

Blue Hill School Committee Meeting
June 15, 2006
Blue Hill Consolidated School
Minutes

A. Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ben Wootten followed by the salute to the flag.

Members Present: Ben Wootten; John Richardson; Susan Keenan; Alice Herrick

Members Absent: Jon Smallidge

Others Present: Mark Hurvitt; Fred Cole; Frank Wanning; Jan Snow; Barbara Bland; Don Bamman; Sarah Ensworth; Patricia Clapp; Bette Britt; Clifton Page

B. Flag Salute

C. Approval of Agenda

John Richardson moved and Alice Herrick seconded to approve the agenda as presented and to move I. New Business item # 6 CHCS Program Discussion to I. New Business item # 2 and slide everything else down one.

The motion passed 4-0.

D. Approval of Minutes of Previous School Board Meetings

1. Susan Keenan moved and John Richardson seconded to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2006 meeting with two amendments.

The motion passed 4-0.

E. Communications

1. Letter of Resignation from Connie Jan Sears

2. Thank you note from Susan Snyder

3. Letters from Sarah Ensworth Requesting Half-Time, One Year, Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2006-2007 School Year

4. Letter from Barbara Bland, LCSW

5. Letter from Brian and Kathy Soper was handed out.

F. Comments and/or Questions from the Public

None

G. Information

1. GSA Report -

a. There will not be a June 26th meeting at GSA

b. Frank Wanning reported that the architect is coming back on June 20th.

c. The Blue Hill Board will be informed every step of the way as this construction project develops. Right now, it is still in the concept development stage and no architectural drawings have been produced yet to look at.

2. Principal's Report - The report is enclosed with the office minutes.

a. Fred Cole handed out current enrollment projections for 2006-2007. Of note is that the third grade class which was at 18 at budget time is now at 20. The board would like to monitor that number over the summer as students come and go.

3. Superintendent's Report -

a. Gina Provinzano's information on music was enclosed in the packet.

b. The letter from the D.O.E. approving our School Lunch Program for 5 years was enclosed.

c. The board gave a tree (River Birch) and a Rackliffe Pottery plate to Barbara Malm on her retirement.

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4. Other Reports/Information

- a. Mark Hurvitt reported that the invitation to bid on the arsenic filter is out and is due on June 30th. The board will act upon this in July. Fred Cole commented on the long array of PTF events which were organized for 2005-2006. Similar plans are in store for next year.

H. Old Business

1. Fourth Reading of the Draft Tobacco Use Policy

Fred Cole went over this proposed revision and checked with Denise Black. The board would like no smoking signage posted at the playground area for after hours and for summer visitors.

Susan Keenan moved and Alice Herrick seconded to adopt the draft policy 1320.2 as presented.

The motion passed 4-0.

I. New Business

1. Sarah Ensworth's Request - The board discussed this request in length and, during that discussion many positives, and some negatives, were brought up. Among the people who commented were:

Clifton Page, in favor.

Patty Clapp, in favor.

Sarah Ensworth, in favor.

Jan Snow, in favor.

Each board member weighed in on the issue, as did Fred Cole and Mark Hurvitt.

Fred Cole and Mark Hurvitt brought up the following cautionary points:

This would be looked at as precedent; it wouldn't be good for BHCS to have a collection of half-time teachers. This is not a "package deal" as Patty Clapp would have to go through the application process.

It was noted that this particular arrangement has been: very successful; has had the support of parents; can be seen as progressive; allows students to connect well with at least one teacher.

Finally, Susan Keenan moved and John Richardson seconded to grant Sarah Ensworth a

½ time, 1 year, unpaid leave of absence for the 2006-2007 school year. The motion passed 4-0.

After the vote, Patty Clapp thanked the board.

6. CHCS Program Discussion - Mark Hurvitt filled the board in about the current contract with CHCS. This has been a one year at a time contractual arrangement since 1999. The board wanted to look at a copy of the contract and tabled this item for further discussion in July. Barbara Bland was present to explain her request which was framed in her letter.

John Richardson moved and Susan Keenan seconded to table this item until July.

The motion passed 4-0.

2. To Approve Progress Report Format for the 2006-2007 School Year - The board had a long discussion on the concept of report cards/progress reports. There are two issues: The board was generally supportive of the Union 93 effort and, although there are parts of this document which some board members don't support, they were willing to give the Union Committee another year to work on it.

Thus, John Richardson moved and Alice Herrick seconded to approve the progress report format for the 2006-2007 school year.

The motion passed 4-0.

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I. New Business (continued)

2. To Approve Progress Report Format for the 2006-2007 School Year (continued)

The other issue is that the Blue Hill Board would like more formal ways to notify parents about

student progress or lack of progress before the 1st trimester ends in early December. This sentiment was felt by each board member. December is too late to learn of a problem in class. Fred Cole will take this issue to the staff meeting on June 16, 2006 and will report on it in his Principal's Report in July.

3. To Award Rubbish Bid -

Susan Keenan moved and John Richardson seconded to award the Rubbish Bid to Blue Hill Disposal for the July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 contract period.

The motion passed 4-0.

4. Special Town Meeting - June 16th at 2:00 p.m. to Transfer Funds

Mark Hurvitt informed the board about the meeting on June 16, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in order to transfer \$37,0000 to Secondary Tuition.

5. CHIPs Program Discussion- This is a program sponsored by the Masons. This year, thirty-seven Blue Hill students took part. It was on a Saturday. The discussion involved perhaps doing this program during the school day in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week. It would be K-4.

To give the board more information, Susan Keenan will include a brochure in the Board's July packet. This item will appear for further discussion in July.

J. Signing of Vouchers

The vouchers were signed.

At this point, Clifton Page complimented Audrey Means on the K-4 Spring Concert.

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Ben Wootten at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hurvitt
Superintendent