

MAPLE RUN UNIFIED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Date December 5, 2018 6:00 BFA Library, 71 S. Main St., St. Albans, VT

MINUTES

Present for a Quorum: Jack McCarthy, Michael Malone, Jeff Morrill, Nilda Gonnella-French, Susan Magnan, Sally Lindberg, Nina Hunsicker, Steven LaRosa, Al Corey.

Unable to Attend: James Farr

Administrators: Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Martha Gagner, Business Manager; Kathy Finck, HR Director, Melanie Boyle, Early Education Coordinator; Joanne Wells, Special Education Director; Jason Therrien, SATEC Assistant Principal; Angela Stebbins, SATEC Principal; Joan Cavallo, SACS Principal; Chris Mosca, BFA Principal; Shannon Warden, BFA Assistant Principal; Leeann Wright, NWTC Director; Lisa Durocher, NWTC Assistant Director; Heather Fitzgibbons, BFA Assistant Principal; David Kimel, Collins Perley Director; Sean O'Dell, Fairfield Principal.

Others:

1. **Call to Order** – Nina Hunsicker called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
2. **Agenda Review** – Host site presentations change of order: Shrek first, student rep report next and then Capital needs. Add Fairfield zoning/impact under new business 8D.

Al Corey made a motion to approve the modified agenda; second by Jeff Morrill. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Visitors – none spoke

5. Host Site Presentations

- A. Capital needs for BFA - Chris Mosca handed out material and spoke to the capital needs of BFA. It's being called the 3 S plan: students and staff, safety and security. Laz Scangas, Architect, then walked the Board through the plans.
- B. Short Performance from Shrek – a few minutes of the play was shown. It can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/304390950>. Armond Messier spoke briefly and introduced students who each said a few words about their involvement in drama and how it affects them. Students included Rosie Newton, Lianna Roque, Sophie Brown, Adsel Sparrow, Isabella Bonasera, Sydney Ward, Pilot DesLauriers, and Emily Parent.
- C. Student Representatives Report - Haley Seymour and Alex Haag reported that the fall concerts went really well. The Winter concert is coming up on December 16. Shrek the musical was amazing. The Mercury has a new paper out; there's a new Student Voice and Diversity Club, formerly the GLOW club (Gays, Lesbians, Or Whatever). Under the new name it now includes race and gender. Powder Puff went well despite losing for the first time. Writing contest went well. Great Fall season in all sports; signups for winter sports taking place now. Advanced placement science trip to Boston is coming up. There was a Spirit Holiday week. The SpeakChorus presented to the State Board of Education. Hiram Bellows day was once again successful, as was the Homecoming dance, Halloween dance. A winter dance is upcoming. The Prom is set for May 18.

6. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes October 29, 2018 Planning Session; November 7, 2018 Board Meeting; November 15, 2018 Planning Session
- B. Media Packet
- C. Grants/Donations
- D. Staff Changes
- E. Financial Report – You will be receiving these monthly moving forward. Attachment 6E

The consent agenda was accepted.

7. Old Business

- A.** Budget Update - Martha Gagner reported that she is close to completing the expenditure side of the budget but is still waiting for information from the state. AOE gave the figure of 3.24% for expenditure increases. Kevin added that there are still some challenges that we need to overcome, but some good news is that Maple Run Unified School District is up 50 students. Martha hopes to have the budget in good shape for the next Board meeting.
- B.** Negotiations Meeting Dates - Kathy Finck reported that January 14th at 6:00 p.m. is the date set for the first negotiations meeting with the union. Ground rules and future meeting dates should be set then.

8. New Business

- A.** Town of Fairfield Easement Request – The Town Select Board have requested an easement from MRUSD to continue on their sidewalk expansion program. The Deed of Easement has been reviewed by the district's attorney.

Michael Malone made a motion to approve the easement; second by Jeff Morrill. The motion passed unanimously.

- B.** Discussion on possible bond referendum – Martha reported that the BFA project is estimated at 5.9 million dollars. To bond only for the BFA project would put us between 1.5 cents and 1.75 cents estimated on the tax rate. Kevin Dirth said that additionally, at last meeting we discussed some Fairfield projects that were planned to use Capital Reserve funds. Estimating this work at 1 million dollars. Adding that to the BFA work the tax rate increase is estimated between 1.8 to 1.94 cents. Michael Malone asked if the Fairfield gym has been further discussed. Principal Sean O'Dell said he was looking at necessary items only, which were safety concerns. The gym was not part of the discussion this round. Michael Malone said he would like to look at whether the gym is really necessary, and if it would come up in the future, should it be added to this bond. Mr. O'Dell said the gym size is not ideal, but they cope with it fine. Jeff Morrill reminded the Board that it was discussed last meeting for capital projects, and the list was what they believed was needed. Jack McCarthy said he is in favor of the student safety issues. David Kimel explained the bond process, which makes it reasonable to do another bond in the future before this one is paid off, if necessary. Dr. Dirth stated that he is proud that this Board has been very careful with the use on bonds. He also stated that using the safety and security theme, Fairfield projects falls into it. Adding that would leave some reserve funds should something come up. A more detailed proposal will be brought to the next Board meeting. We would be looking at trying to get this on the March Town meeting.

C. *Staff Issues

- C1.** Unpaid leave request –

Jeff Morrill made a motion to grant the unpaid leave as requested; second by Nilda Gonnella-French. The motion passed unanimously.

- C2.** Waiver of separation fee request

Jack McCarthy made a motion to approve the separation fee for Jennifer Demar; second by Michael Malone.

There was discussion. Administration's recommendation was not to approve this.

The motion was called. 0 yea, 7 nea, 1 abstention, Nina Hunsicker. The motion did not pass.

- C3.** Retirement

Michael Malone moved to acknowledge the resignation from David Kimel; second by Jack McCarthy.

There was discussion and thanks to David Kimel. Al Corey asked that he reconsider. Mr. Kimel pointed out that he is fulfilling his contract through June 30, 2018 but does not intend to negotiate a new one.

The question was called. 5 yea, 2 nea, 1 abstain. The motion passed.

C4. Request for Retirement Buyout – Kevin Dirth explained the process.

Al Corey made a motion to approve a retirement buyout at a pro-rated benefit; second by Michael Malone. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Fairfield Zoning Board Request – This was removed because the zoning board never sent a letter as requested by Michael Malone.

9. Other Business

A. Warrants -

Michael Malone made a motion to approve the warrants; second by Al Corey. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Superintendent's Report – Kevin Dirth reported that RiseVt awarded Central Office with Gold Status. Most of this was because of Germaine Cross and Brianne King for their wellness efforts. Dr. Dirth reviewed the State Board of Education Board meeting that the BFA PAC hosted. He expressed his pride in our students who ran the day and performed at the end. The morning closed with the Culinary Arts program providing lunch.

Jack McCarthy left at 8:07 p.m..

C. Board & Administrator – there were no handouts this month.

D. Host Principal's Report – Chris Mosca referenced his written report and was happy to answer any questions. He mentioned the difficult week after losing a student. The students have been wonderful supporting each other. Staff has worked to be sure everyone has support where needed. Cooperation among principals has been helpful as well. There will be a service tomorrow, December 6 at Collins Perley at 11:00 a.m.

E. Central Office Administrator Reports Voices

Joanne Wells – She has been working on the budget with Martha Gagner. Working with all of the schools brainstorming ways to best serve our kids. Working with the social emotional learning committee, and with Northwest Counseling Services (NWCS) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide Act 264 training, which is coordination of services. Wrapping up teaching a graduate course on intervention. Kevin Dirth told the Board that Joanne Wells has made the decision to not continue in the Director position.

Kathy Finck – Ramping up negotiations, preparing data. Looking at a one-year contract for Support Staff because of the State negotiations on healthcare. Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) has requested a huge amount of data on healthcare by January 11th. Working on policies for Student Voice and Wellness. Focusing on districtwide practices. Working with the teacher evaluation committee. Professional development requests and leave requests are being standardized.

Martha Gagner – Working on the budget and with auditors to finalize the audit. Reported to the Leadership Committee the budget forecast for current year looks like we are in good shape at this time. Ms. Gagner has been attending training for the mandatory new uniform chart of accounts and financial software.

Mona Berry – Curriculum looking at ways to provide some blended learning. For the last month teachers have been working with consultants and instructional coaches around math. Digging deeper into the data to find the strengths and challenges. Next Curriculum,

Instruction and Assessment (CIA) meeting they will look at ways to disseminate data. Melanie Boyle – Preschool is working on a lot of culminating events. Fairfield Center School had a pajama day. St Albans City School had gingerbread making. Teachers are making their goals. A trauma specialist is visiting preschool classes to provide more resources and information to teachers on working with trauma children. Ms. Boyle is working with Chittenden partners to standardize preschool for all of our students.

10. Agenda Items for Future Meeting Proficiency Based Reporting Update; Social Emotional Learning Update, budget.

11. Potential Executive Session

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Comstock