

St. Albans City School District Board of Commissioners

ST. ALBANS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

May 10, 2016

5:30 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; Georgie Andrews, Assistant Principal; Kathy Finck, HR Director; Martha Gagner, Business Manager; Robin Boudreau, Facility Manager.

1. **Call to Order** - Jim Farr called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. *Student Matters

A. Student Expulsion Hearing

Tayt Brooks made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a student issue at 5:32 p.m.; second by Angela Bernard. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 5:55 p.m.

Angela Bernard made a motion to approve the recommendations of the administration for the student issue; second by Denise Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Denise Smith made a motion to go back into executive session to discuss the student matter at 5:56 p.m.; second by Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 6:02 p.m.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

5. **Presentations**

A. 2016 e-Cybermission SACS had winners in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Some of the winning teams shared what the projects consisted of. Isaac and Emily presented their Christmas tree farm. They each won \$1,000 savings bonds for placing first in State. Sixth grade Incredibles, Lindsay, Corbin and Andriana, took second place and presented their project on trying to solve wasting energy. They created a chimney cap in an effort to capture the escaping energy. They felt that they needed to make it larger in order to work better. They each received \$500 savings bond for second place. These projects were original ideas and they had to document all of their steps, how they became teams and how they work together. The third team to do a presentation included Jaylin, Alice

and Abbie. They reviewed their project for an underground filtration system, how they built it and results of testing.

6. Visitors – see attached list

7. Consent Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes

Ken Wade made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Pat Daunais. The motion carried unanimously.

C. FCSU Update - Kevin Dirth referred to his newsletter and highlighted that this was the second year in a row that our high school, BFA, received silver medal recognition from the nationwide U.S. News & World Report. The Unification organization meeting is May 31 at 6:00 p.m. in the BFA Library. Please attend. Immediately following that meeting the new Board will hold its first meeting. Dr. Dirth also reported that he was proud of City school for their role in the music festival.

D. Principal's Report - Joan Cavallo reported that May is NECAP and SBAC month. Testing starts this week and will end by the end of May. They just finished the last portfolio work, and have begun winding down for the year. A lot of work on the building was done over April break. All of the lockers that were replaced have been sold and the money goes into the Raiders fund. Heather Smith, SACS Farm to School coordinator received the 2016 Vermont Tree Steward award under the category of Leader. She was recognized at a ceremony on the campus of the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Ms. Cavallo reported they have completed hiring for professional staff, and will have para openings to fill this summer. June 1st is Stewardship Day. The design for this year's T-shirts came from 7th/8th grade art class, specifically Chloe Rouleau. There were two student winners of the Vermont Drinking Water Week Contest. Each student received their artwork as a poster, a check for \$100.00 and a trip for their class to an event featuring activities to promote drinking water. Ms. Cavallo and Ms. Andrews met with the Food Bank, and next year SACS will be doing the back pack program. The Lion King Production is on for Friday and Saturday May 13 and 14. The Board signed cards for two community members in particular who have put in many hours on the show.

E. VSBA/Unification Update - James Farr reported that VSBA didn't meet this month because they have a day-long retreat next month. The unification board meets May 31 at 6:00 with the new Board meeting afterwards. The organizational meeting is like a town meeting to start things off. Kevin added that a contest is being held to seek a new name. The board will select one at the first board meeting.

8. Old Business

F. Head Lice Presentation – Katie Raleigh, the school nurse, and Morgan Kane did a presentation on the facts and processes for head lice. Head lice is considered a nuisance condition. This has nothing to do with personal hygiene or social economic status. Lice live only on human heads, and travel primarily by prolonged head-to-head contact. SACS is a central location where they are identified, but not necessarily where they are transmitted. They spend a lot of time educating parents to take away part of the stigma. Lice is uncomfortable, annoying and frustrating, but won't hurt anyone. They offer both combs and treatments to those who need it. Studies have shown that the majority of kids with lice had spent substantial time outside of school. Vermont Health Department, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines are followed. Children are rechecked once lice have been found, until there is no longer evidence of them. The school is putting in lockers so each child will have their own space. Bed bugs are not the same. They can live for one year or longer without a host. They are less common, but more difficult to remove. The Dept. of Health nurse supervisor was asked if the bed bug was different in that do they carry disease? She responded they are much more difficult to get rid of. They are easier to transfer than lice. It was asked whether there was any condition to send a child home. The response was that there are several: 100 degree or higher fever, strep throat, whooping cough, any contagious medical condition according to the health department. Lice does not qualify as one of those conditions.

G. Bid Awards – Bid awards for Sidewalks, Bathroom - Stewart Construction was recommended for both. Ms. Cavallo reported that they are competitive and have the capacity to do the work. She also reported having four positive references.

Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner made a motion to award the bid for sidewalk replacement and bathroom work in the amount of \$135,293 for Sidewalks and \$143,865 for Bathrooms to Stewart Construction; second by Angela Bernard. The motion carried unanimously.

Upgrading 114 laptops were discussed and reviewed. It was recommended to go with the local company The Top Floor at \$77,406.

Ken Wade made the motion to award the bid for laptops to The Top Floor in the amount of \$77,406; second by Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner. The motion carried unanimously.

Chrome Books for students were discussed and reviewed. Ms. Cavallo explained that each student receives a Chrome Book in the Third grade for three years; starting next year, after fifth grade they can take it home, and get a new one for sixth through eighth, when they can take it with them. Currently the books are disposed of. Allowing students to take them prevents waste and provides students that may not have access at home their own computer. They have been in communications with SATEC and they will be on the same schedule.

CDW was recommended for the Chromebooks.

Denise Smith made the motion to award purchase of Chrome Books to CDW Government in the amount of \$33,489; second by Ken Wade. The motion passed unanimously.

H. *Professional Staff Negotiations Kathy Finck reported that a meeting is scheduled for May 17th.

9. New Business

I. *Employment Matters

11. Non-Union Wages and Benefits – Kathy suggested that this qualifies for Executive Session because individuals and benefits will be discussed, and could put us at a substantial disadvantage.

Tayt Brooks made a motion to move the non-union wages and benefits to Executive Session because doing so in open session would put the Board at a substantial disadvantage; second by Pat Daunais. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Other Business

J. Warrants – The warrants were included for the Board's information.

K. Monthly Financial Report – This was included for the Board's information.

11. Agenda Items for Future Meeting - June 2nd, Administrative contracts, Board awards.

12. Potential Executive Session

Pat Daunais made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the non-union wages and benefits at 7:40; second by Tayt Brooks. The motion carried unanimously.

Angela Bernard and Ken Wade left the meeting.

Executive Session ended at 8:35 p.m.

Denise Smith made a motion to approve the non-union wage and benefits as proposed by administration; second by Pat Daunais. The motion passed unanimously.

Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner made a motion at 8:37 to reenter Executive Session to discuss a grievance under employee matters, as having the discussion in open session would put the Board at a substantial disadvantage; second by Tayt Brooks. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 8:50 p.m.

Tayt Brooks made a motion to move forward with selection of an Arbitrator; second by Kristina Ellsworth-Spooner. The motion carried unanimously.

140 13. **Adjourn**

141 **The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.**

142 Respectfully submitted,

143 Brenda Comstock