

Minutes of the Reading School Board

December 16, 2008
Unapproved Draft

Attendance: School Board- John Fike, John Philpin, Justin Sluka; WCSU- Tom DeBalsi; Principal- Ray Pentkowski; Recording Secretary- Rayna Bishop; Visitors- Marion Brody, Shiri Macri

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

A motion to approve the November minutes as written was seconded and passed.

Visitors:

Shiri Macri inquired about the class configurations for the 2009/2010 school year. As the school does not have any enrollment figures at this time, configurations have not been decided upon. In early May 2009 we will have a base idea regarding enrollment. There will be a presentation in the spring of 2009 that prospective Kindergarteners will be invited to. An invitation was extended to both visitors to schedule a time with Mrs. Boyer-Sheldon to observe the classroom.

The Water Operator was not able to attend. However, information was received regarding our current water situation. The water that comes into the school is drinkable, although due to the holding tanks and chlorination system the taste is undesirable. Mr. Fike gave a review of the school's water history. Currently the school uses bottled water. Another option has been discussed. Water coolers with in-line water filters will theoretically achieve the same results at less cost and with less hassle. A motion to try one in a test situation to see if it performs as expected was seconded and approved.

Financial:

The Revenue report from the State of Vermont has not been received yet.

Changes to the school budget since the last meeting were reviewed. The new financial software has resulted in duplications that are being eliminated. Mr. DeBalsi discussed the WCSU Assessment portions.

Heating fuel purchases were discussed. It may be time to use the insurance option, which has been unnecessary in the past. The budget figures for heating oil may need to be adjusted.

Reports:

WCSU- Tom DeBalsi discussed two Principal vacancies, one at Pomfret Elementary and one at Woodstock Elementary. The Woodstock position will potentially be filled by Karen White, the Superintendent of the Rutland Central Supervisory Union. It will be a three year contract. The Pomfret position is a 50% Principal and 50% teaching position. The school will also be going to combined grade classes. This is due to declining enrollment and a decrease in tuition students.

Tom has developed eight Special Ed. budgets for the 2009/2010 school year, without knowing what the revenues are going to be. He has not received the final percentage.

Many thanks to Tom from Ray for his work finding the excellent individual Aides for Reading Elementary.
Principal- Written report attached.

Chair- The District meeting is on the 18th at 6:00 P.M. A quorum of all members is needed to pass the District budget.

Mr. Fike reported on the Legislative breakfast that he had attended.

There was a discussion about using the school as an emergency facility. As there isn't a generator, we would not be a viable choice if a power outage affects the school. It could potentially cost around \$6000 to install a generator. The Fire Department has a generator and has assisted during prior town emergencies. The school will contact Gary Vittum to discuss how we may work together to handle any future town emergencies, and get a plan in writing. It was mentioned that Gary had been working with the Department of Homeland Security to procure a generator for the school.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 P.M.