

BFA/NWTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 3, 2015

Minutes

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

Student Representatives: Kamryn Montague, Cordelia Bell

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

Visitors: Hannah Earl, Vinny Pigeon, Shane Mapes, Gabriel Myers-Trinney, Logan Mapes, Chucky Maritin, Renne Dennis, Kasia Bilodeau, Marleigh Lamotne, Eric Mercy, Jim Naylor, Julie Faas, Noah Rouleau, Alicia Tanneberger, Kristi Leet, Alice Osieli, Becca Rudden, Julia Deziel, Andrew Fyles, Nater Gunter, Desiree Gunter, Mark Fyles, Eric Bushey, Sara Howard

1. Call to Order - Nilda Gonnella-French called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. at the BFA library.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda - It was asked to add an item under number 6, JA. Act 46 Update.

Al Corey made the motion to approve the agenda as amended; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.

4. Visitors

5. Student Recognition/Presentations - Chris Mosca first recognized BFA's Unified Sports Team, who won the gold medal in soccer for 2015. He introduced the advisors, Ms. Bilodeau and Mr. Naylor. They spoke about how Collins Perley will be hosting one of the largest Special Olympic events in the state, a bocce tournament on May 19, 2016. Mr. Mosca recognized Julia Deziel, Andrew Fyles, and Nate Gunter for their outstanding performance with the Vermont Youth Orchestra. They recently went on tour, performing at St. Albans City School and Richmond. Mr. Mosca recognized the National Honor Society, and Alicia Tanneberger and advisor Kristi Leet accepted the award on their behalf. They spoke about the event where they had to recognize the issue of homelessness, and to raise money for Tim's House. Ms. Tanneberger spoke about the sleep out they had for their Shantytown event, and how several people from Tim's House came to speak to the National Honor Society about homelessness in the community. Mr. Mosca gave his last award to Eric Bushey, who recently received the award for Outstanding Vermont Educator, and he was formally recognized by the Board.

Leeann Wright shared with the Board the recent experience that NWTC teacher Julie Faas had with 29 students who recently went on a college trip to Maine, and two of the students that went spoke about the colleges they visited and how it will help them make a decision about where they want to go.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Yearbook

B. Northwest Technical Center

C. Approval of Minutes

C1. October 13, 2015 Minutes

C2. October 13, 2015 Discipline Hearing Minutes

Al Corey made the motion to approve the minutes from October 13, 2015; Richard Bettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.

D. Student Representative Report - Kamryn Montague reported that Footloose will be put on November 12-14; cross country states were on October 31, which was the end of fall sports. The Scholar's Bowl had their first meet today. Student council recently held a trick-or-treat canned food drive. Cordelia Bell reported on the Halloween dance that occurred last weekend; winter sports are now starting. The debate team won second place overall at a tournament in Woodstock. The Spanish classes and International Club celebrated the Day of the Dead. Math League won eighth place in their tournaments.

D1. Yearbook - Sarah Howard, Yearbook Advisor, introduced the two co-editors, Alice and Lauren. She spoke about last year's yearbook. Last weekend, they held the Halloween dance as a fundraiser. Recently, the sales for the yearbook have gone down. This year, they will push for more online sales. The ads that parents and businesses have taken out have stayed consistent. The co-editors presented this year's design; the theme will be soaring, which goes with the comet and the bobwhite. This year, the dividers will be drawn by a BFA student.

E. BFA Administrator's Report - Chris Mosca noted that in the Math Department, the faculty have been covering AP classes due to an unanticipated leave. He commended them for putting together a plan that has been working well.

F. BFA Guidance Report - Preston Randall thanked Dave Kimel and Vern Boomhover and their staff for their help pulling off the PSATs. He also shared a thank-you note to the Broad from a previous recipient of the Trustee's Award, and noted that he would love to have Board participation in the award process in the spring.

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2 G. NWTC Director's Report - Leeann Wright noted that her fall newsletter
3 includes tidbits from a variety of staff members.
4

5 H. Supervisory Union Report - Kevin Dirth commented that if people are having a
6 hard time getting a hold of Central Office staff, it is because they are moving to
7 their new facilities, and have had some tech issues in the process.
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9 I. FCSU Board Report - Nilda Gonnella-French reported that the FCSU Board has
10 not met since the last Board meeting. There will be a meeting on November 18,
11 2015.
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13 J. BFA Board Committee Reports

14 JA. Act 46 Study Committee Report - Kevin Dirth gave the update; the
15 committee is moving along quickly and putting in long hours to complete
16 this work. They are getting to the point where they will be starting on the
17 articles of agreement at the next meeting. They hope to have them written
18 by the end of November. Dr. Dirth shared a letter from Ned Kirsch,
19 Superintendent of Franklin West Supervisory Union; it is a request to the
20 state to allow them to have their tech service center change from Essex to
21 St. Albans. Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont Secretary of Education, has
22 received the letter and sent it to the State Board of Education, so it is not
23 yet finalized. However, if approved, it could be beneficial to the district
24 with the additional students. Jeff Morrill commented that the Act 46
25 committee has discussed adding additional communities to the district in
26 the future, so this fits in with that conversation. Dr. Dirth has spoken with
27 union presidents about Act 46, and they gave good input on how to get the
28 information out to the members. He will be speaking to the Leadership
29 Team on opportunities to come to the schools and talk to teachers. They
30 will be putting out brochures, and having public forums. The first public
31 forum will be on November 18, 2015 at SATEC, and the second will be
32 December 2, 2015 at SACS. The third public forum has not yet been
33 scheduled. The intention is to vote on unification during the March
34 elections. Nilda Gonnella-French and Sally Lindberg spoke about the
35 timeline of the committee's work, and how it is very tight, but they are
36 meeting two or three times a month. Since the law is new, there are still a
37 lot of questions, but the consultants Mike Deweese and Andrew Pond are
38 keeping track of the questions and trying to find answers for them. The
39 reason for pushing this through within the year is to offer the higher tax
40 incentives; if approved, then the tax incentives will be a reduction of 10
41 cents the first year, followed by 8 cents, 6 cents, 4 cents, and 2 cents in the
42 following years. The committee is discussing the appropriate size for the
43 unified district board; the population counts in the communities determine
44 the number of representatives from each town. In March, when people are
45 voting on the consolidation, they will also be voting for all the

representatives for the new board. The BFA Board will still exist for a year, as well as the new transition board.

J1. Personnel/Finance - Al Corey reported that the committee met last week, and some of the issues they discussed will be presented later in the meeting. They also had an update on negotiations.

J2. Policy - Richard Bettinger reported that the committee has been working on the policies that appear later in the agenda for approval; they will be discussing several other policies at the next meeting.

J3. Curriculum - Sally Lindberg reported that the committee met on October 15, 2015, where Lisa Durocher presented on a new course. Shannon Warden, Chris Mosca, and Jesse Byers also presented on SLOs (Student Learning Objectives), and how they are transitioned into smart goals. They spoke about the SBAC results, and decided that they want to receive as much information as possible about the scores, and will see a student sample. They received an update on the improvement plan. At the next meeting, they will look at new course proposals, student data, and proficiency-based graduation requirements.

K. Collins Perley Report - Al Corey reported that the Collins Perley board met recently, and they reviewed the monthly financial report, the goals for the complex, and approved where the new front doors will go.

L. Collins Perley Manager's Report - Dave Kimel noted that he has heard several remarks from groups like the Air Force Band about how large and enthusiastic the crowds are, which is surprising for a community of this size. This shows that the community has a strong relationship with the school and its campuses, since they are active in non-school related events. Mr. Kimel also answered a question about a letter of complaint they received regarding public use times conflicting with BFA usage. The concern is out there, and they will be looking at how they can tweak the scheduling so that it is the most effective for everyone. Mr. Bettinger requested Mr. Kimel's response to that complaint.

M. Personnel/Finance Committee Recommendations

M1. Resignations/Long Term Sub

Al Corey made the motion to accept the resignation, effective a year from now, of Shirley Raymond as alumni coordinator; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Richard Bettinger abstaining.

Al Corey made the motion to accept the resignation of Vern Boomhaver; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Richard Bettinger abstaining.

As an FYI to the Board, Mary Beth McNulty was hired as a long-term sub for English.

7. Old Business

N. Solar Project - At the previous Board meeting, the Board approved a solar project. There were requests to look at the information again, in order to do their due diligence.

Al Corey made the motion to reconsider the solar project vote that was taken at the last Board meeting; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Jeff Morrill and Richard Bettinger voting against.

The Board had further discussions on the project; a few members had some concerns, but were able to have more information on the project from Martha Gagner and Kevin Dirth. Dr. Dirth also noted that other districts in the Supervisory Union have approved this as well.

Al Corey made the motion to approve the solar project as presented with the additional information tonight; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Sally Lindberg voting against.

O. Investment Information - The finance committee requested information on the fee costs for the management of various funds that BFA holds, including Collins Perley, and several scholarships. Currently, the funds are managed by TD Wealth; Trust Company of Vermont also brought forward a proposal to the committee to see if they would consider transferring the funds to them. Trust Company of Vermont offered lower fee costs, and TD Wealth came back with a reduced fee structure that was still higher than the other company. Several members of the Board did not feel comfortable making a decision on this item yet, and requested that Martha Gagner check on other companies for their offers. No action was taken on this item.

P. Negotiations - This item was moved to executive session.

Q. Grievance - This item was moved to executive session.

R. D6 Substitute Teachers Policy Adoption

Jeff Morrill made the motion to adopt policy D6 Substitute Teachers; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.

S. E8 Tobacco Prohibition Policy Adoption

Jeff Morrill made the motion to adopt policy E8 Tobacco Prohibition; Richard Bettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.

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2 T. F28 Wellness Policy Adoption
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4 **Jeff Morrill made the motion to adopt policy F28 Wellness; Richard**
5 **Bettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.**
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7 U. F30 Harassment Hazing Bullying Policy Adoption
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9 **Jeff Morrill made the motion to adopt policy F30 Harassment Hazing**
10 **Bullying, and to rescind policies F20 Prevention of Harassment of Students,**
11 **F24 Policy on Hazing, and F30 Prevention of Bullying of Students; Richard**
12 **Bettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.**
13

14 8. New Business
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16 9. Other Business

17 V. Monthly Financial Report- FYI
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19 W. Department Reports - FYI
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21 X. Director of Plant Operations Job Description - The Board looked over the
22 previously revised job description and agreed to change some of the wording:
23 under 2E, to change the wording from “responsible for managing safety
24 procedures, eg fire drills,” to make clear that the person will work with the team
25 on coordinating the emergency procedures. They also agreed to change the
26 wording under number 4 from “may perform other duties as assigned” to “shall
27 perform other duties as assigned.”
28

29 **Al Corey made the motion to approve the revised Director of Plant**
30 **Operations job description as amended; Jeff Morrill seconded the motion.**
31 **The motion carried 5-0-0.**
32

33 The Board will remove the safety officer position from the co-curricular activities
34 at the next meeting.
35

36 Y. Employment Matters - None.
37

38 10. Approve Warrants

39 Z. Current warrants are included for Board approval.
40

41 **Al Corey made the motion to approve the warrants; Richard Bettinger**
42 **seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.**
43

44 11. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

45 Investments

46 SBAC

1 Co-Curricular
2 Safety Officer
3 12. Executive Session
4

5 **Al Corey made the motion to go into executive session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss**
6 **Negotiations and Grievance; Jeff Morrill seconded the motion. The motion carried**
7 **5-0-0.**
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9 Rich Bettinger left at 8:45.

10
11 Executive Session ended at 8:58.
12

13 13. Adjourn

14 **Al Corey made the motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.; second by Sally Lindberg. The**
15 **motion carried 4-0-0**
16

17 Respectfully submitted,
18

19 Abby DuBois