

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

BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2015

Minutes

Present for a Quorum: Angela Bernard, Tayt Brooks, James Farr, Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner, Ken Wade, Patrick Daunais, Denise Smith (6:08 p.m.)
Administrators: Joan Cavallo, Principal; Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Martha Gagner, Business Manager
Visitors: Chad Spooner, Jesse Stowell, Mike McCarthy, Forrest Deslauriers, Peter Deslauriers

1. Call to Order - James Farr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m at the SACS library.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Review - It was asked to remove item J2. Non Union, Non Certified Benefits, and to replace it with Retirements.

A. Presentations

FSACS (Parent Group) - Chad Spooner spoke to the Board about the new parent group, Friends of St. Albans City School. This group was formed recently after Mr. Spooner received interest over the summer from parents wanting to start the PTO up again. However, after meeting with Joan Cavallo, they came to the conclusion that the group would not be an official PTO/PAG group, as they are primarily focused around fundraising. FSACS wants to support the teachers, administration, and students. A copy of the group's goals and mission was included in the Board's packet. Mr. Spooner stated that any parent, relative, or teacher that is interested in being involved in the school may join.

Angela Bernard made the motion to accept FSACS as a formal group; Patrick Daunais seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-1 with Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner abstaining.

B. Solar Presentations by Sun Edison and SunCommon

Forrest Deslaurier, a student from Team USA, introduced Mike McCarthy from SunCommon.

(Denise Smith arrived)

Mike McCarthy gave an introduction of SunCommon, a Vermont-based company, and spoke about another array they have done at a school in Vermont. The proposal for SACS is to install an acre of solar panels on the far northern side of the soccer fields with no up-front cost to the school. Through group net metering, the power the panels produce goes into the grid, and the school will receive credits on their electric bill. The proposed array

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

will produce 240,000 kilowatt hours in a year. This equates to about \$45,600.00 of solar credit, and a first year projected savings of \$4,560.00. Mr. McCarthy also spoke about how SunCommon can help integrate solar into the curriculum, and how a kiosk will provide up-to-date information on the panels. The timeline for this project, provided the Board makes a decision within the next few weeks, would be to have the installation underway by the summer of 2016.

Jesse Stowell of Sun Edison gave his presentation. Sun Edison is one of the largest renewable energy companies in the nation. Their proposal would utilize the same one acre area, and they would use local partners and contractors for the project. Their projected first year savings is \$6,450.00. Mr. Stowell also spoke about an opportunity for the school to be a part of the solar project that is going to be installed on the Milton landfill. Only municipalities may go into this project, and since it would be a larger array, the benefits for the first year would be \$18,907.00 in savings. Mr. Stowell opened his presentation up for questions; he answered that it would be possible to do some combination of the two projects. The Milton project will start construction in the spring of 2016, and be operational by that summer. Sun Edison will also provide the same kiosk and data access that SunCommon proposed. Insurance and maintenance of the panels would be covered by Sun Edison (likewise for SunCommon), since they would be the owner and operator of the panels; the school is leasing them the land.

VT Solar Consortium - Joan Cavallo and Martha Gagner also spoke about a solar project that many school districts and supervisory unions in Vermont are being a part of as a consortium. This project would see a 22% payback, which would be higher than what SunCommon and Sun Edison proposed. The arrays would be spread out across Vermont; the disadvantage is that the school would not have anything on their property that could showcase their commitment to solar. They also would not be able to work with another company on solar, and the curriculum component is an unknown. The deadline for signing on to this project is November 5, 2015. The Board found that they could not make a final decision tonight on the solar project, and agreed to hold an additional meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

4. Visitors

5. Consent Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes - Minutes of September 10, 2015

Denise Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2015; Patrick Daunais seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

D. FCSU Update - Kevin Dirth spoke about a couple of items on his Superintendent's Report; the first was the Schools on the Move TV show. The most recent episode featured Early Education; an Agency of Education representative, Michelle Spence, and a teacher spoke about what has been going on in the district with the Early Education program. All FCSU videos are available to view on their website, fcsuvt.org. Dr. Dirth

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

also mentioned that on Friday, October 9, 2015, the SU will have their first curriculum day. Jesse Byers, Curriculum Director, organized the event. There will be workshops going on in all of the schools, and they are primarily being facilitated by teachers and administrators.

E. Principal's Report - Joan Cavallo spoke about their success on Open House. Participation was high. For the school's universal lunch program, their official numbers of direct certification came in at 43%. This is the floor, so that even if poverty levels decrease, they can never go below this number for direct certification. The participation rate in the meals is up from 76% to 89%. Ms. Cavallo stated that Assistant Principal Georgie Andrews is in Killington, and will be picking up the PBiS ribbon for the school. The school is continuing their work with First School. All pre-k through third grade teachers will be observed for an entire day. The first portfolio conference will be held on November 2, 2015. The first parent meeting on eportfolios was held previously in the week. Ms. Cavallo also stated that they have received an award from the Vermont Arts Council, to be approved later in the evening. As part of this grant, drummers and dancers will be coming to the school to work with students in their Music and P.E. classes.

F. VSBA/Act 46 Update - James Farr reported on the VSBA regional meeting, which took place of their regular meeting. Mr. Farr was elected for another year to serve on the board. There was also a presentation from the Secretary of Education on evaluating quality in education, and a presentation on Act 46. Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner and Tayt Brooks were in attendance, and were able to break up into workshops with other board members. They both felt more confident after meeting with other board members regarding the work the FCSU has done so far with Act 46; other districts face much larger challenges.

6. Old Business

G. FCSU professional staff and support staff negotiations - James Farr reported that for professional staff negotiations, the letters have been sent stating that they wish to open negotiations, and they have not yet set a date for this. Support staff negotiations were moved to executive session, as having the conversation in open session could put the Board at a significant disadvantage.

H. Extra-Curricular Guidelines - The guidelines were discussed at a previous meeting.

Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner made the motion to approve the extra-curricular guidelines; Denise Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

7. New Business

I. Accept Vermont Arts Council Grant of \$1,250

Tayt Brooks made the motion to accept the Vermont Arts Council Grant for \$1,250.00; Angela Bernard seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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

J. Employment Matters

J1. Resignation - The resignation of a paraeducator was an FYI to the Board.

J2. Retirements - Three teachers will be retiring at the end of the school year:
Alene Spiekermann, Peter Deslauriers, and Toni Campbell.

K. Student Matters - None

L. D6 Substitute Teachers Policy First Reading

M. E8 Tobacco Prohibition Policy First Reading

N. F28 Wellness Policy First Reading

O. F30 Harassment Hazing Bullying Policy First Reading

Items 7L - O are all first readings of policies.

8. Other Business

P. Warrants

Q. Monthly Financial Report

9. Agenda Items for Future Meeting:

October 27, 2015 Special Board Meeting

R. Solar Project (Action)

Regular November Board Meeting

S. Student Growth Reports

T. Maker Space Presentation/Tour

Regular December Board Meeting

U. Rain Garden Project Update

S. Tech Ed Presentation (Erica Bertucci)

10. Potential Executive Session

Patrick Daunais made the motion to enter executive session at 8:10 p.m. for Support Staff Negotiations Update; Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Executive Session ended at 8:46.

11. Adjourn: The meeting Adjourned at 8:46

Respectfully submitted,

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

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- 2 Abby DuBois