

St. Albans City School District Board of Commissioners

ST. ALBANS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

November 12, 2015

Minutes

Present for a Quorum: James Farr, Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner, Angela Bernard, Tayt Brooks, Patrick Daunais, Ken Wade

Unable to Attend: Denise Smith

Administrators: Joan Cavallo, Principal; Georgie Andrews, Assistant Principal; Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Jesse Byers, Curriculum Director

Visitors: Brian Clark

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 modify 8M. Student Matters, to reflect that there are three student matters, one being a placement request and two discipline matters. The Board had a finding with these items, and determined that they would be discussed in executive session.

4. Presentations

A. Student Growth Reports - Brian Clark presented to the Board the new student growth reports that they have been working on in an effort to present the information to parents in a more understandable way. He shared SBAC results of three students, one at grade level, one above grade level, and one below, and what that looked like on their reports. The student PLPs also show what skills the students are working on. There is a color coded system so that parents can tell what level their child is at, but the students only see the colors. Mr. Clark shared what the Math, Reading, and Writing skills look like for the three students.

B. Science NECAP Scores - Joan Cavallo shared the results from the eighth grade Science NECAP. The scores were higher than the state average. She also shared the fourth grade results, which were lower than the state average. Her summary of these results was that they are still going in the right direction with the eighth graders, and that the fourth grade results are linked to their reading ability. Moving forward, they will stay the course, but they will also be partnering with UVM VSTEM projects, and are working with First School in grades 1-3 on closing the reading gap.

5. Visitors

6. Consent Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes - October 8, 2015 and October 27 Special Board meetings

Angela Bernard made the motion to approve the minutes; Patrick Daunais seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

D. FCSU Update - Kevin Dirth reported that on Monday, November 9, 2015, Vermont Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe came to tape an episode of Schools on the Move with himself, Mike Deweese, the Act 46 committee consultant, and Martha Gagner. It was an informational episode on the law, and Dr. Dirth felt it went well. It usually takes about a week for the episodes to be edited, so it will be on Channel 15 or 16, and on the FCSU Vimeo channel, which is linked on their webpage. Dr. Dirth asked that all Board members try to attend the FCSU Board meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015. This will be a special meeting where all the district board members can come and have input on the articles of agreement, which is part of the regulations of Act 46. They will need to have a quorum so that the boards can review this. James Farr added that it is considered an official City School Board meeting, and is the only chance to give input on the articles of agreement because they are moving quickly on this. The meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. at the SATEC cafeteria.

E. Principal's Report - Joan Cavallo spoke about the work that teachers have been doing on getting the eportfolios ready for the fall conferences that were held earlier in November. Yesterday, November 11, the school attended the Veteran's Day celebration in Taylor Park. The students made them proud, as they attended it well, and their student speak also did well. Some staff members recently went to Vermont Fest to present on the maker's space; Erica Bertucci also presented on doing tech ed in the primary grades, as she is doing robotics with pre-k. Two students went to BFA recently with John Cioffi and Laura Eichorn to present on PLPs. The students were articulate and answered the questions well. The school has received another grant for \$500.00 from the New England Grass Roots Environmental Funds; Team Discovery applied for this to buy new trees after their trees died last year in their Christmas tree farm. The team has been doing work on figuring out what went wrong, and have figured out what types of trees will grow best in the soil. They will be purchasing new trees in the spring.

F. VSBA/Act 46 Update - James Farr reported that he was not at the VSBA meeting the previous evening because there was an Act 46 meeting. At the meeting, they worked out all of the articles of agreement, and the consultants worked out a draft to present to all the boards at the meeting next Wednesday. They decided on a governance system of a 10 person board, with four representatives from St. Albans City, four from St. Albans Town, and two half seats from Fairfield. At the FCSU Board meeting, they will be having a forum for any public that attends to introduce the bill, then discuss the articles of agreement with the boards, finalize the articles, and present them to the State Board of Education by December 1, 2015.

7. Old Business

G. FCSU professional staff and support staff negotiations – This item was moved to executive session.

H. D6 Substitute Teachers Policy Possible Adoption

I. E8 Tobacco Prohibition Policy Possible Adoption

J. F28 Wellness Policy Possible Adoption

K. F30 Harassment Hazing Bullying Policy Possible Adoption

Ken Wade made the motion to adopt policies D6, E8, F28, and F30; Angela Bernard seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

8. New Business

L. Employment Matters

L1. Resignations – As an FYI to the Board, a custodian and three paraeducators resigned.

M. Student Matters- All of the following items were moved to executive session.

M1. Request to stay at City School

M2. Discipline Matter

M3. Discipline Matter

9. Other Business (Information Gathering)

N. Warrants

O. Monthly Financial Report

10. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

P. Community Garden (possible action)

Q. Maker's Space or Rain Garden Presentation

R. Budget

There is an Act 46 public forum scheduled for December 2, 2015, at City School.

11. Executive Session

Angela Bernard made the motion to go into executive session at 7:07 p.m. for FCSU professional staff and support staff negotiations, and three student matters; Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Executive session adjourned at 7:50.

It was moved and seconded to allow the two students in question to remain at SACS for the remainder of the school year. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 7:51.

Respectfully submitted,

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2 Abby DuBois
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