

**Peacham School Board Meeting  
Peacham Elementary School  
December 29, 2008**

**Unapproved**

**Present:** Board members: Jo Anne Post, Jean Dedam, Wynne Browne; Wendy Olcott – principal, Martha Tucker – superintendent, Rob Billings, business manager; Public - Judy Chypre, Karen Joyce, Sally Cook (reporter)

6:10 Called to Order by Jo Anne Post

**Budget**

Rob presented the third draft of the budget. Due to additional tuitions plus anticipated additional special education costs at another school the budget will require two votes with the second vote for approximately \$62,000.

Two possible areas to reduce expenses in the elementary school are hot lunch or facilities improvements. Costs for proposed improvements include parking lot lighting, removal of asbestos tiles, installation of a new alarm system, and bathroom upgrades. Martha is going to look into costs/possible reimbursements in order to help the board determine which of the improvements (if any) should be included in the operating budget, which should come out of the capital fund and which could be postponed. We could reduce or eliminate the two-vote amount with some combination of these strategies.

Hot lunch – Jo Anne suggested a mission statement for that program would clarify our goals. Right now the school has 42% of its students on free or reduced hot lunch. With hunger a growing problem in Vermont the board agreed that nutrition is an important school function and should be continued even though it operates at a loss. Wynne suggested offering a family rate to encourage more participation from families with several children in school. Wendy said that a representative from the Campaign for Childhood Hunger had suggested that Peacham Elementary could produce hot lunch meals for Stevens School students as they don't offer hot lunch to their students. Wendy has not heard from Stevens School. The board suggested that the school could produce the meals but that Stevens School would need to provide the transportation for meals.

Wynne noted that the elementary school portion of the budget is about level funded with the increase primarily in the tuitions and the plant improvements. Some plant improvements may be warned as a separate article and taken from the capital expense fund and they may be eligible for 30% state aid.

Final decisions will be made at the regular January meeting.

**Other business**

Principal search committee – Wendy is sending out a second notice to parents asking interested parties to contact Martha by January 5<sup>th</sup>. The board will review the position job description and discuss criteria for screening applicants. The ad will run in the Caledonian two consecutive weeks starting next week. Position closes on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. A stack of resumes have been received already.

The auditors have requested the board submit its annual report by January 12. Jo Anne will draft a report for the board to review at its January 12 meeting.

The board adjourned from the regular session to go into executive session on a student issue at 7:05

Came out of Executive Session at 8:10 PM

No action taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted

Jean Dedam