

BFA/NWTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 13, 2015

Minutes

Present for a Quorum: Al Corey, Nilda Gonnella-French, Jeff Morrill, Richard Bettinger

Unable to Attend: Sally Lindberg

Student Representatives: Kamryn Montague, Cordelia Bell

Administrators: Chris Mosca, BFA Principal; Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Geoff Lyons, Assistant Principal; Shannon Warden, Assistant Principal; Rebecca Day, Assistant Principal; Leeann Wright, NWTC Director; Lisa Durocher, NWTC Assistant Director; Preston Randall, Guidance Director; David Kimel, CPSC Manager; Kathy Finck, Human Resources Director; Martha Gagner, Business Manager; Joanne Wells, Assistant Special Education Director

Visitors: Paula Johnson, Kristi Leet, Olivia Domingue, Mariah Cyr, Mark Capsy

1. Call to Order - Nilda Gonnella-French called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at the BFA library.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda - It was asked to move Trip to France to after the Visitors section, then add a student recognition from Leeann Wright under item 5. Under section G, Act 46 report was added; item SS. Underground Oil Replacement was added. Item T1, Budget Meeting Dates was added.

4. Visitors

4.1 Trip to France in Conjunction with SATEC - Paula Johnson and Kristi Leet, BFA French teachers came before the Board seeking approval for a trip to France during April break. The dates of the trip would be Saturday, April 16, to Saturday, April 23, 2016. The trip is in conjunction with the French teacher at St. Albans Town Educational Center, Isabelle Leroux. They will bring around 20-25 students, and at least 7 adults. They will be going to Normandy to see the D-Day beaches, and some other villages nearby, then will travel to Paris to see the popular sights there. The trip will be planned by Educational Travel Services.

Al Corey made the motion to approve the trip to France from April 16 - 23, 2016, using the guidelines for students travelling outside of the continental United States; Richard Bettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

5. Student Recognition/Presentations - Chris Mosca had two student recognitions; the first was to Brandan Goodhue, who received the Award of Excellence at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston. Mr. Goodhue could not attend, so Mr. Mosca will give his award out at another meeting so that he can be recognized by the

Board. He also recognized Olivia Domingue for her performance on the PSATs. Her scores put her in the top 1% of students in the nation, and she is now a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship.

Leeann Wright recognized Mariah Cyr, a student of Building Trades I, who helped to create a “canstruction” project. With her teacher, Mr. Capsy, they came up with a design for the American flag, and used Campbell’s tomato soup and Starkist tuna cans. The flag was unveiled at New England Federal Credit Union, and is now on display in the NWTC lobby. Mr. Capsy and Ms. Cyr spoke to the Board about the process of building the flag, and how the project helps raise awareness for hunger in Franklin County. The cans from the project will eventually be donated.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

Al Corey made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2015 meeting; Jeff Morrill seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

B. Student Representative Report - Cordelia Bell and Kamryn Montague gave a report on BFA sports; recently, the cross country team went to the Manhattan Invitational race. Girls’ soccer won their games on their senior night. Homecoming was held recently, and there were many great floats that showed school spirit. Powderpuff raised over \$20,000.00. The production of Footloose will be going on November 12 - 14, 2015. The debate team has their first tournament on October 14, 2015; on the same day, students will be taking the PSATs.

C. BFA Administrator’s Report - Chris Mosca commended the new student representatives on their Board report. Mr. Mosca handed out BFA’s five-year report, which is a part of the accreditation process that they do every ten years. This is done by the New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. In 2010, they were peer reviewed. In 2012, they did a two-year report, and now they have written the five-year report. The report was written in a way that reflects what they have done, and where they are heading in the future. The school improvement team has been helping with this work, and it is part of the implementation of Act 77.

D. BFA Guidance Report - Preston Randall highlighted the successful AP program. He also reported their renewed connection with Kathy Lavoie from the Franklin Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board. 32 seniors are to meet with her to explore career opportunities in Franklin County.

E. NWTC Director’s Report - Lisa Durocher spoke about the Career Development Center’s continued growth. They have now served almost 1,000 students in the past year. There is a mixture of high school students and adults taking night and weekend courses. The LNA program has partnered with a long-term care center, and has paid for LNAs to be trained. The welding program now has a waiting list.

1 They also have a pharmacy technician program, as Vermont passed a law that all
 2 pharmacy technicians need to be certified. Ms. Durocher commented on how nice
 3 it is to see high school students taking extra courses in something they are
 4 passionate about, and working hard on nights and weekends.

5
 6 F. Supervisory Union Report - Kevin Dirth spoke about the most recent Schools
 7 on the Move episode, which highlighted the pre-k program. An AOE
 8 representative came and spoke highly of the program; other administrators and
 9 teachers were also featured to add to the conversation. On Friday, October 9,
 10 2015, the SU held their first-ever curriculum day. Jesse Byers, Curriculum
 11 Director, organized the event. Staff members had a workshop-style conference in
 12 the morning, and all of the options were taught by the teachers and administrators.
 13 Dr. Dirth and Mr. Mosca commented on the positive feedback they received from
 14 the inservice day.

15
 16 G. FCSU Board Report - Nilda Gonnella-French reported that the last FCSU
 17 Board meeting was held on September 23, 2015. The meeting was an Act 46
 18 retreat.

19
 20 G1. Act 46 Report - Kevin Dirth spoke about the work the SU has been
 21 doing with Act 46. They are ahead of most other SUs in the state relative
 22 to the information they have, and the work they have already done. The
 23 formalized study committee is now in place, and there are representatives
 24 from all municipalities. They will hold at least two meetings a month. The
 25 two consultants that were hired from the state are Mike Deweese and
 26 Andrew Pond. Everyone is working hard to learn more about the law, and
 27 it is being taken seriously. The next meeting will be held on Thursday,
 28 October 15 at 6:00 p.m. at BFA.

29 30 H. BFA Board Committee Reports

31 H1. Personnel/Finance - Al Corey reported that the committee has some
 32 recommendations that appear later in the agenda. These were discussed at
 33 their last meeting. One of the issues they dealt with was corporate
 34 resolution. They also talked about a street that BFA has direction over, and
 35 took a look at investment info from Trust Company of Vermont and TD
 36 Wealth Management.

37
 38 H2. Policy - Richard Bettinger reported that there are four policies up for
 39 first readings later in the agenda. These were posted online, and the
 40 committee took feedback from them. The committee is also working on a
 41 few other policies that they will bring before the boards soon.

42
 43 H3. Curriculum - Jeff Morrill reported that the first committee meeting is
 44 on Thursday, October 15, 2015.

45 I. Collins Perley Report - Al Corey reported that the PSATs are taking place at the
 46 Collins Perley this week.

1 J. Collins Perley Manager's Report - Dave Kimel highlighted a paragraph from
2 his report that commends the board for all the events that have taken place there,
3 with homecoming week being an excellent example.
4

5 Chris Mosca added that Eric Bushey was recently named Band Teacher of the Year. They
6 will have him come to another Board meeting to be recognized.
7

8 K. Personnel/Finance Committee Recommendations

9 K1. Corporate Resolution
10

11 **Al Corey made the motion to give James Matas, School Treasurer, the**
12 **authority to execute and process payments, transfers, etc, with TD**
13 **Bank; Jeff Morrill seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.**
14

15 K2. VT Gas Right-of-Way
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17 **Al Corey made the motion accept the committee's recommendation to**
18 **allow Vermont Gas the right of way through BFA's property, the**
19 **Collins Perley Sports Complex, on Pleasant Street, to allow residents**
20 **to have natural gas; Jeff Morrill seconded the motion. The motion**
21 **carried 4-0-0.**
22

23 K3. Grand Piano Donation
24

25 **Al Corey made the motion to accept the grand piano donation from**
26 **Anne and Ross Hamilton of North Hero; Richard Bettinger seconded**
27 **the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.**
28

29 The Board thanked Ann and Ross Hamilton for their gift.
30

31 7. Old Business

32 L. Negotiations
33

34 M. Grievance
35

36 The Board agreed to discuss items L and M in executive session.
37

38 8. New Business

39 O. VT Solar Consortium - Kevin Dirth reported that he learned about a
40 consortium of Vermont supervisory unions buying into solar net meeting at a
41 recent superintendent's conference. The consortium allows for schools to receive
42 significant discounts on their electrical bill while taking little action. They are
43 working with investors involved specifically with school districts to make it
44 happen. There is not a lot of time as the deadline to sign the paperwork is
45 November 5, 2015, but Dr. Dirth felt they had to present this opportunity to the
46 Board. Martha Gagner reported that BFA and Collins Perley would see a savings

of around \$36,000.00 and \$15,000.00 per year, respectively. The savings is 22% off of 80% of their electrical usage. Over twenty years, the savings would be about \$700,000.00 for BFA and \$300,000.00 for CPSC. BFA would not have to host any solar arrays, but one solar farm will be in Milton, and there will be others throughout the state. VSA and VSBA lawyers have already vetted this. They are looking for the Board to give their authorization to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Competitive Energy Services, the company that is doing all the legwork on this project.

Al Corey made the motion to authorize the Board Chair or Superintendent to sign BFA, NWTC, and CPSC on to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Competitive Energy Services for solar net metering; Jeff Morrill seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

P. D6 Substitute Teachers Policy First Reading

Q. E8 Tobacco Prohibition Policy First Reading

R. F28 Wellness Policy First Reading

S. F30 Harassment Hazing Bullying Policy First Reading

Al Corey made the motion to warn the policies D6, E8, F28, and F30 for approval at a future meeting; Richard Bettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

SS. Underground Oil Line Replacement - The Finance Committee had a conversation earlier in the day around this item, and it is their recommendation to go forward with this. In September, it was determined that the line that goes between the tank and the boiler has a leak, and is leaking on the inside of the building. They will need to dig it out, lift up the tank, and replace the line to fix it. The issue is that they have an uninterruptable natural gas agreement with Vermont gas that requires them to be able to switch over from natural gas to oil. With the repairs, there may be some issues with compliance with natural gas agreement. In order not to jeopardize this agreement, they must move quickly to do the repairs. They have already received three bids to do the work, and Martha Gagner and Vern Boomhover are vetting the two lowest bidders. They are still waiting on references for one, and because of the timeliness of the repairs, they are seeking Board approval to award the bid to whoever has the best references, as the difference in finances is minimal.

Al Corey made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Business Manager and Vern Boomhover to select the one of the two lowest bidders with the best references in regards to the underground

1 **oil line replacement; Jeff Morrill seconded the motion. The motion**
2 **carried 4-0-0.**

3
4 9. Other Business

5 T. Monthly Financial Report

6
7 T1. Budget Meeting Dates - The Board discussed having dates set so that
8 they can be prepared for the January budget deadline. They will meet with
9 the department heads first, and decided to hold this meeting on November
10 20, 2015, and to hold a preliminary budget meeting on November 10,
11 2015 to talk about their goals. Another budget meeting will be on Monday,
12 November 23, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

13
14 U. Department Reports - Shannon Warden reported that they will be using some
15 funds to set up an internet cafe in the cafeteria.

16
17 V. Employment Matters - None.

18
19 10. Approve Warrants

20 W. Current warrants are included for Board approval.

21
22 **Al Corey made the motion to approve the warrants; Richard Bettinger**
23 **seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

24
25 11. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

26
27 12. Executive Session

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29 **Al Corey made the motion to go into executive session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss**
30 **Negotiations and Grievance Update, as having the conversation in open session**
31 **could put those involved at risk; Richard Bettinger seconded the motion. The**
32 **motion carried 4-0-0.**

33
34 13. Adjourn

35 The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

36
37 Respectfully submitted,

38
39 Abby DuBois