

Peacham School Board Meeting  
Peacham Elementary School  
January 12, 2009

unapproved

Present: Board members: Jo Anne Post, Jean Dedam, Wynne Browne; Wendy Olcott – principal; Public - Neal Gombas, Judy Chypre, Julie Hansen, Wendy Morgan, Angelita Guzman  
Martha Tucker – superintendent, Rob Billings, business manager attended parts of the meeting.

6:05 Called to Order by Jo Anne Post

Minutes: December 8 and December 29 minutes approved as written.

Public Input: Julie Hanson asked about the reference in prior minutes to hot lunch services for Steven's School possibly coming from Peacham Elementary. Wendy Olcott explained that it had been suggested to her by the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and that agency had said they had also suggested it to the Stevens School as a way to provide a service that Stevens currently does not offer. It was agreed that if it were to happen, it would mean having the food transported to Stevens, not the students to Peacham Elementary. If Stevens School is interested Julie will contact Wendy.

Principal's Report: Wendy said she had one personnel item for executive session. She reported that the storage situation has been resolved by changing the way that trash and recyclables are collected and the new system is cheaper.

Water purification system is waiting to be scheduled for construction.

Internet service options have been checked in response to Jock Gill's suggestion and though the current standard service through Fairpoint is slower, it is the cheapest and it is adequate to their needs.

Martha Tucker arrived. The board went into Executive Session at 6:20 to discuss a legal issue. It came out of Executive Session at 6:30. Wynne moved that on the advice of our attorney, the board accept the application for residency it had contested. Jean seconded the motion and it was approved.

Superintendent's Report: None

Principal Search: A stack of resumes has been received. Robin is checking each for completeness. Martha had drafted a time line for completing the task and a list of desired experience/skills for board review. The board approved the suggested timeline/process. Search committee composition discussion. Current list of people who have contacted Martha are Dawnna Chase (teacher), Phoebe Cobb (parent), Dave Stauffer, Becky Jensen, Julie Hansen, and Dave Magnus (community reps). The board agreed to have Jo Anne be its rep. Another staff person will be identified and then Jo Anne and Martha will make decisions on the other two committee members.

Tuition Voucher form will be tabled until the next regular meeting.

A draft of the warning was reviewed but not approved until wording on the capital expense fund plan is decided.

Martha Tucker left and Rob Billings arrived.

Budget:

Further discussion followed on capital expense budget/plan. Rob will call the secretary of state to find out if specific capital expenses have to be approved by voters for the year when they will be expended or is a plan approved by the voters sufficient. He has learned that there will be no state aid available for any capital expense. Wendy Olcott, Cheryl Stevenson and Wynne Browne will fine tune a plan. Wynne will list payments into the fund plus anticipated expenses by year projecting out 30 years to see if the current rate of funding will keep pace with estimated expenses.

Rob reviewed the cuts he is suggesting to reduce the budget by \$5500 to avoid the two vote rule that would be invoked due in large part to an increase in tuitions. One of the reductions came by postponing physical improvements for another year. Jean suggested that if they are needed they will still be needed the next year and that postponing the expense does not solve the problem and proposed those expenses be put back in and that amount be listed for the second vote. The bulk of the cuts come in the hot lunch program that is showing increased revenue but would lose \$1000 for food supplies that may be difficult to attain. Wendy Morgan suggested the board consider salary cuts or reductions in benefits. Wynne explained that those are established by contract and cannot be reduced. Jean said she had been asked why we allow the receiving schools a free ride and suggested the board should write to those schools and ask for a reduction in their tuition requests by 5%. Discussion but no action was taken on that suggestion. Jo Anne suggested presenting the budget with certain shared costs that are currently included in the elementary portion, prorated between the elementary and secondary programs.

A final budget meeting will be held at the CCSU office on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM to adopt a budget and warning.

New Business None

Other business

Jean distributed copies of a letter from Bob Fuehrer. He suggests an in-depth survey be conducted of parents whose children do not attend Peacham Elementary. Wynne noted that if the survey is done, it should include all parents of school age children. A survey could be incorporated in the strategic planning process but would require funding unless a qualified volunteer is identified.

Pre-town meeting tentative date will be Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 7 PM. Candidates for the open school board seat may announce at that meeting. Jo Anne will check with the selectmen on their pre-town meeting date.

Future Agenda Items

Set pre-town meeting date and time

Residency procedures  
Astronomy update  
Principal search update

The board adjourned from the regular session to go into executive session for a personnel issue at 8:33

Came out of Executive Session at 9:05 PM

No action was taken

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10

Respectfully submitted  
Jean Dedam