# ST. ALBANS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

#### SPECIAL BOARD MEETING & RETREAT 1

- August 13, 2015 2
- 3 Minutes

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- 5 **Present for a Quorum:** Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner, Ken Wade, Tayt Brooks, Denise Smith,
- 6 James Farr, Angela Bernard, Patrick Daunais
- 7 Administrators: Joan Cavallo, Principal; Georgie Andrews, Assistant Principal; Kevin Dirth,
- Superintendent; Kathy Finck, Human Resources Director 8
- 9 **Visitors:** None

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- 11 1. Call to Order - James Farr called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. in the SACS professional 12 library.

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2. Pledge of Allegiance 14

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16 3. Agenda Review - No modifications to the agenda were made.

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4. Visitors 18

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- 20 5. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Minutes

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Ken Wade made the motion to approve the minutes; Tayt Brooks seconded the motion.

24 The motion carried 7-0-0.

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Denise Smith made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:17 p.m. to discuss item 7F, as having the conversation in public session could place the Board at a substantial disadvantage; Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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Executive Session ended at 5:40 p.m.

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- B. FCSU Update Kevin Dirth reported on the Vermont Principals' Association conference he recently attended in Killington, along with many administrators from the SU. While there, SACS and St. Albans Town Educational Center were both given the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The Act 46 committee is still moving forward; their next meeting will be on August 20, 2015. A representative from Montpelier will also be in attendance to work with them. Anyone else is welcome to attend. The meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office. Dr. Dirth also reported on the upcoming FCSU Convocation; this is a new event for the SU. The entire SU staff will be meeting at the Collins Perley Sports Complex from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 20, 2015. There will be presentations and a barbecue for staff members to welcome them back. Dr. Dirth invited the Board members to attend. He also commented on James Farr's quote in the Superintendent's Report, as well as a quote from an Agency of Education
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- representative, remarking that they are reading these reports, and send them along to 44
- 45 Rebecca Holcombe.

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C. Principal's Report - Principal Joan Cavallo spoke to the Board about the emergency project completion. She reported that the sidewalk project will not be fully completed until next year; only the slab near the cafeteria door will be replaced. She spoke about several other summer projects, including the small gym floor, and new coolers in the cafeteria. Principal Cavallo played a video showing several City School students who participated in a conference in Philadelphia with ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education). During the summer, the school has been busy with Open Doors camp, Humanities Camp, and summer school. The RFP (request for proposal) for the solar project went out, and is due back on August 28, 2015. Students in Team USA will be collecting and organizing the data that the companies bring back, and this information will be presented to the Board. Principal Cavallo gave updates on the new pre-k classrooms; there will be two all-day pre-k classrooms, and one part-time pre-k classroom. This will bring in fifty additional students. SACS has partnered with First School through the RACE to the Top grant, which will bring in consultants to look at closing the gap between pre-k through third grade. There is a new PTA that has started up at SACS, and they will have their next meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. The school received the Voya Unsung Heroes Award for \$2,000.00; this money will go toward an apple press to make apple cider.

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> D. Act 46 Study Committee Report - James Farr reported on the meetings of the Act 46 committee. He and Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner are the SACS representatives, and Tayt Brooks has been in attendance as well. At the last meeting, they focused on governance, and what the new Board will look like. The representation has to be equal to the towns' populations. They have looked at a twelve member board composed of five members from both St. Albans City and St. Albans Town, and two members from Fairfield. They chose to have each community elect all of the representatives on the Board, instead of electing only those who will represent their community. This way, the representatives will be looking out for the interests of all the communities. The goal is to have everything on the ballot by Town Meeting Day 2016. It will be done by Australian ballot; the members that voters elect will be part of a transitional board. If all communities approve this, then by July 1, 2017, the new district will take effect and the local boards will dissolve. If the district is approved before June 30 2016, then taxpayers will receive a ten cent tax break on their tax rate for the first year, then eight cents, six cents, four cents, and two cents on the subsequent years. If this is not approved, then the state of Vermont will take action by 2018 anyway. There was a discussion on high school choice. As of now, the new district would have no high school choice, meaning Fairfield would have to give up choice. There will be public forums held at BFA, but first the committee plans on meeting with both the City and Town Selectboards. The next committee meeting is August 20, 2015; representatives from Montpelier will be in attendance, and will hopefully shed more light on several questions that are still to be answered.

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#### 6. Old Business

E. Goals Review - Principal Cavallo and the Board went over the goals that they had set for FY15. There were three goals that they decided to focus on that were a part of the core values. One of the goals (related to the core value "We focus on the whole child")

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was for implementing universal lunch; this has not yet been officially approved, but they have the correct direct certification numbers, and the application submitted. They are just waiting for the official letter of approval. Principal Cavallo also gave the Board copies of the interventions available to every child in the building, which was another goal related to the core value "We focus on the whole child."

Principal Cavallo went over the implementation of the Common Local Assessments, which was their goal related to the core value "We hold high expectations for every child in all academic areas including reading, writing, math, science, and social studies." She also went over the e-portfolio system that the school has been working on.

The last goal that the Board chose to work on was related to the core value "We protect the community's investment in our facility and grounds." Principal Cavallo and Assistant Principal Georgie Andrews created a facility plan; it included the history of the facility, projects that have already been completed, projects that will be completed from 2015-2018, and long-term projects to consider. She and the Board decided to highlight several items that they feel are more urgent; this included e-911 compliance, renovating the kitchen floor and serving line, a mobile classroom for the expanded pre-k program, updating the Family and Consumer Science classroom, and handicap bathrooms for the 7-8 communities.

The Board agreed to work on these goals for FY 2016:

### We focus on the whole child

- 1. Make "Community Feeding" successful in FY16. (5% increase in participation, and cost neutral.)
- 2. Continue to grow our skill set to meet the ever growing and changing social/emotional needs of our children. Highlight what is added or removed.

# We hold high expectations for every child in all academic areas including reading, writing, math, science, and social studies

- 1. Evaluate the full SBAC and Interim reports to see if it could be an effective tool to measure growth on school-wide basis. Also look at Common Local Assessments to create school-wide reports for a baseline.
- 2. Prek 8 e-portfolio system implementation with exemplars at every grade level.

#### We sustain meaningful community engagement

1. Create a baseline document for community engagement.

#### 7. New Business

F. Extracurricular Stipends - This item was discussed in Executive Session.

G. Non-Union Non-Certified Benefits - Principal Cavallo reported that she is looking at a proposal for aligning their benefits for non-union, non-certified employees (including holidays, retirement, etc.) with other schools in the SU. She will speak with the staff and Kathy Finck, and report back to the Board at next month's meeting.

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2	H. Voya Unsung Heroes Award for \$2,000
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4	Ken Wade made the motion to accept the Voya Unsung Heroes Award in the amount of
5	\$2,000.00, to be used for an apple cider press; Denise Smith seconded the motion. The
6	motion carried 7-0-0.
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8	I. Set Goals for FY16 - The goals were set by the Board earlier in the meeting.
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10	8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
11	8.1 Extracurricular Guidelines
12	8.2 Non-Union Non-Certified Benefits
13	8.3 SBAC Results/Presentation
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15	9. Executive Session - The Board went into executive session earlier in the meeting.
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17	10. Adjourn
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19	The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.
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21	Respectfully submitted,
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23	Abby DuBois
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