

**Peacham School Board Meeting
Peacham Elementary School
September 8, 2008**

Unapproved

Present: Board members: Jo Anne Post, Jean Dedam, Wynne Browne; Wendy Olcott – Principal, Martha Tucker – superintendent; Public - Neal Gombas, Becky Jensen, Kim Behr, Julie Hansen, Jay Abramson, Judy Chypre, Wanda Berwick, Karen Joyce, Bruce Berwick, Luis Guzman, Jonathan Kaplan, Angelita Galarza, Ami Milne Allen, Kelly Kazmarski

6:10 Called to Order by Jo Anne Post
Adjourned to Executive Session for a student issue. Out of executive session at 6:27 and entered regular session.

Minutes: August 11 minutes approved as amended.

Public Input: Becky Jensen asked that the board look at the number of students that have withdrawn from the school over the summer.

Residency Policy: Stevens School submitted a letter for the record asking the board for a clear residency policy with criteria that are applied equally and questioned the board on the process it has employed in several cases this year. Jo Anne explained that the superintendent, Martha Tucker, is the agent of the board to investigate residency questions and bring information and recommendations to the board. This year is the first time a questionnaire has been used and residency is defined by state statute. Jo Anne asked Martha to see what residency policies other area towns may have written. Wynne would like to see criteria listed. Karen Joyce suggested the board identify what it is trying to avoid in the case of establishing residency. Jo Ann said that the purpose is to protect the town from paying tuitions for non-resident students.

Principal's Report: The water damage has been taken care of with a professional crew and a licensed asbestos removal expert. The girl's bathroom tiles are not asbestos and will be replaced in October. The insurance payment has been received.

Tyler Billingsley is sending a report with additional information and recommendations for the water purification system.

Busing is going fine with students arriving earlier in the day.

Two applications have been received for the music teacher position. 1 applicant has been interviewed and the other will be at the end of the week. Wynne moved to give Wendy and Jo Anne in consultation with Martha permission to hire a music teacher. Jean seconded the motion.

Superintendent's Report: The office will move on September 20. The new landlord has agreed to construct an outside elevator and a glass door between the store and the offices that can be locked. There will not be a significant financial burden this year with the change. Files that were in the cellar and were damaged will be brought upstairs in the bank and examined to see what can be preserved and what must be destroyed.

SU administrative meetings will focus on action planning initially.

Strategic planning is in progress with the other 3 schools and Winton Goodrich. There will be steering committees for each school with 3 trainings in October on Thursdays. There will be focus groups in November in each town. Peacham has not yet begun a formal strategic planning process, but we anticipate such a process later in the school year. Wynne and Jo Anne are welcome to attend the training sessions with Winton and the other boards to help prepare for it. Peacham is not participating at this time because of the timing with 7/8 discussions and town vote.

Action Plan: Wendy reported that since the brainstorming session, the administrative team, and Martha Tucker and Wendy Olcott, and the teachers have all had meetings. This year the plan will focus on writing skills and differentiated instruction. They are drafting a plan to give to the PTF and the teachers for feedback. The focus of professional development this year will be on writing and meeting the needs of high achieving students in the classroom and bullying will be carried over from the last plan.

Wynne offered a resolution to have signature authority assigned to Jo Anne Post for a subdivision application and a waste water system application on behalf of the board. Jean seconded the motion.

Warning for a Special Town Meeting to be held on November 1st at 11 AM at the Peacham Congregational Church was signed by the board.

Food Allergy Policy was read for the third time. The final copy will be adopted at the next board meeting.

The board adjourned from the regular session to go into executive session for personnel and student issues at 8:00

Came out of Executive Session at 10:10

Action taken: Board agreed to grant family leave to a staff person for a serious family illness. An advertisement will be placed for a long-term substitute teacher. A student tuition request was denied but reciprocity was offered. Martha was asked to obtain additional information on a residency issue.

Tabled the financial discussion to the October meeting.

Future Agenda Items: Food Allergy – adoption; facilities update –water treatment; transportation; music teacher; financial/budget, residency

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20

Respectfully submitted
Jean Dedam