

**Peacham School Board Meeting  
Peacham Elementary School  
November 10, 2008**

**Unapproved**

**Present:** Board members: Jo Anne Post, Jean Dedam, Wynne Browne; Wendy Olcott – principal, Martha Tucker – superintendent, Rob Billings, business manager; Public - Neal Gombas, Julie Hansen, Judy Chypre, Wendy Morgan, David Stauffer, Don Davis, Martha Evangelista, Jonathon Kaplan, Cathy Browne, Jock Gill and Bruce Courtot

6:05 Called to Order by Jo Anne Post

**Minutes:** October 13 minutes approved as amended.

**Public Input:** Issues were raised about the upcoming vote on a plan for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades at Peacham Elementary School including that the warned article does not indicate that inclusion of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades at Peacham Elementary School will mean a loss of publicly funded choice for those students and the proposed staffing plan to meet the requirements of highly qualified teachers in the 4 core subject areas is not clear. There was also a request that a public information meeting be held before December 6. An invoice for a student expense was submitted by the parents for board consideration.

**Principal's Report:** Staff has revised the Student Assessment Record. The new version is concise, informative and parent-friendly. Ken Cyr has requested use of Peacham Town Hall for basketball practices and games this winter. Martha Tucker has received paperwork from the town clerk for the necessary insurance from Danville and will see that it is processed.

**Superintendent's Report:** There will be an open house this Wednesday until 6:00 for School staff and board members and a public open house on December 18. Martha attended the Vermont Superintendents Association Conference where they talked about learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She has since held a meeting with the tech specialists from the entire CCSU to talk about what schools are currently doing.

**Financials:** Rob Billings gave the budget presentation. Revenue numbers and the tax calculation are estimated until final numbers are received from the state. This draft budget is flat and so will not be affected by the 2 vote law. The tech Education number may be increased as Suzanne is increasing her rates. Cheryl is waiting for estimates on lighting and bathroom improvement costs. We need to continue work on a capital fund plan. Jock pointed out that people need to learn to work in a global environment and asked what the speed of the broadband service for the school is now. He suggested the school get proposals from all possible service providers that would include info on current and future plans. Jock proposed a flat rate reduction of 15% considering the current economic situation. Rob pointed out that half the budget is spent on tuitions over which the school has no control. 15% of the \$1,551,429 draft budget would be over \$225,000 that would have to be taken from \$775,000 the elementary school budget which would decimate it. Jock suggested presenting two budgets, one with the 15% reduction to illustrate the problem. Dave asked what the budget number would have to be to require the two votes. Rob said \$1,622,000. Budget discussion will continue in December when revenue and other numbers are available.

## **Old Business**

**Food Allergy Policy** Wynne moved the food allergy policy be adopted as presented. Seconded by Jean.

## **Residency Policy**

Martha had received copies of other district residency policies and procedures through the superintendent's list serve. Discussed the elements covered in each. Martha will draft a final policy and voucher and procedures and include a statement about what constitutes fraud. Jonathon suggested they should be applied equally to everyone and not just new families.

**Observatory** – no report. Don Davis said that it was going to be brought to the planning commission on Tuesday night. Wynne will call Dave Magnus for verification of lot dimensions as they are being presented to the commission.

**Water report** – Wendy has the paperwork for the construction loan for \$19,750 – Martha will review it and put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Wendy said she confirmed the water softener can be included in the loan forgiveness program. Wendy will put in a formal request to the state for free engineering services for the project. Otter Creek Engineering has been paid for the preliminary work they completed out of the planning loan. A question came up about reimbursement from the state.

**Special Town Meeting Logistics** – The committee will meet on November 17 to make final plans for information dissemination. Martha Evangelista suggested the warning should be posted on the website. Other suggestions were to pass out info at the transfer station and put an ad in the Caledonian Record. Clarify the choice issue and how the four areas of instruction requiring highly qualified teachers would be staffed (one teacher?). Also list what other options were considered. Jean will pick up data from Martha that Matt Langham needs to prepare bar graphs. Wynne recommended the information sheet be mailed out. Make sure minutes of all meetings have been posted to the website.

## **New Business**

**Action Plan:** Wendy said several changes were made based on input from the last meeting. Board reviewed and Wynne moved the board adopt the action plan. Second by Jean and approved.

No Child Left Behind – Jock asked how the NCLB legislation had or had not worked for us as his nephew is involved with the review of the legislation. Martha offered to talk to Jock about it.

**Future Agenda Items:** Construction application, capital budget plan, financial/budget, review draft residency procedure; observatory report, outcome of vote review, discuss strategic planning process (Wynne will attend Barnet's forum Thursday night)

The board adjourned from the regular session to go into executive session for 2 personnel and 3 student issues at 8:20

Came out of Executive Session at 8:56 PM

Action taken: Board agreed to accept with great regret the resignation of Wendy Olcott effective June 30, 2009.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58.

Respectfully submitted  
Jean Dedam