

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

Approved

Present: Jo Anne Post, Wynne Browne, John Bacon – Superintendent, Wendy Olcott – Principal, Dave Stauffer, Dale Roy, Marceya Roy, Judy Chypre, Neal Gombas, Dave Magnus, Karen Joyce, Don Davis, Bruce Berwick, Dan Zucker – Astronomy Foundation Member from Danville.

Call to Order: Jo Anne Post called the meeting to order at 6:10.

Board Organization:

All Board members agreed to perform present responsibilities. Jo Anne will remain the Board Chair and will represent the Peacham Board on the CCSU Executive Board. The Chair will also sign contracts. Jean will continue as Board Clerk.

Meetings will continue to be the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. The fourth Monday of the month will be available if an additional meeting is necessary.

Upcoming Meetings – March 31, April 28 (only if needed), May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 3 (Town Meeting), March 9 (Organizational Board Meeting).

School Board Organization Form was completed – Jean will record meeting minutes and get copies to the CCSU office. Special meetings will be posted in the Caledonia Record, at Peacham School, the Post Office, the Town Library, and on the school website www.peachamschool.org. Jo Anne will sign warrants (directors orders).

Minutes: February 18 minutes were accepted without corrections.

Public Input: Dave Stauffer posed a question regarding the tax rate formula. Theoretically, more students at Peacham Elementary School would result in less money being sent to the State. Dave also questioned how much money is received back in statewide rebates and what it costs to implement the program.

Principal's Report:

- The Annual PTF Auction is taking place this Saturday from 5 to 9 PM. All proceeds benefit Peacham Elementary students.
- The Peacham School Mini-REAL Community begins March 24th and runs for three weeks – March 24, March 31 and April 7. Mini-REAL takes place from 8:30 to 9:15 Monday through Thursday. Visitors always welcome.

- Cheryl will attend the May Board meeting to discuss the long-term maintenance plan for the building. Cheryl, Wendy, John, and a custodian from either Barnet or Danville will work to develop a draft plan for the Board to review.

Superintendent's Report:

- John approached Howard Crawford at St. Johnsbury Academy to see if the Academy would provide busing for Peacham high school students. Based on the conversations, it seems unlikely the Academy will provide such busing services to Peacham students. John recommended working with the Barnet School Board to access their bus to St. Johnsbury. The Board asked John to discuss this possibility with the Barnet Board.
- The House repealed Act 82. The Act will go to the Senate next. John wrote to Senators Copenrath and Kitchel to ask them to support repealing the act. John asked Board members to write letters also.
- The statewide calendar was repealed. There will be requirements for schools to develop regional calendars. Peacham already does so with area schools.
- Proposed change – the Commissioner of Education would be appointed by the Governor. Currently the State Board of Education appoints the Commissioner.

Financial: None

Old Business:

Water Treatment System – Wendy will forward Jerry Senturia's contact information to Mike Smith with Otter Creek Engineering. They should converse to determine if the School could connect with the Town water system rather than install a disinfection unit. Perhaps the School can access the Town water daily and use the well as needed. The Board questioned if this would meet the grant requirements. The board will review and sign Town Meeting minutes so Cheryl can forward them to the State agency.

Telephone System - The Board questioned the life span of the new phone system and wondered when an upgrade might be needed, again. Wendy will bring all quotes to the next Board meeting. Karen asked about purchasing cordless phones from Radio Shack or a similar store. Suzanne will be consulted regarding the selection of a phone system. Wendy and/or Martha will contact the Walden School to find out more about their phone system. Some wondered if the new phone would work in a power outage. Wendy will contact Adam Bristol, at Current-Concepts, to discuss.

Observatory Proposal:

- Dave Magnus presented an alternative proposal regarding the right of way access to the observatory site and the back landlocked parcel. A committee consisting of a Board member, Dave Magnus and Don Davis will meet to consider the options. The committee will develop a plan, which will be reviewed by the Board and an attorney.

- The Foundation will seek legal advice as to whether the School and/or Don Davis (as current “owner” of the right of way) would grant/sell access to the right of way for the Foundation.
- Concern was expressed regarding playground safety near the basketball court (near proposed right of way) with the increased traffic. Judy commented it would be helpful to see proposed right of way marked off.
- Wynne will represent the Board on the Observatory Committee.
- Committee meetings will be warned by CCSU.
- Wynne will report back to the Board periodically and actions will be taken, as needed.
- Dale Roy asked if the Foundation would consider an alternative town-owned site. Dave reported the Foundation had considered the site and decided against it.

New Business:

Follow-up to Town Meeting:

- Develop a capital plan
- John will write letters to families who are not choosing to send their children to Peacham Elementary School to see if they would like to discuss Peacham Elementary School options. Phone contact would then be made and meetings scheduled as requested.
- Collaboration Group/Economic Committee (Barry Lawson’s group) is looking into the possibility of building a Town gym on schools grounds.

Planning for Grades 7/8:

- Assemble a task force to look into adding 7/8. The Board will determine make up of the task force at a future meeting.
- Review State regulations and best practices with John.
- John will bring additional information to the next meeting.
- Jo Anne will contact Shelley Green to see if she’d be willing to serve on the task force.

Superintendent Search Process:

- The CCSU Executive Committee met to discuss the Superintendent search process. Bill Marshall will coordinate the process. A CCSU Executive Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 19. A Screening Committee will be determined.

- The Screening Committee will review applications and decide whom to interview. They'll recommend candidates for the CCSU Executive Board to conduct follow up interviews.
- Timeline
 - 1st week of April – Selection of whom to interview
 - 2nd week of April – Conduct interviews
 - 1st week of May – Position offered
- The process will include site visits so the candidates can tour and meet people. Jo Anne will attend the Executive Committee Meeting and clarify the membership of the Screening Committee.

Other Business: None

Future Agenda Items: Action Plan Update, Water Treatment System, Telephone System, and Observatory Proposal

Executive Session: Entered executive session at 8:35 to discuss negotiations, a parent matter, a personnel item, and real estate contract negotiations. Came out of executive session at 9:45. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Olcott