

MINUTES OF MEETING
BARTLETT SCHOOL BOARD
Josiah Bartlett Elementary School Library
November 16, 2010

1. Call to Order:

The Nov. 16th 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 four members of the general public present. Rob Clark joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

2. Approve Minutes (10-5-10): The following corrections were noted by Ms. Harlow: Pg. 1, #6, 2nd para., 1st sentence should have included: ...the U.S. is 5th in the world *in what we spend on education*. Pg. 5, #11, last para. states Mr. Voci did not provide a number...should have read: *Mr. Voci said there were two*. **Motion was made by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Kelemen, that the Board approve the Minutes of the Oct. 5th meeting as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

3. Presentation of School Programs/FYI Items: Mr. Voci provided a calendar of events for November and December. Also provided was a copy of a letter from a local citizen commending Jimi Emery for a job well done in presenting the Veteran's Day program on Nov. 11th.

4. Public Comment: Jonathan Hebert wished to echo the comments made in the letter of commendation noted under Item 3 above.

5. Old Business: None.

6. Instructional Issues:

A. Consider First Reading of Policy JICK – Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Dr. Nelson stated the Policy Committee met just prior to tonight's meeting and recommends approval. There was question under Definitions, item 4, Pg. 2, School Property as to whether it should include cars. Mr. Perley noted the definition states "equipment used for school purposes." **Motion was made by Ms. Kelemen, seconded by Mr. Murphy, that the Board approve Policy JICK on pupil safety and violence prevention. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Under Item X, Waiver of Notification Requirement, Ms. Harlow wished to know under what circumstances the school reveals the name of the bully, if ever, to the parents. Mr. Voci stated they would know, he has to make the phone call to the parent. Ms. Harlow asked for examples of instances when notification would be waived. Dr. Nelson stated it is when the parents cannot be reached, noting that there are some homeless children in our schools. Mr. Voci added that he might want to waive it to have time to get more background and investigate further. Dr. Nelson pointed out the original draft came from the State. Mr. Voci said the only new things are cyberbullying and incidents of kids on

school grounds after school is out. Mr. Clark questioned whether he would potentially be running into a problem by notifying parent “A” that child “B” was bullying, that a student has been harassing their son, but without naming him. Mr. Voci stated they would know. Dr. Nelson stated they usually start by using the word “alleged.” Mr. Voci stated for the most part he would not be talking to the child without notifying the parents; it all comes down to meeting with the complaint managers to decide how we are going to handle it. Ms. Kelemen said we have to consider also if it is a case of a first grader as opposed to an 8th grader who is bullying.

Under Sec. XIV, Communication With Parents Upon Completion of Investigation, “within two school days of completing an investigation”... “the Principal will notify in person.....” Mr. Perley questioned if there is a report of bullying and it is found it did not occur, whether that meeting is still going to take place. Mr. Voci said they will not tell the victim what the consequences are. Ms. Kelemen noted the policy says 17 days [Sec. XI - if the Principal needs more than 10 days to complete investigation the Superintendent can grant an extension of 7 school days]. Mr. Voci said his philosophy has always been if it is on a Friday morning they will clear it up by 3:15 p.m. – they do not want it to carry over the weekend. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

7. Consider Personnel Actions:

A. Approval of Request by Kate Lamneck for Child Care Leave – Motion was made by Ms. Kelemen, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to approve child care leave as requested by Kate Lamneck. Congratulation were extended. Ms. Kelemen questioned whether a substitute is available. Mr. Voci said not yet, they will have to advertise the position.

8. Business Affairs:

A. FYI – 2010-11 – Budget Status Report – Copy of the budget was provided.

B. FYI – Budget Transfer Between Functions – Decrease in new equipment/ grounds, to transfer \$800 to building materials.

9. Administrators’ Reports:

A. Principal – Mr. Voci noted they are heading into Thanksgiving, everything is quiet. Two more students have been enrolled. A success report was provided which highlighted the music team and “Reaching out, Year of the CAT – Community And Technology.”

B. Superintendent – Dr. Nelson announced the SAU Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the Eaton Town Hall, followed by the regular SAU meeting at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Joint SAU meeting on Nov. 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mineral Springs Café at KHS to discuss the Conway budget process.

10. Board Member Issues – Board Discussion:

A. Committee Reports – Ms. Harlow reported the Bartlett Board met recently with the Jackson Board to discuss whether we would send a letter to the Conway School Board as the Jackson Board did. She read aloud the letter which expressed the Jackson Board's unanimous disapproval of the proposed budget cuts. Dr. Nelson noted that the Conway Board also received letters from Freedom and Madison centered around Madison and Freedom being in favor of fully supporting the budget.

Dr. Nelson stated the Board should know that, even if they build a level budget, it will be between a \$1 million and \$1.3 million increase because of the health insurance increase. Mr. Perley wished to know with level funding, with that increase, what the impact is. Dr. Nelson said it would be a 4% increase if they did nothing and let a level funded budget go through. He noted that as of Nov. 15th the law says the Dept. of Education has to provide us with a figure in terms of what State Adequacy will be - in Conway it was \$1 million more, in Bartlett it was \$285,000 less; however, the last sentence in the memo says *for budgeting purposes do not assume you will get any more or less than in the previous year*. He said the budget was built on the current law, if it drops again we are in a deficit situation.

Regarding the issue of submitting a letter, Ms. Kelemen said she is not in favor of any of the cuts, they have done a good job, and she would hate to see them start dismantling that. She said she, personally, would rather see a letter from the Joint Boards. Ms. Harlow commented they can do both. Ms. Kelemen's concern was "are the children going to be taken care of?" For instance, if they are taking away French...Dr. Nelson stated French is the lowest enrollment we have. It was noted that about 30 of Bartlett's students are enrolled. Mr. Perley said there are opportunities for kids on line for free, with credit, if the courses are not offered at Kennett.

Ms. Kelemen said she does not want to see Kennett cutting the budget at all. Dr. Nelson said he would recommend that as a Board they submit a brief letter; the Conway School Board does want to hear from the Boards. He would suggest also that the Joint Boards submit a letter as well. It was decided Ms. Harlow and Dr. Nelson will draft an appropriate letter together. Ms. Harlow suggested the letter include acknowledgement of a sensitivity to their awareness of the Conway taxpayer.

Ms. Harlow noted that Angus Badger suggested that the Joint Board meeting might invite groups such as Chamber of Commerce, Board of Realtors, etc. to get the word out more. She suggested this be discussed at the SAU meeting on Nov. 18th. Mr. Perley commented you might assume they will all agree with you, but, for instance, the Board of Realtors might resist it because it would increase taxes. Mr. Clark said if Conway cuts \$1 million and states "this is what it will effect," that is when you will get the people to say do not approve this budget.

Dr. Nelson said the default budget is what we have right now, plus the increase of \$1.3 million for health insurance. Mr. Clark said if those organizations feel strongly about it, it could go either way - the whole point that Conway presented this and the towns have

rallied, is positive. He pointed out if they decide Dec. 13th this is where we are going, we have four months to lobby against it. Mr. Perley wished to know if Conway is reviewing what to cut, are they held to maintain cuts equally across all towns that send? For instance, if French is only populated by Bartlett students. Dr. Nelson said the tuition formula is based on the operating costs. He advised the Board not to get hung up on any one program, that they should just say we are not in favor of any of these cuts. Mr. Perley pointed out that accreditation two years ago was exemplary and they should look at that.

B. Set Date and Time for School District Meeting – It was agreed this would be held on March 15, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

C. Set Date and Time for Budget Hearing – It was agreed the budget hearing would be held on Feb. 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

- 11. Public Comments:** Jonathan Hebert commented regarding the bullying policy, he would never want to see absolutes, such as *you shall*, or *you must*. He said he would want disclosure on who the child is, that it is important for us to know.

Mr. Hebert said regarding the budget and the letters we are drafting, it has been stated that it is an exercise, the public is looking for a credibility issue. He said if you bring a budget before us that we are going to fund, it has to be a good budget – we want to know what you have to have to make the school run. He acknowledged there are some things we may have to tighten down, but should not get wrapped up in the exercise. Mr. Clark said whatever Conway decides, they need to back up. Dr. Nelson stated there is a reason behind each reduction that was made, and that will be explained. Ms. Kelemen expressed appreciation that Conway is taking the steps to put it out there for all Boards to understand it.

- 12. Non Public Session** – At 6:40 p.m. **Motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Murphy and carried by unanimous roll call vote, that the Board adjourn to non public session under RSA 91-A:3, II.**

Nonpublic Session Minutes

A personnel matter was discussed.

- 13. Adjournment** – **A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Murphy and carried unanimously to return to Public Session and adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier
Recording Secretary