

**Peacham School Board Meeting
Peacham Elementary School
October 13, 2008**

Unapproved

Present: Board members: Jo Anne Post, Jean Dedam, Wynne Browne; Wendy Olcott – Principal, Martha Tucker – superintendent; Public - Neal Gombas, Becky Jensen, Julie Hansen, Judy Chypre, Wanda Berwick, Wendy Morgan, Cheryl Stevenson, Janet St. Onge and David Stauffer

6:15 Called to Order by Jo Anne Post

Minutes: September 8 minutes approved as amended.

Public Input: Becky Jensen asked if there were minutes from the Board retreat. Jo Anne said that no decisions were made to record. Wendy Morgan had questions about a residency policy. The board has a policy that has been reviewed by the attorney and other education professionals who find the current policy adequate to our needs. The board has been advised that written procedures are not necessary.

Principal's Report: The first/second grade teacher has returned to full time work from family leave and is adjusting well after her loss.

New music teacher – Mary Beth Nolan is the new music teacher one day on Thursdays each week. In the mornings she teaches general music and gives instrumental music lessons in the afternoon.

Testing: Grades 3-6 are taking the New England Common Assessment in reading and writing.

Superintendent's Report: The office moved on September 20. An open house will be scheduled at a later date.

The strategic planning process has begun in the other three towns. Wynne attended the 1st joint session.

The first district wide in-service was held.

Martha's scheduled activities include meetings with principals every two weeks, administrative meetings every 5 weeks, regional superintendent meetings monthly and regular meetings with her advisor, Bob McNamara.

Financials: Reviewed the budget process schedule. Call Martha with requests for program information for the November meeting. One of the schools in the district would like to apply for a 21st century learning grant. Martha would like to apply as a district for all four schools for after school programs. It would provide 5 yr. of funding. Should complete the strategic planning process first. The goal would be to have it self-sustaining at the end of the grant period.

Old Business

7th/8th grade vote date – The new date will be Dec. 6 from 10-12 AM as the facilities are not available for the November 1st date. One known conflict with Christmas tree cutting by

families involved with the Church. The committee had recommended we go ahead with this date as other options are limited. Board agreed to the new date and board members will go to the town office as individuals to sign the warrant.

Water report – Otter Creek Engineering report recommends the UV water purification system as most cost effective and practical for the school. Connecting with the town system will cost substantially more because the current water main is inadequate for the school's needs and there is not adequate space for a chlorine tank leaving us with the UV option. The water softener system should be replaced at the same time. Wendy was asked to clarify with the engineer if it could be included in the loan forgiveness program. Wynne moved and Jean seconded the motion to install the UV unit with a water softener if it will be forgiven or is necessary for the correct function of the UV system.

Residency Policy – Martha reported that the Department of Education attorney and our attorney have advised that the current policy is OK and the other superintendents in the region agree. Very few districts have any procedures. People are using a variety of steps. Most residency cases (80%) are clear cut and don't warrant further investigation, 15%-18% can be resolved with research. 2%-5% go right to the line and are difficult to judge. Martha will provide a complete packet of what people are doing in other districts to Wynne before our next meeting. Discussion followed on the necessity for detailed written implementation procedures with members of the public. Jo Anne said the board is still gathering information from other towns about implementation. Wendy Morgan suggested the board award tuition for a semester while hashing out a particular case.

Observatory – permit applications have been submitted. Subdivision request has been denied and is now up to the zoning board to grant permission to sell the lot and right of way to the association. Water supply and waste water application are into the state.

New Business

Action Plan: Wendy Olcott provided copies of the draft action plan and said it had also been sent out in Friday notes and is posted on the website. The board reviewed it with Wendy. The board discussed the math curriculum review. Becky Jensen made recommendations for curriculum and high achiever instruction training and resources. The board scheduled it for final adoption at the November meeting.

Food Allergy Policy As requested changes have not been made, the policy will be adopted at the next meeting. Becky wants to see policies posted. Martha will check on past practice and advise the board on the correct procedures.

Future Agenda Items: Policy adoption; financial/budget, residency; observatory; action plan – final approval; residency issue, logistics for town meeting.

The board adjourned from the regular session to go into executive session for 2 personnel and 2 student issues at 8:05

Came out of Executive Session at 9:15 PM

Action taken: Board agreed to authorize 3 additional substitute days for Kathy Zita for work performed for Peacham Elementary School. The board agreed to have a former physical education teacher substitute for the new teacher while she is out on medical leave

and Wendy will advertise for a long term sub in case the teacher is not able to resume work as soon as planned. Wendy was also asked to check on the status of her insurance. The board voted to deny payment of tuition on a claim of Peacham residency and submit documentation to the attorney.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Dedam