

APPROVED MINUTES

Bradford Academy & Graded School District Board of Trustees

Bradford Elementary School

Bradford, VT 05033

Location: Bradford Elementary School

**** Approved Minutes **** August 20, 2018

Present

Board Members: Kim Frydman, Julie Bingell, Angela Colbeth, Emily Shipman

Administrators: Emilie Knisley, Sandra Stanley, Kate Paxton

Guests: Karen Newton, Cathy Roberts, Judy Slack, School Counselor, Darlene Sanborn, Heidi Allen

Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Agenda Review

Low St. John Forest update will reviewed after CPA agreement authorization and Principal's report will be reviewed after Act 46 update.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made and seconded (Julie Bingell/Angela Colbeth) to approve the minutes from August 7, 2018 as presented. Approved 4-0.

Correspondence

The Board received an email from Barbara Kulzyck after the August 7th meeting expressing concerns with merging into one large district. Barbara is not in favor of one large multi-town board and disappointed it wasn't brought before the community better.

Contracts

The Superintendent presented to the Board an amended contract for Heidi Allen to change from salary schedule B, Step K to B15, Step K. as well as a contract for paraprofessional Crystal Champagne. A motion was made and seconded to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the amended contract for Heidi Allen. Approved 4-0. A motion was made and seconded to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign a contract for paraprofessional Crystal Champagne. Approved 4-0.

Board Orders

Angela Colbeth reviewed the payables, notable expenses were flooring in room 139, back parking lot sealing, tree removal, and school supplies. Part of the preschool roof was replaced and the school is requesting to use capital improvement funds to pay for this. A motion was made and seconded (Angela Colbeth/Emily Shipman) to approve spending \$9,300.00 from Capital Improvements to pay for the roof replacement. Approved 4-0. A motion was made and seconded (Angela Colbeth/Emily Shipman) to approve the remainder of the Board Orders. Approved 4-0.

Other

The petty cash and trust fund signature cards need to be updated. A motion was made and seconded (Julie Bingell/Emily Shipman) to remove Adam Norwood and add Kate Paxton to the petty cash and trust fund accounts at Community Bank. Approved 4-0.

Sandra Stanley updated the Board regarding significant changes in the BES SPED population and as a result do not have adequate staffing. Sandra Stanley met with Kate Paxton and Beth Thompson regarding the staffing shortage and determined up to two paraprofessionals would meet

the staffing needs. It was noted that one current paraprofessional was shifted to student support. Sandra also noted one of the benefits of being one unified district is they could shift staffing to cover situations that arise like this. Sandra reviewed the estimated cost of hiring an additional paraprofessional. Sandra will know shortly after school starts whether they will need to hire one or two paraprofessionals. A motion was made and seconded (Julie Bingell/Emily Shipman) for Sandra Stanley and Kate Paxton to hire up to two special education paraprofessionals for the 2018-2019 school year. Approved 4-0.

Public Comment None

Wisehart, Wimette & Associates (CPAs) Agreement Authorization The Superintendent reviewed the agreement. A motion was made and seconded (Emily Shipman/Julie Bingell) to approve and authorize Emilie Knisley, Superintendent to sign the agreement between Wisehart, Wimette & Associates and Bradford Elementary School. Approved 4-0.

Low St. John Forest Emily Shipman gave an update on the Low St. John Forest pond renovation. A group consisting of staff, conservationists and a forester met to follow up on how to best proceed with the pond renovation. The group would like to use trust funds to cover the expense of having Elisabeth McLane come up with a plan to renovate the pond. The cost is estimated to be \$500.00. Elisabeth recommends not doing anything to the pond until fall of 2019 to allow for students to participate in the study. There is concern fitting that into the teacher's schedule. There is also a group who would like to add bike paths to increase community use. A motion was made and seconded (Emily Shipman/Angela Colbeth) after discussing Act 46 to authorize Elisabeth McLane to develop a plan for the renovation of the pond in Low St. John Forest and to pay for it out of trust funds, not to exceed \$500.00. Approved 4-0.

Act 46 Kim Frydman updated all in attendance their presentation to the State Board of Education and a presentation of a school district that had merged. The presentation from the district that merged was very interesting, it spoke about the benefits and challenges the district faced as well as the student's perspective. Regarding the proposal our district put forward the State Board of Education had concerns about SPED and transportation, it was mandated these two categories fall under the Supervisory Union and currently work still needs to be done to be in full compliance. The current model is changing in a couple of years and we need to figure out what makes sense on how to proceed. Kim also updated the board on other area presentations – Newbury is not in favor of merging and is submitting a new proposal. The results of Blue Mountain Union's vote were divulged. BMU would like to remain its own district under OESU. WRVS is open to being in a different SU with similar structures. Kim spoke with Danielle Corti, Newbury Board member and OESU Board Chair; she was complimentary of the Bradford Board and appreciates the work they do. The State Board of Education will present recommendations in November. Emilie Knisley believes there may be a draft form in October.

Principal's Report Kate Paxton distributed and reviewed the Principal's Report. Kate explained how the new math program was chosen as well as facilities updates – gym floor poured, safety grant approved and the need to improve communications and support for facilities.

Welcome Back, BES The Board discussed plans for serving staff breakfast on the first day of in-service as well as plans to introduce Kate Paxton, Principal to the community on *Back to School Night*.

Adjournment A motion was made and seconded (Julie Bingell/Angela Colbeth) to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Kingsbury, Clerk

These minutes are approved by the Board