

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

BOARD MEETING

September 10, 2015

Minutes

Present for a Quorum: Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner, Tayt Brooks, James Farr, Angela Bernard, Patrick Daunais, Denise Smith (arrived 6:13 p.m.)

Unable to Attend: Ken Wade

Administrators: Joan Cavallo, Principal; Georgie Andrews, Assistant Principal; Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Kathy Finck, Human Resources Director; Martha Gagner, Business Manager; Jesse Byers, Curriculum Director

Visitors: Team USA students and teachers, Jeff Morrill

1. Call to Order - James Farr called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the SACS library.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Review - It was asked to move item 7G under item 8, Employment Matters, which is a possible item for executive session.

4. Presentations

Solar Proposals Presentation - Students from Team USA came to speak about the SACS solar project that they have been working on for the past few years. They spoke about the process of putting together an RFP with the help of Martha Gagner and Joan Cavallo. After putting out the RFP, three companies came back with proposals: SunCommon, Sun Edison, and Kearsarge. The students went over the criteria that was given to each company, and how their proposals followed that criteria. Based on the proposals, the students suggested that the Board considers further talks with Sun Edison. Their reasoning was that the panels will fit in the proposed area, and the school will receive 16% of the output, the highest percentage out of all three proposals. The commitment would be a 20 year contract, but the school does not have any upfront costs, as the funds come from a private investor.

(Denise Smith arrived)

The Board discussed several other points with the students and teachers; it was determined that Sun Edison and SunCommon should come to present at the next Board meeting, and that the students should put together a public announcement so that community members can contribute to the conversation if they wish.

SBAC Results Presentation - Joan Cavallo shared the results of the first SBAC test. Ms. Cavallo prefaced the results by asking the audience to consider the eighth grade class; up until then, the students are still a work in progress. The results from the eighth grade class showed a higher result than the state average in both Language Arts and Math. She also shared the results of the whole school compared to the results of the entire FCSU and the state of Vermont. Ms. Cavallo stated that the particularly high Math scores are a result of teachers switching to teaching Common Core curriculum. She also believes that the school is doing a better job of keeping

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1 students engaged and active in their learning up until eighth grade. Ms. Cavallo spoke about the
2 work the school will be doing on closing the gap between Pre-K and third grade so that the
3 scores improve even earlier. That is the reasoning for all the Pre-K expansion the school has
4 been doing.

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6 5. Visitors

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8 6. Consent Agenda

9 A. Approval of Minutes

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11 **Denise Smith made the motion to approve the minutes; Angela Bernard seconded the**
12 **motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.**

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14 B. FCSU Update - Kevin Dirth stated that the FCSU is moving forward with Act 46; there
15 will be some additional info on the progress later in the meeting. Two consultants have
16 been designated to the SU to help with implementation, and they are both very
17 knowledgeable. Dr. Dirth also spoke about FCSU Convocation that was held prior to the
18 start of school; Tayt Brooks and James Farr were in attendance. James Farr gave a
19 speech as the FCSU Board Chair, and it was well-received.

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21 C. Principal's Report - Joan Cavallo spoke about the new community feeding program; so
22 far, she is happy with the results. Their focus has been on feeding children healthy
23 foods. She shared the new homemade dressings that the Abbey Group has created this
24 year, Raider Ranch and City Balsamic. The participation numbers this year are higher
25 than ever before. The school again received the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant. Ms.
26 Cavallo spoke about the active shooter drill that SACS faculty participated in during
27 inservice. Many people responded that they felt the drill was worthwhile, and they felt
28 more prepared after the fact. The PTO/PTA has decided not to become an official
29 branch of that organization, and have changed to the Friends of St. Albans City School.
30 They want to be less about fundraising, and more about the community. They are
31 working on creating their by-laws. The Board requested that they come to a future
32 Board meeting to seek some kind of approval, as they are affiliating themselves with
33 SACS. The first Walk and Bike to School Day was on Wednesday, September 9, 2015; 217
34 students participated. Ms. Cavallo spoke about organizing SES Tutoring and the Open
35 Doors program so that they are a collaborative group. Pete Cutney came back to the
36 school during inservice to work with teachers; each community picked a student to
37 speak about with him. Pre-K and Kindergarten orientation was held on Wednesday,
38 September 9, 2015. SACS has maintained its PBIS exemplar status for the third year in a
39 row. Ms. Cavallo talked about the new Maker Space. She hopes to take Board members
40 on a tour of the space in the future. The Maker Space is a new movement that gives kids
41 a hands-on ability to create. At the SACS Maker Space, they have a 3D printer, and a
42 vinyl and laser cutter. Kids can use these devices, with the help of faculty, to design and
43 engineer solutions. This will be a combination of Tech Ed and Art; Art teachers will be
44 trained on how to use the Maker Space with students. Unified Arts has been re-
45 designed so that every student, Pre-K through sixth grade, has one Music, Art, and Tech
46 Ed class; seventh and eighth graders have choice Unified Arts.

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D. VSBA/Act 46 Update - James Farr reported that the VSBA Board had a meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, but he was unable to attend. There will be a regional meeting on October 19, 2015 for Franklin and Chittenden Counties. The meeting will be held at BFA. Later in the agenda, the Board will have to name at least four individuals to represent St. Albans City on the Act 46 Study, and will also have to vote to provide funding for the committee.

7. Old Business

E. FCSU professional staff and support staff negotiations - The Board had a finding with this item; discussing it in public session could put the Board at a disadvantage, so it was moved to executive session.

F. Extracurricular Guidelines - Kathy Finck reported that she and Joan Cavallo have a document to share regarding this item, but having the conversation in public session could put the Board at a significant disadvantage, so it was moved to executive session.

8. New Business

G. Act 46 – Creation of Study Committee and Funding for Same

James Farr spoke about the process of forming the Act 46 subcommittee, and how, due to recent information, the committee will have to be re-formed. There should be four members on the committee from St. Albans City, four from St. Albans Town, and four from Fairfield. BFA has already named two individuals that are interested in serving on the committee as representatives of St. Albans City. The Board also has to fund the committee; Kevin Dirth recommended that the budget be set at \$25,000.00. The state of Vermont will reimburse \$20,000.00 from a grant, and the remaining \$5,000.00 will be a shared cost among St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, and Fairfield. The proportion that each district will contribute is based on equalized pupil count; for the City Board, this will be about \$2,250.00.

Denise Smith made the motion to form a study committee with St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, and Fairfield, to analyze the advisability of forming a union school district under Act 46; Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Tayt Brooks made the motion to authorize a budget of up to \$25,000.00 for legal, consulting, and other expenses for the committee, and to share the cost proportionally, based on equalized pupil count, with the other districts in the study committee; Denise Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Angela Bernard made the motion to appoint four members to the study committee in order to be compliant with 16 V.S.A § 706, and the members shall be Nilda Gonnella-French, Jeff Morrill, James Farr, and Tayt Brooks, with Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner serving as an alternate, who will have no voting power unless another member cannot attend; Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

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H. Student Issues - The Board had a finding with this item, and it was moved to executive session.

- I. Employment Matters
- I1. Letters of Resignation
 - I2. Resignation
 - I3. Resignation
 - I4. Resignation
 - I5. Retirement

One resignation letter was moved to executive session; the remaining resignations and retirement were FYIs to the Board.

I6. School Enrichment Logistics Coordinator (new position) - Joan Cavallo spoke about how the school has been pulling together all of the activities that take place outside of the school day; Alisha Sawyer has been helping with the organization of this, and the School Enrichment Logistics Coordinator will be helping also.

I7. Non-Union Non-Certified Pay Schedule & Benefits -The Board had a finding with this item, as discussing it in public session could put them at a significant disadvantage, so it was moved to executive session.

9. Other Business (Information Gathering) - Included for the Board’s information.
- J. Warrants

K. Monthly Financial Report

10. Agenda Items for Future Meeting
- L. Rain Garden Project Update - This will be moved to the November Board meeting.
 - M. Solar Presentations/Discussion

11. Executive Session

Tayt Brooks made the motion to go into executive session at 7:31 p.m. to discuss FCSU professional and support staff negotiations, extracurricular guidelines, student issues, and employment matter, inviting that the administrators who are present to attend; Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Exited Executive Session at 9:00.

Denise Smith moved to allow the Principal to use her discretion in offering a salary to the new facilities manager; second by Tayt Brooks. The motion carried unanimously.

Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner moved to give Linda and Kim Pike unpaid leave for October 29 and 30, and November 2 – 6; second by Angela Bernard. The motion passed unanimously.

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- 1
- 2 Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner moved to waive tuition for eighth grade student to remain at SACS
- 3 this year; second by Pat Daunais. The motion passed unanimously.
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- 5 12. Adjourn at 9:05
- 6
- 7 Respectfully submitted,
- 8
- 9 Abby DuBois