

**Peacham School Board Meeting
Peacham Library
August 11, 2008**

Unapproved

Present: Jo Anne Post, Jean Dedam, Wynne Browne, Martha Tucker – superintendent, Cathy Browne, Stan Fickes, Debra Vogini, Neal Gombas, Janet Bird, Maggie Scott

6:00 Called to Order by Jo Anne Post

Minutes: July 14 minutes approved as amended.

Principal's Report: Enrollment for 08/09 is at 52 with two more possible. Maintenance – library rug was cleaned; floor in boy's bathroom was replaced by Mayo's. Tyler Billings from Otter Creek Engineering will send a report on the water disinfection system options that will recommend the school tie into the town water system. No action on the parking lot lighting as options are being examined. New Staff – Rossana Burke - Administrative Assistant, Dawna Chase – 5/6 grade teacher, Gina Ostrander– phys ed. Music teacher position is still vacant. Server will stay in current space until decisions about 7th/8th grade are made.

Parent Request

Maggie Scott requested the board consider adding a stop at their driveway for her children as the expense of driving them to school is prohibitive. Options were discussed and Jo Anne agreed to check with Danville School to see if the bus from West Danville to Peacham might still be an option. Meeting the bus on Chandler Hill would require her children to be on the bus for 1.5 hr which she feels is too long at their age.

Superintendent's Report: Martha Tucker provided an update on office conditions. The basement in the current office bldg is deteriorating rapidly. There is standing water and mold in the basement and some records have been damaged. There will be tours of the old building and the proposed new office space before the CCSU meeting on Monday to discuss the proposed change followed by discussion of strategic planning processes in the school districts.

Financial: Rob will have projections and final numbers for 2008 for September. Martha, Rob and Jo Anne will meet to develop a budget for 7th/8th grade with options included.

Old Business: Maintenance - Flooding occurred in front part of the school when a hot water faucet burst in the front office bathroom sometime in the night of Thursday, August 7. The Ritchie Agency has been contacted but because there was water under some of the asbestos tile they are looking for an asbestos expert to evaluate the damage. We will need to be prepared to find other space or to delay school opening if repairs cannot be completed in time for the current planned opening.

Bus transportation – Stan Fickes reported that the town clerks office has not been contacted about bus transportation to SJA and no checks have been received. Jo Anne said that Barnet has assured her that 20 spots will be available. The cost may be deemed too high by parents especially if they still have to transport students who are staying after for extra curricular activities. The board may try to renegotiate with Barnet for a lower fee.

Food Allergy Policy – 2nd reading: several changes were made, line two add “severely” before allergic and remove “whether life threatening or otherwise”. Switch line 2 and line 3 in the first paragraph. Section 1. change “Parent with allergic children” to “Parents of children with severe allergies” Section 2. add at the end of the 1st sentence “and when appropriate, to the entire school community.” Section 5. add “may include the entire school community to” after which. 3rd reading will be in September.

Public Input: Neal questioned why the server is not being moved at this time and offered to provide the labor to reduce the cost. Would like to make any changes to the system once and will wait on decision about 7th/8th grade.

New Business

Discussed possible dates in September for a board retreat. Mornings of the 11th, 15th, 16th or 17th will be suggested to Wendy.

Special Town Meeting dates were discussed. Jo Anne will check with Rob Ide (moderator) about his availability. Information should be made available ahead of time.

Other Business: None

Future Agenda Items: Food Allergy – 3rd reading; facilities update – flood damage; water treatment; transportation; music teacher (Martha said the person must have a bachelor’s even for a provisional license); financial report.

The public meeting adjourned at 7:15 and the board entered executive session residency issue, tuition question and a student issue.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:30. Board requested that Martha Tucker follow-up on residency question and student matter. Board requested that Stan Fickes follow-up on the tuition matter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Dedam