

**Peacham School Board Meeting  
Peacham Elementary School  
February 9, 2009**

**Approved**

**Present:** Board members: Jo Anne Post, Jean Dedam, Wynne Browne; Wendy Olcott – principal Martha Tucker – superintendent; Public - Neal Gombas, Dave Stauffer, Wendy Morgan, Dale Roy, Marceya Roy  
6:05 Called to Order by Jo Anne Post

**Minutes:** January 12 and January 16 minutes approved with spelling errors corrected.

**Public Input:** None

**Principal's Report:**

- Wendy said the Annual School Report Card will be ready by Town Meeting Day. This year's theme is writing across the curriculum.
- Mini REAL program is running through February 19 from 8:30-9:15 AM.
- The Celebration of Learning will be on February 19 from 6 – 8 PM. The Mini REAL will be run during the first part so parents can see how it works. Area middle schools will also be present to talk with parents and students about their programs.
- Saturday March 21 is the Mud and Muck Auction date.
- NECAP scores are out and will be included in the school report with a disclaimer about statistical relevance since the student numbers in each classroom are too low.
- Wendy has talked with Shelley Green about the Action Plan and Shelley has offered to work with teachers on "meeting the needs of high achieving students". Looking at April 1 as a possible date.
- Peacham staff met with Walden staff about the Bridges Math program used by Walden in place of the Every Day Math curriculum. It does not appear that it would work well with multiage classrooms. Every Day Math does not work in multiage classrooms with only one teacher either. It has been a problem since support staffing was cut back. The assessment is ongoing.
- Teachers are reviewing core standards in several areas and articulating more clearly who is doing what, when, using what resources across grade levels and curriculum.

**Superintendent's Report:** An in-service on writing techniques for pre-K through 6th grade teachers in the supervisory union will be taught on President's Day by Martha Dubuque. In-services next year will be organized differently with 4 days at the beginning of the year in place of half days throughout the year.

**Financial**

There is a budget deficit projected for 2009 due to decrease in anticipated revenues and an increase in tuitions of \$64,504.

Due to a lower than projected increase in the tuition rate from St. Johnsbury Academy for 2009/2010, the budget will be below the 2 vote amount listed on the Warning and reported in

an article in today's paper. Jo Anne will call Sally Cook and suggest a follow-up article to explain the drop in the budget.

Jo Anne will do the budget explanation at the meeting and Wynne will explain the capital expense plan. The low CLA is responsible for 9 cents of the increase in the tax rate.

Hot lunch has been running a deficit for years a committee will look for ways to increase revenues. Jo Anne, Dave Stauffer and Wendy Olcott will talk with Alice and solicit ideas from the community. The school garden will provide food for use in the lunch program or Marceya suggested some could be sold at the proposed farmer's market in town for cash for the program.

**Principal Search:** Wynne reported that the search committee had selected 8 or 25 resumes given to them for interviews. Four have been done, 2 candidates withdrew and 2 more interviews are scheduled. The committee will select three of those for Martha to interview and check references. She will forward 2 of the three for the board to interview on February 25 at 5:30 and 7:00 PM.

**Tuition Voucher Form** One change was suggested – to clarify that the only information needed on the tax form is the address.

Review again in April. Martha will give it to Stan and Bruce for their comments. Wendy Morgan suggested it should give a time frame for decisions. Because the burden of proof of residency is on the student, the board does not want to have a time frame for decisions as it will be up to the family to provide the requisite information.

**Water Purification:** One bid has been received from Clear Water Filtration. They come well recommended. The bid was \$9251.91 but does not include the electrical. Seeking bids on the electrical but have purchased the equipment (water softener - \$2,798.40 and disinfection unit - \$7363.70). The whole project should come in under \$25,000. Wynne moved and Jean seconded a motion to approve the Clear Water Filtration bid, equipment purchase and the electrical work if the bid is under \$5,000. It is scheduled to be done during school vacation.

### **New Business**

Progress report on School Goals: table to March.

Review Budget development process: the board felt it went smoothly except for the information from the state. Presentation of the written material was OK, Jean found everything she needed but Wynne had some difficulty but thinks it is because this is her first time. Discussed the Governor's suggestion that school meetings be pushed back so the legislature has time to set the state budget and the statewide tax rate. However any staff reductions would have to be decided before April so the budget should be decided by then.

7:40 short recess called.

7:45 back in session

**1<sup>st</sup> reading for two policies:** Animal Dissection is not applicable to Peacham but must be approved. Parental Involvement is required by NCLB in order for Peacham to receive some non-competitive grant funds. No changes were recommended.

**Strategic Planning:** Martha recommended starting it in September when the new principal is on board.

**Pre-town Meeting:** will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM the night before the annual meeting. The regular meeting in April is scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> when Wendy will be away. She will submit a written report.

**Other business** None

**Future Agenda Items**

Residency procedures

New Principal

Final report on the water system

Board organization

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully submitted

Jean Dedam