

MINUTES OF MEETING
BARTLETT SCHOOL BOARD
Josiah Bartlett Elementary School Library
September 7, 2010

1. **Call to Order:**
The Sept. 7th meeting of the Bartlett School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Vicki Harlow, Dan Perley, Nancy Kelemen, Rob Clark, Dr. Carl Nelson and Joe Voci. There were three members of staff/public present.
2. **Approve Minutes (8-3-10): Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Perley, that the Minutes of the Aug. 3rd meeting be accepted as circulated. Motion carried with three votes in the affirmative and one abstention (Ms. Kelemen).**
3. **Presentation of School Programs/FYI Items:** None.
4. **Public Comment:** Re: Budget Cuts - Mr. Fabrizio, making reference to the Municipal Budget Committee's request that the School be tasked with cutting \$1 million from the budget, pointed out it is still not \$1 million as it affects our revenue. Dr. Nelson stated \$300,000 or \$400,000 of the \$1.5 million is out of the high school budget. Mr. Fabrizio replied that to cut even \$400,000 is not cutting \$400,000 when you take the revenue away from it. Dr. Nelson stated they are asking for the straight million, not looking at the revenue side.

Community Outreach Program/Northway Bank - Mr. Fabrizio made reference to a newspaper article with regard to a program being underwritten by Northway Bank, and wished to know whether the school is looking at this as regards curriculum, pointing out that today's kids do not have a clue as to how to balance a checkbook. Dr. Nelson stated that would go into the business courses at the Career Tech Center. Mr. Fabrizio said he would like to see it included in the high school as well. Dr. Nelson felt this might be addressed under Personal Finance.

Practical Education - Mr. Fabrizio noted when he attended school the students were offered such things as wood shop, metals shop, mechanical drafting, etc. prior to getting into high school, and he would hope when the economy picks up the Board would consider including this in Middle School so the kids would be exposed to a variety of practical courses. He asked that the Board keep it in the back of their minds when things change as he would like to see Middle School kids have the advantage of this. Ms. Harlow noted it is available at the high school; however, Mr. Fabrizio pointed out it is only as an elective – the program he proposes would give the kids an introduction to it early on.

Ms. Kelemen stated with the new schedule the Career Tech Center kids can take one full semester, sampling all the different courses to which he is referring in one semester. Mr. Perley suggested it may be something to consider with our immersion days. Mr. Clark said he agrees with Mr. Fabrizio and commented in

his Middle School they had a quarter year of wood shop, metal shop, cooking and sewing – boys and girls alike. They also had clerical record keeping which was valuable.

Safety – Mr. Fabrizio said kids (and adults) do not know which side of the road to walk or ride their bikes on and we need to teach this while they are young. Mr. Clark suggested it could be included in health class.

Prior to Mr. Fabrizio's leaving the meeting, Dr. Nelson informed him that we have \$325,000 to return to taxpayers.

5. **Old Business:** None.
6. **Instructional Issues:** None.
7. **Consider Personnel Actions: Motion by Ms. Kelemen, second by Mr. Perley, that the Board approve Items 7A & B as a consent agenda.**
 - A. **Election of Robert Guptil as Custodian**
 - B. **Election of Judy Heininger as Part-time Instructional Aide**

Mr. Clark questioned where the Instructional Aide would be going. Mr. Voci said it would be for Reading (in which she has a Masters Degree) – 15 hours a week.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

8. **Business Affairs:**

A. FYI – 2009-10 - Summary of Expenses and Receipts – Dr. Nelson reported there is \$285,000 in unexpended funds, largely from Special Ed tuition, some from ESY and other consultant services, some in legal expenses, and they have saved about \$35,000 in health insurance. He advised, however, we are already down about \$45,000 in Special Ed services in the year we are in. Bus expense is down because of fuel costs. Dr. Nelson noted also they had about \$40,000 in unanticipated revenue.

B. FYI – School Lunch Program Deficit – \$8,942. - Dr. Nelson pointed out it was not as great as it was at first thought it would be. When Mr. Clark questioned why it is so much better, Dr. Nelson attributed it to better participation and the sale of meals to Jackson School District, as well as better use of commodities. Mr. Voci noted also in the first year they had had about \$25,000 in equipment costs.

A summary of lunch program revenues and expenses from 2002 to 2010 was provided. Ms. Harlow noted 2002-03 looked pretty good and questioned that. Dr. Nelson said to make a comparison we would have to look at K-8 school districts, noting that Conway makes it because they get good participation out of

the high school; Bartlett has just Middle and Elementary schools which would not be as good. He said he does not think we could expect to break even. Mr. Voci said he feels the issue is the number of kids, we have lost kids, but noted breakfast is up.

Ms. Kelemen questioned whether there is any way they could get a report like this half way through the year in order to see where it is going. Dr. Nelson pointed out it was reported at the beginning of the year that we would be in a deficit situation. As regards a mid-year report, he will look into how much work would be involved and whether it would be feasible.

C. Consider Lease Agreement with Bartlett Community Preschool – Mr. Perley reported agreement has been reached with Bartlett Preschool for a lease based on average daily attendance with a minimum and maximum. He noted the worst case scenario annual rent is about \$2100, best case would be about \$4100. The intent is to give them a fair and equitable lease that is based on the head count, while we are not subsidizing it. **Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Kelemen, that the Board approve the lease agreement with Bartlett Preschool. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

9. Administrators' Reports:

A. Principal – Mr. Voci reported a great opening day, everyone is back and all is in good shape. The kids are looking happy, as well as the faculty. The new Custodian is doing a great job.

A calendar of events for Sept. and Oct. was distributed. On Friday there will be an all school cookout, at 2:15 there will be an opening assembly, and at 3:30 there will be a Parent Internet Safety training program.. In October they will have NECAP assessments.

Mr. Voci reported Soccer started today with a very big turnout; Field Hockey will be starting on Wed.; however, they are not sure about the turnout and, if they cannot fill a team they will do it as an intramural sport and will work toward getting other schools involved. They plan at least one soccer game under the lights at KHS, a basketball game at the high school, and a softball game there. They will hold a *Bartlett Night* for boys and girls varsity basketball where the players will come to school for a pre-game meal and then travel to the high school by bus.

B. Superintendent – Dr. Nelson reported a great opening day throughout SAU 9, everyone all smiles, a good day for the kids. Governor Lynch will be visiting the high school on Sept. 8th, one of his topics being the job rate in the valley.

There will be an SAU Executive Board meeting on Sept. 9th at 6:00 p.m. at Pine Tree School, followed by a full SAU Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. The Joint SAU Boards meeting is scheduled for Sept. 23rd at Mineral Springs Café.

Dr. Nelson said he would like some direction from the Board by October regarding the budget. Mr. Voci said he has told everybody it is flat-lined. Mr. Clark said he would not go any higher than flat-line. Mr. Perley pointed out it should pertain specifically to controllable expenses, making sure they are not cutting fundamental programs.

10. Board Member Issues – Board Discussion:

Mr. Voci noted enrollment is down by ten, they have only one Kindergarten class this year. Upon question of what the extra room will be used for, he assured the Board it will be used for other programs.

Ms. Kelemen reported the Facilities Committee met with Jim Hill who is going to be working with Rodd Roofing as we may need an engineer to come and take a look at the roof they are replacing. She said we may be looking at about \$20,000 additional cost just to get this roof replaced over what was anticipated – it is a structural problem – under the asphalt where plywood was used will have to be replaced. There was some question as to whether the fire retardant that was put on it 30 years ago could have compromised it.

Ms. Harlow called attention to an article in a magazine about districts getting together with towns for buying in bulk.

Ms. Harlow noted that the SAU meeting will involve discussion of goals and the budget.

12. Public Comments: None.

13. Non Public Session – None.

14. Adjournment – Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Perley, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary