, that the Board approve the declaration of the listed items as surplus. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**
- D. Consider Awarding School Bus Bid –** Two bids received – Dattco, Inc., International Body w/International Engine - \$83,424; O’Connor Motor Co., Bluebird Body with Cummings Engine - \$84,099. Recommendation after inspecting both vehicles and noting the larger engine and heavier front and rear axles, was to purchase the Bluebird bus from O’Connor. Mr. Murphy questioned the small difference of \$675, and going with the larger bus and heavier equipment, and how that would impact fuel consumption. Dr. Nelson said it may be assumed it will burn a little more fuel, but he does not know that for sure. He noted everyone was more comfortable with the larger engine. Ms. Kelemen questioned whether anyone in the area has gone with this company. Dr. Nelson said they have to supply references. **Motion was made by Ms. Kelemen, seconded by Mr. Perley, that the Board approve the purchase of the Bluebird bus from O’Connor Motor Co. as recommended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**
- 9. Administrators’ Reports:**
- A. Principal –**
- 1. FYI – Bartlett Recreation Budget Transfer* -** Mr. Voci reported on an Internet Safety Training session given on 9/11/10, noting all kids had an opportunity to hear the speaker- workshops were offered for all students K-8 as well as a parent workshop after school.
- A calendar of events for Oct. and Nov. was distributed. There will be an open house at 6:00 p.m. on Oct. 7th. Staff development on Oct. 8th – early release day. On Nov. 10th there will be a Veteran’s Day Assembly.

Mr. Voci noted they are now in the middle NECAP testing for grades 3 – 6 this week, Middle School next week. Year of the CAT – Community and Technology Working together – dance team presentation. Census 2010 – Jimi Emery and Janice Mudgett did a great job.

*Transfer of funds from Soccer Asst. for grades 3-4 and 5-6 to Friday Night activities – Mr. Voci stated the Soccer game previously scheduled for Friday has been postponed. He noted that next Sept. they will have a soccer game under the lights at KHS, softball and baseball under the lights in the spring at Whitaker Field, 8th grade night basketball game at KHS, in an effort to allow them to experience participation at the larger school. Dr. Nelson noted also they will have Freshman orientation day before school starts. Mr. Voci stated busing may be an issue. Dr. Nelson agreed transportation will be key. Ms. Kelemen reported she has heard from a lot of parents that transition day went really well. Mr. Voci said they had had a new-parent orientation recently which also went well.

B. Superintendent – Dr. Nelson announced the SAU Executive Board meeting has been cancelled until after the budget is done. He will call a special meeting of that Board when a draft budget is ready.

1. **Budget Direction for 2011-12** – Dr. Nelson asked for direction from the Board in terms of how they want him to proceed this year. He was told “level budget with costs that we can control.” Dr. Nelson said it would exclude such things as health insurance. Mr. Perley said we want a level funded budget with costs that can be controlled, but will have to look at offsetting any non controllable expense increase with decreases. Dr. Nelson noted they will probably use the 3-year average approach as regards health insurance and add 3% for the federal health insurance act.

10. **Board Member Issues – Board Discussion:**

It was agreed the next regular meeting would be held on November 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. given that at least two members could not be present for the Nov. 2nd meeting.

A. Committee Reports – Ms. Kelemen reported the Facilities Committee met prior to tonight’s meeting and reviewed the maintenance budget and the 5-year plan. They are looking at replacing a furnace at the Kindergarten wing through a warrant article.

Ms. Kelemen noted the Tech Committee will be offering adult education classes in Windows 7, Googles Apps, and Microsoft Office 2010, and would like to hear suggestions for other courses. Also PTA will be starting up again as PTSA (Parent/Teacher/Student Assn.) to include participation by a student representative.

As regards the Facilities Committee, Mr. Murphy said there were a few things added with regard to fire safety and wished to know the status of that. Mr. Voci assured him that is all done. Mr. Murphy questioned the fuel price lock-in and was told it is locked in at \$2.36 per gallon.

Ms. Harlow noted at the Area Joint Boards meeting a presentation was made by Mr. Moylan regarding silent sustained reading for ½ hour per day, and upon question as to the content, they were advised the students can take notes and read material that has to do with the course work, but not to do homework.

Ms. Harlow noted also that at that meeting Board member Randy Davison asked, with regard to the budget cuts, if the sending Boards would have a meeting before the actual cuts were made so that they would have a chance to react to the proposed cuts. Dr. Nelson said the purpose of the proposed cuts was to see what the budget would look like with the \$1 million and \$1.5 million cuts. He said to address the question posed by Mr. Davison, there are some 20+ positions to be considered if they cut \$1 million. Those people have not been notified and we owe it to them to make sure they are notified ahead of time, so it is difficult to have a meeting such as that and go through that. He noted also they can always hold a special meeting of the joint Boards.

Ms. Harlow said she had asked Mr. Moylan about issues around substance abuse and was informed there is no change around what they are doing at the high school, but she found later there was a position that was not funded this year. She said she will find out the name of the position. She asked whether there was a substance abuse coordinator and was told there was some time ago.

Ms. Harlow commented on the stipend for the Staff Development Committee, noting where she works at Northern Human Services with some 40 employees, people who are certified or have licenses keep track of their own Continuing Education Units, and she questions why someone has to do that for educated, mature adults who are teachers. Dr. Nelson said it is a well-spent \$350 and referred her to the Professional Development Plan for further explanation.

B. NHSBA Resolutions – Proposals for Resolutions must be submitted by 10/22/10 - Ms. Harlow said she would be in favor of not having half days count as full days and she does not know why the State cannot see that. Ms. Kelemen pointed out that a District can decide whether it wants to do that and can negotiate that with the teachers. Ms. Harlow stated she wants the State to say from now on a full day will be six hours. Mr. Perley asked what about the non-planned, i.e. delayed start of school because of the weather? Do you have to shift your calendar? Dr. Nelson noted in that case you would be adding days to your contract.

- 11. Public Comments:** Jonathan Hebert questioned whether there is a place he can go on line to check Minutes for past meetings and get copies of working budgets. Ms. Kelemen advised him to visit SAU9.org on the internet which includes Minutes, agendas, Board policies, noting with SAU 9 it is great because now the calendars are on line and, for instance, postponement of last week’s events due to weather was instantly available.

Mr. Hebert commented that his son started Kindergarten at JBES this year, visited the school prior to admission, and he credited the Library personnel with making him comfortable and letting him participate. He stated everyone has “grabbed his brain,” and engaged him from the cafeteria all the way through Kindergarten and as a parent he appreciates that.

Dave Schaeffer stated he has just moved here and expressed that everyone in the school has been great in helping with the transition. He said as regards the study such as Ms. Harlow referred to, this should really be how they end up – every country has different pressure points, when our students end up, at the end of the day they are pretty competitive.

Lloyd Jones questioned how many curriculum certification representatives Bartlett has. Mr. Voci said there were two, but stated they do not receive a stipend in Bartlett.

- 12. Non Public Session – None.**
- 13. Adjournment – Motion by Ms. Kelemen, second by Mr. Murphy, and carried by unanimous vote that the meeting be adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary