

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

BOARD MEETING

February 11, 2016

Minutes

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

Unable to Attend: Ken Wade

Administrators: Georgie Andrews, Assistant Principal; Joan Cavallo, Principal; Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Robin Boudreau, Facilities Director; Martha Gagner, Business Manager

Visitors: None

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Review - No changes were made.

4. Visitors

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

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

B. FCSU Update - Kevin Dirth gave some highlights from his monthly newsletter; Central Office has been busy with bargaining and ballots. He noted that the newsletter now has a calendar section for all the SU meetings.

C. Principal's Report - Joan Cavallo gave highlights from her report: they recently received their data from First School on closing the gap between pre-k and third grade; they will be using the book *Conscious Discipline* that they recommended. Yesterday, science teachers from the area came together at SACS and had good conversations with students on science. Unified Arts Night was held last week, and there was a full building for the event. Ms. Cavallo also reported on Fun Friday, a First School initiative; the idea is to have a short fun activity every Friday to help prevent absenteeism. They have collected some data and have seen absences on Fridays drop from around 470 to 400 since the start of the school year. Lastly, for the education innovation specialist position, two of the candidates that applied will be teaming up to do this job and teach Tech Ed.

D. VSBA/Act 46 Update - James Farr reported that the VSBA met last night, where they talked about the allowable growth rate, and the concern over the yield constantly changing, which takes away the credibility of school boards reporting on the tax rate. State Treasurer Beth Pierce came and spoke about the state of the pension funds; she is looking for the VSBA to give her a letter or resolution asking the state legislature to stay

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1 out of the divestiture business. They also had a draft position statement on marijuana. For
2 Act 46, the report and articles have been approved by the State Board of Education. In
3 January, Mr. Farr, Kevin Dirth, and Mike Deweese went to the meeting to present it to
4 the State Board. Mr. Farr reported that at the last SU meeting, they asked Denise Smith to
5 head a public relations committee for Act 46. Ms. Smith reported that the committee has
6 met, and that there is good representation from all of the communities there. The other
7 school board members on it are Angela Bernard and Nina Hunsicker from SATEC, but
8 the rest are interested community members. They are constructing a banner for Main
9 Street, which she shared a picture of, and will be putting out some lawn signs. They are
10 also directing people to the FCSU webpage, where a lot of the Act 46 information lies.
11 They have set up another informational meeting at the BFA library on Tuesday, February
12 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. From 6:00 to 6:30, there will be food and drinks and a chance to
13 mingle; at 6:30, there will be short presentations, and then they will open it up for
14 questions. It is a chance for people to meet the candidates for the new unified board. They
15 are also inviting several media outlets to attend.

6. Old Business

17 E. FCSU Professional Staff and Support Staff Negotiations Updates - James Farr reported
18 that they met with the association last week to hammer out the ground rules, but they
19 didn't get past that. The FCSU Board has decided that negotiations should be held in
20 open session instead of executive session. They think that doing negotiations in executive
21 session is a violation of the Open Meeting Law. The attorney is getting clarification on
22 whether it is legal or not, and is filing a complaint for declaratory relief. Until that
23 decision has been reached, negotiations are on hold.

7. New Business

26 F. Employment Matters - None.

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29 G. Student Matters - There was one request to the Board for a student to remain at City
30 School for the rest of the school year.

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32 **Patrick Daunais made the motion to allow the student to complete the 2015-16**
33 **school year as requested by the parents; Tayt Brooks seconded the motion. The**
34 **motion carried 6-0-0.**

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36 H. Alarm Panel Bid - The bids for the alarm panel were included in the Board's packet.
37 Robin Boudreau and Joan Cavallo explained a little bit more about what the bids were;
38 they were recommending to go with the lowest bid, Bertrand Electric out of Swanton.

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40 **Tayt Brooks made the motion to accept Bertrand Electric's bid for \$21,074.00;**
41 **Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.**

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43 I. Facility Projects - Robin Boudreau spoke to the Board about several facilities projects.
44 He has been working on getting the sidewalk project completed over the summer, and
45 they may need to go out to bid on this again. He talked about his research on getting a

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mobile classroom for the preschool program. Joan Cavallo added that if kindergarten numbers are up again next year, then they will need one of the preschool classrooms for kindergarten, and the part-time preschool program could go in the mobile classroom. Some other projects that they will be doing or are looking at doing are the kitchen floors, getting lockers for grades 4-8, upgrading the family and consumer science room, and re-doing the 7 - 8 grade bathrooms.

J. Telephone System Design - Joan Cavallo spoke to the Board about the current telephone system, and how they are looking into what they can do to upgrade it. There is no easy way to find replacement parts for the current system. The current system also has a telephone with an intercom, and a separate intercom. The different intercoms service different parts of the building. Changing the system would get the school to e911 compliance. Ms. Cavallo would like to work with a consultant, the person who does the Erates for the SU. She could recommend what they can do for their phone system. The Board agreed that they were comfortable with going forward with the consultant to look at options.

K. FY15 Audit - Martha Gagner gave some highlights from the audit report. There was about a \$312,000.00 surplus last year, most of which came from savings in special ed. There was one finding; \$11,862.00 was erroneously credited to a grant, which the auditors detected, and was then corrected. They have also changed their processes so that it shouldn't happen in the future.

Denise Smith made the motion to accept the audit report; Angela Bernard seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

8. Other Business (Information Gathering)

L. Warrants

M. Monthly Financial Report

9. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

10. Executive Session - There were no items for executive session.

11. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DuBois