

St. Albans City School District Board of Commissioners

ST. ALBANS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

April 14, 2016

6:00 p.m., St. Albans City School

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

Unable to Attend:

Administrators: Joan Cavallo, Principal; Kevin Dirth, Superintendent; Julie Regimbal, Special Education Director; Georgie Andrews, Assistant Principal; Kathy Finck, HR Director; Michelle Spence, ECP Director; Robin Boudreau, Facility Manager.

1. **Call to Order** - Jim Farr called to order at 6:02

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Agenda Review** - There were no changes to the agenda.

A. Presentations – There were no presentations this month.

4. **Visitors**

B. Pene Jefferson – arrived at 6:20, and Mr. Farr returned to the Visitors section to allow her to speak. Ms. Jefferson stated that she is unhappy with the school's head lice policy because she feels that this school gives out really bad advice. She feels that the school is not doing anything about the issue, that there are no head checks, no sending children home. It is expensive for her to continually treat her grandchildren. James Farr said that this issue can put it on the agenda for next month, and we can have the professionals, a nurse, and others who understand the issue and we can look at it. She repeated that she wants the policy changed.

5. **Consent Agenda**

C. Approval of Minutes – March 10 and March 15.

Tayt Brooks made a motion to approve the March 10 and March 15th minutes with the correction of Dayl Walthers name; second by Angela Bernard. The motion carried unanimously.

D. FCSU Update - Kevin Dirth reported that he is really impressed with the quality of the hires that have taken place to date. The Central office has been busy, but most of the openings have been filled.

E. Principal's Report - Joan Cavallo reported that this has been diversity week at SACS. They have been intentionally working with kids around how do we respect each other? The event culminated today with presentations from each grade. A past student, Jeremy Beauregard, who is now a doctorate teaching racism at UVM, spoke to the students today. They had two big events around healthy eating. Ms. Cavallo testified before legislature on the pre K program. They took two nights with all teachers and paras to talk about what worked, what we should do moving forward. It was a wonderful, inclusive program that provided great input. She described the new design that will allow fewer children to be left on a waiting list. The Kindergarten count for next year is over 80. She described some of the improvements that are up for bid, some of which are available tonight for approval. She hopes to have the information on the phone system in June.

F. VSBA/Unification Update - James Farr reported that he was not at the VSBA meeting last night because he was in Barre for a unification meeting. It primarily covered moving forward with the unification. Kevin announced that we were able to schedule a date today with AoE for the

organization meeting which is May 31, 2016 at 6:00. The location for this meeting will be announced as soon as we get it settled.

6. **Old Business**

G. *FCSU professional staff and support staff negotiations – Jim Farr reported that we had broken off negotiations because under open session laws, the Board was unable to find that Executive Session was warranted, therefore the law didn't allow going into executive session. Our attorney went to court over this issue to ask for a ruling, and the ruling was that the Board has to determine at each session whether there is a determination that going into executive session is warranted, or we could go the higher court. Tayt Brooks asked whether, if the FCSU chose to go to the VT Supreme Court, would VSBA be interested in supporting us? Jim believes they would be supportive at some level. Ken Wade asked why we wanted to do it in open session after years of doing it in closed session. Jim Farr answered that first, they deliberated and the Board did not find that negotiating in open session would put them at a substantial disadvantage, and second, over the past decade, negotiating in closed session has put us at a substantial disadvantage.

H. Award of contracts for Facility Summer Work – Joan did a presentation on the food service equipment line. She reported that the information was in the packet, and asked that the bid be awarded to Kittredge. Robin Boudreau explained the bid.

Denise Smith made a motion to award the bid to Kittredge Food Service and Supplies for \$26,947.31; second by Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **New Business**

Request to accept grants – Joan Cavallo reported on the three grants that she would like the Board to accept: Humanities Camp \$2,600; New England Dairy and Food Council \$1,000; Burlington YMCA \$3,000.

Denise Smith made a motion to approve the three grants as presented; second by Angela Bernard. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Facility Space Discussion –Joan Cavallo reported that they worked with engineers who created data and drawings that she presented. Joan showed diagrams of the changes from 2013 to 2017. Jim asked the estimated cost and Joan said around \$200,000 which is inclusive for the building. Questions included what capacity the new classroom will add, to which Ms. Cavallo and Michelle Spence responded that without it they will have to cut around 30 to 32 and send them elsewhere.

Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner made a motion to move forward with the mobile classrooms, which includes going out to bid, working with the Development Review Board (DRB), etc.; second by Ken Wade. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Permission to Hire - Superintendent Dirth reported that all of the schools have given this authority, and explained that this is the worst time to try to get the best folks because we have to wait for a board meeting. He stated that it is basically what you already do for the summer, but he wants it year round. Jim Farr said we hire people to do the work, they should have the authority to hire. Jim said the Board would still sign the contract, and get FYIs on who is hired.

Tayt Brooks made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to hire without Board approval. Second by Pat Daunais. The motion carried unanimously.

K. May Meeting Date – Jim Farr reported that May's meeting conflicts with an important Negotiations Workshop, so it is requested that the meeting be moved.

Denise Smith made a motion to move the SACS Board meeting from May 12 to May 10; second by Ken Wade. The motion carried unanimously.

L. *Employment Matters

L1. Non-Union, Non-Certified Salary and Benefits - Kathy Finck reported that this should be moved to executive session because it would put both parties at a disadvantage, as we will be discussing individuals.

L2. Personnel Matter Executive Session – Joan reported that this is an individual and should be discussed in executive session.

Pat Daunais made a motion finding that items L1 and L2 will be moved to executive session because having discussions on those items would put the parties at a substantial disadvantage; second by Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner. The motion carried unanimously.

M. *Student Matters – Joan Cavallo reported that a family has requested that their child remain at City School for the remained of the school year even though they are in the process of building a house and moving out of the City.

Denise Smith made a motion to allow the student to remain at City school through the end of the school year; second by Angela Bernard. The motion carried unanimously.

Joan will notify the family.

8. Other Business

N. Warrants - Included for the Board's information.

O. Monthly Financial Report - Included for the Board's information.

9. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

P. Head Lice Procedures

Q. School Board Award

R. Bid Awards

10. Potential Executive Session

Tayt Brooks made a motion to go into executive session at 7:40 to discuss a personnel matter and non-union, non-certified salary and benefits that were previously found to be executive session items; second by Denise Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Ken Wade and Denise Smith left.

Exited Executive Session at 8:05

Pat Daunais made a motion to approve the wage increase for custodians as of 4/18/2016 and salaried non-union employees as of 7/1/2016 as presented by administration; second by Angela Bernard. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Adjourned – 8:10