

Peacham School

Clothing Swap

We will set up tables in the hallway for a clothing swap starting the Monday after vacation. So this is a great time to clean out your closets. Feel free to drop off gently used articles of clothing, in all shapes and sizes. Be sure to allow time to browse for your family! The clothing swap will run through May 7th.

Sixth Grade Presentations

The sixth graders have been hard at work on their research projects. Family and friends are welcome to attend the presentations. The schedule is as follows (presentations begin at 8:30AM):

April 27 – Allie – Horse Rescue

April 28 – James – “Things That Glow”

May 5 – Devin – Pulleys

Family Day, June 5<sup>th</sup>

We are happy to announce that this years’ family day will take place at the Shelburne Museum, in Shelburne Vermont. More information will be sent home after spring vacation.

Principal Search Committee

A packet from the facilitator Bill Marshall outlining the process will be posted in the school.

Important Upcoming Dates

We have some great events coming soon. We want to make sure all of you are aware and can plan for them with plenty of notice.

- Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm our Spring Concert
- Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:15am – Parents’ Breakfast – To honor both parents instead of our Mother’s Day Tea
- Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> Family Day

We will keep you updated as we have more information.

Peacham Library News

Peacham Library will present the free movie UP on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:15pm. This is a delightful, animated movie about a man and his traveling companion. Imagine, after dreaming

about traveling the world for 78 years, deciding to launch your house into the air with the help of thousands of helium filled balloons. To help you out, you find you have a stowaway 8-year old Wilderness Explorer. A PG movie sure to be enjoyed by all!

The 2010-2011 Dorothy Canfield Fischer Award books have arrived. These are now available for checkout. So come on in and check some out over vacation. Remember, Peacham Library will be open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to noon, and Tuesday and Thursday from 1pm to 7pm during school vacation.

### Upcoming Dates

#### April

4/16	Activity/Movie Night 5:00-8:30 – Sponsored by Grades 5/6
4/19-4/23	School Vacation – School resumes Monday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>
4/27	Vermont Symphony Orchestra visit at 1:00PM
4/28	Students Green-Up day

#### May

5/1	Peacham Green Up Day
5/4	Spring Concert, 6PM at Peacham Congregational Church
5/8-5/9	Grades 5/6 overnight to New England Aquarium – Boston
5/10	School Board meeting 6:00PM at Peacham School
5/21	Parents Breakfast 8:15AM
5/27-5/28	Early Release – Noon Dismissal
5/28-5/30	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Great Escape
5/31	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

### Attachments

- School Board Minutes and Letter
- PTF Minutes

PEACHAM SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, April 7, 2010  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES

PRESENT: Board—Jo Anne Post, Wynne Browne, David Stauffer; Superintendent—Martha Tucker; Staff—Dawna Chase, Sarah Parker, Cathy Crum, Janice Brisco, Eileen Riley, Cheryl Stevenson. Public—Judy Chypre, Becky Jensen.

CALL TO ORDER: 3:20

OLD BUSINESS: 2011 Staffing: General answers to staffing changes are the reduction of Special Ed. time from .4 to .2 because of only three students that require IEPs. Increase of Principal time from .6 to .8 to allow for development of PLPs( Personal Learning Plans) with the teachers for differential learning. The PLPs will be an in classroom function—not administered by the Principal. The Tech position is not an employee and will be approximately rated .1 or less. Support teaching will be at .4 with .2 for library duties, down from the current 1.0 full time position.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Entered at 4:40. Topic; Contracts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Exited at 4:42. Action Taken--The Board authorized Martha to sign a contract with Bill Marshall to be a consultant heading the Principal Search Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dave was authorized by the Board to represent the School in coordinating the construction of the Observatory next door—especially in connection with student safety, following of Zoning conditions placed on the permit, protection of the Davis right-of-way, school access and noise considerations. Firewood garnered from the site will be offered to families or persons in need for free. Contact the school very soon if you are interested in firewood.

ADJOURNED at 5:55

NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 10, 2010 at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Stauffer

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PEACHAM SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Monday, April 12, 2010  
Unapproved minutes

PRESENT: Board-- Jo Anne Post, Wynne Browne, Dave Stauffer; Superintendent --Martha Tucker; Principal—Mark Peabody; Staff—Nene Riley, Dawna Chase, Cathy Crum, Janice Brisco; Public—Wendy MacKenzie, Matthew Langham, Christine Hunt, Judy Chypre, Dale and Marceya Roy; Sally Cook—Reporter and Bill Marshall—Principal search committee consultant.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of March 8 and 23 were approved as written.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mark reviewed the upcoming school events as listed in the Friday notes on the school website. Notably the student art show will be at NVRH Hospital from April 5 to June 5 in the Reynolds Gallery.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Martha is working within the CCSU to coordinate common calendar days as possible with the four member schools. School policies A-D in the Handbook of Policies will be reviewed in May. The Board reviewed and signed the School Board Code of Conduct.

NEW BUSINESS: The staff presented their Technology Implementation Plan and a Powerpoint show of the students of all grades using computers, digital photography and internet searches to create visual and written research projects. Bill Marshall was introduced as the coordinator for the Principal search. He passed handouts to those present highlighting the procedure—including the timetable, Principal's job description, development of selection criteria by the Board and staff, composition of the interview committee, and interview questions. Anyone wishing to participate on the search committee should contact immediately the School Board or Martha Tucker at the CCSU Office. The search should be complete by the third week in May.

FINANCIAL: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Cathy Browne, Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, presented a draft of the five year Strategic Plan goals. The Board will review it for approval at the May meeting and the yearly goals will be developed by the staff, Principal, Board and public to be implemented starting next school year.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dave reported that he talked with Dave Magnus to confirm the school's needs and concerns during the construction of the observatory—namely safety, noise, and access issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Entered at 8:31. Topic: Personnel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Exited at 9:37. Action taken—Martha will share information about the reduction in staff as discussed in open meeting and issue letters of intent as required by April 15<sup>th</sup> to the staff members affected.

OTHER BUSINESS: Martha and the Board reviewed the Principal search handouts from Bill Marshall.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:20.

NEXT MEETING ON MAY 10, 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Stauffer

April 10, 2010

Dear Peacham Parents and Community,

The School Board has heard from a number of people with questions about staffing and budget changes contemplated for school year 2011. This letter provides an explanation of the changes and the reasoning behind them.

The major staffing change involves reducing the Student Support position from four days a week to two days (from .8 to .4 FTE or full time equivalent). The Board's thinking on this has several parts. First, we have a school with 38 students in the K-6 program. The numbers have fluctuated slightly over the last several years but have rarely gone over 40. With a school of this size, the Board found it difficult to justify the need for four days a week of student support. Going forward we envision the Student Support person concentrating their efforts on helping the relatively small but persistent cohort of students not meeting the standards in math and literacy.

The other part of the Student Support position currently includes Personal Learning Plans (PLP's) and enrichment (extension) activities, and it is this portion of student support that would be transferred to the classroom teachers. Peacham School has enjoyed the services of several creative and resourceful extension teachers over the years. PLP's were added in the 2006-2007 school year to expand opportunities for all students across the spectrum of learners. Despite much energetic and innovative work, the school has struggled at times to retain students, particularly those classified as "high achieving." One element of the 2010 schoolwide Action Plan adopted by the staff at the beginning of this school year is to improve differentiated instruction for high achieving students. The Board feels that it is the classroom teachers who are best positioned to work with all students, including the higher achievers, in crafting PLP's and providing instruction at appropriate levels. Because our class sizes are small (10-11 students), personalized learning can thus take place every day for every student as an integral part of the curriculum rather than students being pulled out of class for individualized student support.

The Board has also been questioned about changes contemplated for the position of Principal. This year the Principal has allocated his time between special education (.4) and administration (.6). As we launch the search for a new Principal, the position is offered as .8. Part of the reason for this is simply that the likelihood of attracting a superior candidate is greater the closer the position is to full time. More fundamentally, the new Principal can and should be an instructional leader in the area of PLP's as well as point person for any additional initiatives emerging from the Strategic Planning process, such as community outreach or place-based learning. He or she may also be involved in coordinating curriculum with the Northeast Kingdom Astronomy Foundation whose observatory may be online by next fall.

We hope this helps clarify the Board's thinking on roles within the school. Any time there are changes proposed in teaching or class configuration, there are advantages and disadvantages to be weighed, and not everyone will agree with the Board's decisions. We do value your input, and include it among the multiple considerations that go into any decision. Please be assured that improving student outcomes and making Peacham Elementary School the very best it can be are our goals, and achieving them will not only benefit the children but will also, we hope, help assure the continuation of the school in a time of statewide budget cuts and threatened consolidation.

Peacham School Board: Jo Anne Post, Wynne Browne, David Stauffer

**PTF Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 14, 2010**  
**4:45-5:45**

**Attendance:** Wendy MacKenzie, Sara Bunnell, Rossana Burke, Kathy Crum, Janice Brisco, Heather MacDoanld

**Financial Update:** Current Balance - \$9953.35.

- Still outstanding: bus fee for Burke Mountain approximately \$630.
- \$250 approved for Alice to purchase kitchen supplies.
- \$100 approved for seeds and gardening products for school gardens.
- Admission fees to Shelburne Museum for Family Day, June 5<sup>th</sup> \$5 per student, children under 5 free. Busing will be billed to PTF separately.

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation:**

- Wendy and Sara are organizing Teacher/Staff Appreciation week. They will contact parents for assistance. This annual event takes place in May of each year.

**Other:**

- Look into purchasing a button-making machine for promoting school pride.
- Clothing swap at school for spring to be put in Friday Notes
- Collection of used garden supplies and tools to be put in Friday Notes
- Email sign up sheet to spread information about future PTF and School Board meetings. To go home in Friday Notes.

**Thoughts and Ideas for Next Year:**

- Send home a survey sheet about future fundraisers.
- Purchase sleds for next winter

**Points of Pride for Peacham PTF:**

- Skiing
- Swimming
- Family Day
- Snow Shoes
- Cross Country Skis
- Artists in residence
- Staff Involvement

**Points of Pride for Peacham School:**

- Dedicated Teachers and Staff
- Mini-REAL
- Learning Community
- PLP's
- Library Program
- Individual Child Attention
- Panther Passions
- Big Pal/Little Pal
- Multi-age Lunch Tables
- CREEP

- Nature Trail
- Bus Driver
- Lunch Program, nutritional
- School Nurse