

Minutes of the Reading School Board

October 21, 2008

Unapproved draft

Attendance: School Board-John Fike, Justin Sluka; Superintendent- Meg Gallagher; Principal- Ray Pentkowski; Recording Secretary- Rayna Bishop; Visitors- Tim Bishop, Marion Brody

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 PM.

A correction was noted to the minutes from September 16, 2008. The correct price for adult school meals is \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.00 for lunch. A motion to accept the corrected minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

The Water Monitor presentation is postponed until the November meeting, as he had pressing obligations and could not attend this meeting.

The visitors stated they were attending for observation purposes only.

Financial: The Business Manager is beginning to put together the budget, starting with the basic costs. The Supervisory Union's budget meeting is set for October 22, 2008.

Superintendent Report: - The Pomfret School Board has had to cut 2 teaching positions due to a declining school population and declining tuition students. The Board has established a 50% Principal/50% teaching position. The current Principal has announced her retirement.

The technology integration is going well. The Staff Development day on January 19th will include discussions on augmenting the school websites, utilizing video streaming and posting web based curriculum, with staff training.

District enrollment figures for next school year remain about the same.

The Plymouth School may close due to low enrollment. The townspeople will probably opt for school choice. Stepping Stones Preschool has requested Meg's help to establish them as an ADM.

Principal's Report: Ray is interested in finding grant funding for a field trip to the Proctor Marble Museum. A geologist from the Museum will be visiting our 3/4 class.

This year, the DRA testing is optional. There are other assessment tests available that may be more beneficial. Last school year's Science NECAP test was the first one for our school. The results have been analyzed.

Ray discussed the plan for Open House, and Madeline Kunin's visit to the Town Library. Recent funds received include a check for \$150.00 from the Woodstock Garden Club, and a check for \$1000.00 for Funding the Future (which will be the last from that Trust Fund.) Ray is contemplating ideas for the funds.

Chair's Report: Mr. Fike reported on the many hours he has recently spent observing in the school and on bus routes. He finds that the bus driver is a very careful driver with firm safety rules. Our monitoring program is working well. In the classrooms, the curriculum is well organized, and the kids are engaged. The front door is monitored, and all personnel are signed in and out. Our alarm system is fully operational, and there has been an increase in the patrolling of school grounds by the Sheriff's department. There are security locks on all interior doors, and a camera that monitors activity by those requesting entrance to the school. Fire drills, as well as lock down drills, are practiced. New signs have been installed regarding drugs, alcohol, firearms, etc., on school property.

The public water system at school, which include storage tanks that hold a combined 3000 gallons of water, are monitored and tested by a licensed water operator on a regular basis. Although potable, it is stagnant and chlorinated. There will be research into using ultraviolet for bacteria control. The current cost for purchasing drinking water runs around \$2000.00. Negotiations were made to contract for 24 months with Crystal Rock at

\$6.65 per bottle, with cooler swaps each year. The Board motioned, seconded, and approved contracting with Crystal Rock.

The November meeting will have budget discussions, as well as labor negotiations with teachers.

Action Items: Motion to adopt as written the VSBA policy on animal dissection seconded and approved.
Title I sub-grant money agreement accepted and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.