

BFA/NWTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 1, 2015

Minutes

Present for a Quorum: Al Corey, Jeff Morrill, Richard Bettinger, Sally Lindberg

Unable to Attend: Nilda Gonnella-French

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; Preston Randall, Guidance Director; David Kimel, CPSC Manager; Kathy Finck, Human Resources Director; Martha Gagner, Business Manager; Julie Regimbal, Special Education Director; Joanne Wells, Assistant Special Education Director; Jesse Byers, Curriculum Director

Visitors: Carol Hinson, Keeli Metz, Dale Metz, Gabrielle Metz, Kristine Bickford, Martin Pigeon, Tina Cushing, Mary Cushing, Vinny Pigeon, Jim Naylor, Sophie Thompson, Candy Bilodeau, Isabel Murphy, Tyler Comeau, Adam Monette

1. Call to Order – Al Corey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the BFA library.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda – It was asked to add an item under K. Personnel/Finance Committee Recommendations, item K3. Collins Perley Benches.

Jeff Morrill made the motion to approve the agenda as amended; Richard Bettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

4. Visitors

5. Student Recognition/Presentations - Chris Mosca recognized Kasia Bilodeau, who was named Coach of the Year for the Special Olympics. Ms. Bilodeau thanked the Board for their support with the event. Vinny Pigeon was recognized for being named Athlete of the Year at the Special Olympics. Mr. Mosca recognized Mary Cushing and the other participants of the All-State Athletic Leadership Conference. He also recognized Gabrielle Metz for writing a grant for \$2,000.00 from the Ronald McDonald Foundation. The funds will be used for Unified Sports. Christine Bickford, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House, added that Ms. Metz's grant was written in a way that was clear and comprehensive, and commended her for that.

Leeann Wright recognized Chef Adam Monet and two of his students, Tyler and Isabel, who prepared a sixteen course meal as a fundraiser for Northwest Family Foods, a food shelf that services Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. With the event, they raised \$2,000.00, and the students got real world experience. The students spoke about some of the dishes they prepared, and how they tried to use local ingredients in their menu.

1 6. Consent Agenda

2 A. Approval of Minutes

3 A1.November 3, 2015

4 A2.November 3, 2015 Discipline Hearing

5 A3.November 18, 2015 Special Meeting

6 A4.November 20 Special Meeting

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8 **Jeff Morrill made the motion to approve all four sets of minutes as**
9 **presented; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.**
10

11 B. Student Representative Report - Cordelia Bell reported on current club
12 activities, and how they are giving back to the community for the holiday season.
13 Student Council is having a holiday mitten drive for City School. NHS will be
14 caroling at a retirement home, and will be donating money to Toys for Tots. The
15 International Club will be making holiday cards for all the teachers. Kamryn
16 Montague reported on the success of Footloose; there was nearly a full house each
17 night. There is currently an Art Show going on at Collins Perley, and winter
18 sports have started. Comet hockey and JV basketball will be doing the Running of
19 the Bells.
20

21 C. BFA Administrator's Report - Chris Mosca thanked the teachers for their
22 efforts on the last inservice days; it was time well spent on curriculum mapping
23 and assessment data. Shannon Warden was also able to meet with all of the
24 departments during this time.
25

26 D. BFA Guidance Report - Preston Randall reported that they will be welcoming
27 some eighth graders from the area on Wednesday, December 2, 2015; there will
28 be an informational evening on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to give
29 parents an introduction to BFA.
30

31 E. NWTC Director's Report – Leeann Wright's report on NWTC was included in
32 the Board's packet, and she had nothing additional to add.
33

34 F. Supervisory Union Report - Kevin Dirth reported that there has been a lot of
35 work going on relative to Act 46. He also mentioned the success of the Veteran's
36 Day celebration, which the entire SU attended. He has received criticism for not
37 honoring the veterans by having school on that day, but their participation in this
38 event shows that it is just the opposite. Chris Mosca added that Cordelia Bell
39 made a nice speech at the event as well.
40

41 G. FCSU Board Report - Jeff Morrill reported that the last FCSU Board meeting
42 was mostly around Act 46.
43

44 H. BFA Board Committee Reports

1 H1.Personnel/Finance - Al Corey reported that the Committee met last
2 week, and that the activities at that meeting will be coming up later in
3 agenda.

4 H2.Policy - Richard Bettinger reported that the Policy Committee met on
5 November 17, 2015, and decided that they will no longer need the bus
6 idling policy, as there is already a state law governing the idling of buses.
7 The committee will meet again on Tuesday, January 19, 2015.
8

9 H3.Curriculum - Sally Lindberg reported that the Curriculum Committee
10 met on November 12, 2015, and Shannon Warden spoke to them about a
11 new course, Alternative English. They looked at student achievement data;
12 the Freshman class has shown a little improvement with a failure rate of
13 18%. They will be looking at subgroups that need more support to
14 improve that percentage. They also discussed proficiency-based
15 graduation requirements; next year's Freshman class will be the first
16 students that need to fulfill these requirements in order to graduate.
17 Shannon Warden added that the course proposal for Alternative English
18 was included in the Board's packet. This is a credit recovery course.
19 Currently, if a student fails an English class, they will either take the class
20 again, or take it online. This new course that the English department
21 proposed will be a smaller class that is differentiated so the teachers can
22 address the individual student's needs.
23

24 **Sally Lindberg made the motion that the Board approve the credit**
25 **recovery course entitled Alternative English; Jeff Morrill seconded**
26 **the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1 with Richard Bettinger**
27 **abstaining.**
28

29 I. Collins Perley Report - Al Corey reported that at the last meeting, they talked
30 about the operation of Collins Perley, as well as finances. They are also proud of
31 the fact that the front entrance is now handicap accessible with an automatic door
32 opener. Winter sports are underway.
33

34 J. Collins Perley Manager's Report - Dave Kimel had a printout of the first
35 Collins Perley newsletter; a lot of time and effort was put into it. It has so far been
36 well-received, and he welcomed any suggestions for changes, as they hope it will
37 be a monthly newsletter. Kamryn Montague thanked Mr. Kimel for hosting the
38 Ride to Feed event, as she enjoyed the classes, and hope they continue it in the
39 future. Mr. Kimel added that this was an event on Thanksgiving where people
40 brought in items for the food shelf and did classes.
41

42 K. Personnel/Finance Committee Recommendations

43 K1. Co-curricular for DECA position – Currently, there is one advisor for
44 DECA, which is part of the marketing program. The proposed change will
45 be that two people will be co-advisors, and share the stipend that is already
46 approved for the position.

Jeff Morrill made the motion to approve the co-advisor position; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

K2. Investment Information - This is a request to the full Board to do an RFP for investment management, in order to see if their current investments can be improved upon.

Jeff Morrill made the motion to approve that they move forward with the RFP; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

K3. Collins Perley Benches – It is the recommendation of the Collins Perley Board to place a bench that was gifted to them on the walking path. The Personnel/Finance Committee requested to have the full Board approve the location; this goes in line with the FCSU policy regarding memorials.

Jeff Morrill made the motion to approve the location of the bench; Sally Lindberg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.

7. Old Business

L. Act 46 - Jeff Morrill reported that the Act 46 Committee has been working on a study of the merger of the school districts and how it benefits students. They have finished the articles of agreement, which will define how the merger will take place. This has been passed off to the State Board of Education for their initial review; they will give feedback before the committee finally turns it in in January. All three communities, St. Albans Town, St. Albans City, and Fairfield will have to vote to approve this in order to merge. If any one of the communities votes against, then the merger cannot happen. The new board will have ten members. The representation is done through population count in the communities, so there will be four from the City, four from the Town, and two people with a half vote each from Fairfield. They are currently holding community forums so that people can be informed on this. There is one scheduled for December 2, 2015 at City School, and one on December 14, 2015 at Fairfield Center School.

M. Budget - Martha Gagner reported that the Business Office has been working on finalizing the first draft of the expense budget. They will set up meetings next week with school administration to go over those first drafts. They are also working on enrollment projections to work on the high school tuition rate and to get the work starting on the revenue side of the budget. At the December Finance Committee meeting, they will have a copy of the expenditure budget and what the tuition rates may be. The Board will have to adopt the budget by mid-January. The state wants to limit budget increases, so for BFA, they have a cap of a 1.04% increase in the education spending per equalized pupil. If the budget goes above that, then the amount that it is above 1.04% will be doubled-taxed. Therefore, they will be working hard on the budget so that will not happen.

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2 N. Negotiations

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4 O. Grievance

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6 The Board determined that items N and O should be discussed in executive
7 session, because doing it in open session could leave board or the public at a
8 disadvantage if they were presented at this time.

9
10 8. New Business

11 P. ESP Collective Bargaining Master Agreement Approval – The agreement was
12 attached in the Board's packet for their review. The agreement is for FY16 and
13 FY17.

14
15 **Jeff Morrill made the motion to approve the ESP collective bargaining**
16 **master agreement for 2015-2017; Richard Bettinger seconded the motion.**
17 **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

18
19 Q. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) - Shannon Warden shared
20 the results of the SBAC, which replaced the NECAP. It is a computer adapted
21 test, which means that how students answer determines what the next questions
22 will be. This was taken by the 11th grade class, and they had a 97% participation
23 rate. The computer adaptive test gives a more reliable and accurate snapshot of
24 how students are performing. She shared a couple of example of the performance
25 tasks, which were real world situations that the students were asked questions
26 about. The SBAC scores levels 3 and 4 as being proficient, or meeting the
27 standard. For English Language Arts, the state score was 58% proficient, and
28 BFA was at 54.15%. For Math, the state was 37% proficient, and BFA was at
29 34.07%. These scores have provided a new baseline that is aligned to the
30 Common Core, a more rigorous set of standards. Vermont was given an
31 accountability waiver for this first year of testing, but in the future scores will be
32 used to determine if they met their AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). Therefore,
33 BFA will maintain their current AYP status.

34
35 9. Other Business

36
37 R. Monthly Financial Report- FYI

38
39 S. Department Reports-FYI

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41 T. Employment Matters

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43 10. Approve Warrants

44 U. Current warrants are included for Board approval. Signatures required.
45

1 **Sally Lindberg made the motion to approve the warrants; Richard Bettinger**
2 **seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

3

4 11. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

5 12. Executive Session

6

7 **Sally Lindberg made the motion to go into executive session at 7:37 p.m.; Jeff**
8 **Morrill seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

9

10 **Sally Lindberg made the motion to exit executive session at 8:20 p.m.; Jeff Morrill**
11 **seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

12

13 13. Adjourn

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15 **Jeff Morrill made the motion to adjourn at 8:20; seconded by Sally Lindberg. The**
16 **motion carried 4-0-0.**

17

18 Respectfully submitted,

19

20 Abby DuBois