

MINUTES OF MEETING
BARTLETT SCHOOL BOARD
Josiah Bartlett School Library
November 3, 2009

1. Call to Order:

The Bartlett School Board met at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Vicki Harlow, Michael Murphy, Nancy Kelemen, Rob Clark, Dan Perley, Dr. Carl Nelson and Joe Voci. There were two staff members present.

2. Approve Minutes (10-6-09): Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Murphy, to approve the Minutes of the Oct. 6th meeting as circulated. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Presentation of School Programs/FYI Items: None.

4. Public Comments: None.

5. Old Business: None.

6. Instructional Issues:

A. Foreign Language Program –Mr. Voci introduced Jennifer Keefe stating he is impressed that Bartlett has a person who is a master at teaching in the block – she provides plenty of activities, works well with the high school.

Ms. Keefe said we are fortunate to have the program we have, many schools have none. The program is designed so that students get to take the Level I course spaced out over two years, thus can do more cultural, music, hands on activities. She noted they also use the e-Pal program which allows for communicating with classrooms in other countries (they are currently involved with four). Those who choose to can go on to Level II in the 9th grade; these kids will get to move to Level V if they start at Level II in freshman year - they are doing well, the numbers have increased in all levels.

Mr. Clark noted there has been the question of why we teach French versus Spanish, and questioned whether there is more interest in Spanish than French? Ms. Keefe stated it is difficult to say. Mr. Voci said five years ago there had been a situation of deciding between the two and only about 1/3 opted to take Spanish. Dr. Nelson noted, however, 2/3 of the kids opted to have French. Ms. Keefe said consistency is a big piece of it. Dr. Nelson said if someone wished they could take Spanish when they get to high school. Mr. Perley said with world language in general, it is important to have a program that is in sync with the high school. Each student should have the opportunity to engage in a language.

Mr. Clark noted also if the kids decide to take Spanish in high school, because they have already taken two years of a language that gives them a head up. Ms.

Keefe agreed, stating they are learning how to *learn* a language - French and Spanish do have a lot of similarities. Ms. Kelemen commented that the e-Pal Program is a great addition, the kids get excited about it, they are seeing other aspects from other schools and other countries - it is a neat program.

7. Consider Personnel Actions:

A. Election of Tracy Vokey as National Junior Honor Society Coordinator – Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Kelemen, that the Board approve election of Tracy Vokey as National Junior Honor Society Coordinator for the 2009/10 school year. Carried by unanimous vote.

B. Election of Amy Deshais as Student Council Coordinator – Motion by Mr. Perley, second by Mr. Murphy, that the Board approve election of Amy Deshais as Student Council Coordinator for the 2009/10 school year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Consider Election of Gregory Jenis as Bus Driver – Motion by Ms. Kelemen, second by Mr. Perley, that the Board approve election of Gregory Jenis as Bus Driver. Note was made that Mr. Jenis does have experience. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

8. Business Affairs:

A. 2009-10 Budget Status Report – FYI – Report provided; Dr. Nelson commented the District is “still in good shape.”

9. Administrators’ Reports:

A. Principal – Mr. Voci provided a November calendar, calling attention to a teacher workshop on Nov. 10th at which two consultants will be working with faculty on technology. A listing of current enrollment was provided, showing a total of 286 students enrolled as of Oct. 1st and projected enrollment of 279 for the 2010/11 school year.

Upon question of entries/withdrawals, Mr. Voci reported total entries at 20, total withdrawals at 21. He noted economics drives it - people leaving for jobs; also housing is an issue in Bartlett. He said three years ago free and reduced lunch was at 16%, this year it is about 30%.

Mr. Voci read from an excerpt from a publication by Daniel Wolff in which it was pointed out that we have computers, basketball courts, cafeterias and libraries that the public pays for, but which are closed in the evening and on weekends, with the suggestion that a program be instituted to transform our public schools into community centers. Mr. Voci has met with the Chief of Police and the Recreation Director to discuss plans for starting an “Activities Night,” possibly in place of a

dance. They would propose purchasing a ping pong table, foosball table, holding card games, selling pizza – a place for kids to play some games, getting them off the street, possibly two Friday nights a month. There will be a police officer in attendance.

To cover costs they are considering a transfer of money to pay stipends and buy supplies. He stated he wants people there who are being paid so they can be held accountable. It would be from 5 to 8 p.m., for grades 6, 7 and 8 to begin with. In January they propose having 6th through 12th grade with extreme snow boarding and skiing videos. They will then do another 6 to 8 group. He stated he will be asking to increase the library assistant's time one-half hour a day as well. He pointed out "this is short money, big impact." He suggested also that possibly when putting the budget together that could be one of our goals. Dr. Nelson suggested they may be able to find some grant money.

Mr. Clark said he likes the idea of getting some of the older community members together, maybe having the whole family attend.

B. Superintendent

1. Change in Date for Initial Budget Review – It was agreed the initial budget review would be held at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 12th at the SAU Office.

Dr. Nelson noted the regular SAU Board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 12th at the Eaton Town Hall. They will be looking at the budget.

10. Board Member Issues – Board Discussion:

A. Committee Reports – Ms. Harlow reported the SAU Executive Board met and discussed the budget. Mr. Voci said he needs to set up a meeting to address the Technology Grant.

Ms. Harlow asked for comment on the recent question of whether study halls should be discontinued at Kennett High School. Comments made were: there is a lot offered instead, and that study hall should not be eliminated. Dr. Nelson stated they cannot do away totally with study hall. Ms. Harlow said her concern is increase in number of required credits. Dr. Nelson stated they will not be increasing number of credits required.

B. Set Date and Time for School District Meeting – The date for the annual School District meeting was tentatively set for March 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. (subject to change).

C. Set Date and Time for Budget Hearing – The budget hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 2, 2010.

11. Public Comments: None.

- 12. Non Public Session – At 6:45 p.m. Motion was made by Ms. Kelemen, 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

The Superintendent provided the Board with a future personnel request.

The Negotiating Team and Superintendent reviewed the status of negotiations.

Motion was made by Ms. Kelemen, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to return to Public Session and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary