

SHARON BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021 - 6:00 PM
@ VIA GOOGLE MEET
Draft Minutes

This meeting was publicly warned in conformance with H.681 authorizing temporary amendments to Vermont's open meeting law to protect the health and safety of the public, board members, and town employees during the state of emergency declared due to COVID-19. Links were provided for public participation by videoconference software or by conventional phone.

Present via GoogleMeet:

School Board: Don Shaw, Chantelle Brackett, Will Davis

Staff: Raymond Ballout (Technology Manager, WRVSU), Jamie Kinnarney (Superintendent, WRVSU), Tara Weatherell (Business Manager, WRVSU), Keenan Haley (Principal at SES), Nicole Antal (Sharon Recording Secretary)

Public: Marcy Marceau and Theodore Marceau (Sharon resident)

1. Call to Order
Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
None
3. Assign times/time keeper
N/A
4. Consent Agenda
 - 4.1. Approve the Minutes of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Regular)
Brackett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Board Communications
None
6. Public Comments
None at this time (*see discussion for public comment on Draft #3 - Anti-Racism Policy*)
7. Reports to the Board
 - 7.1. Superintendent
Kinnarney shared a report prior to the meeting with the Board (*see documents*).
He shared that he has been in all the school buildings across the SU at least once a week, but has increased his visits in recent weeks. He has been meeting with all new hires for all positions across the SU.

Kinnarney shared his concerns about the lack of candidates for positions across the SU for Special Ed. A lot of supervisory unions across the state are concerned about the lack of candidates.

7.2. Principal

Haley shared a report prior to the meeting with the Board (*see documents*).

He shared that Sharon is working with Anda Adamsto develop Professional Development opportunities for staff next year around literacy, math and social emotional Learning.

- Student Council event: they made a Pasta Bar for the staff to thank them. They are heading to the SU on Friday to say thanks to the staff at the SU.

- Paving project will start on the week of the 20th of June.
- Still looking for a night custodian

7.3. Business Manager

Weatherell shared a report prior to the meeting with the Board (*see documents*).

- Sharon budget files are being submitted to the Agency of Education, which have to be submitted 30 days after a successful budget vote.
- The SU has successfully completed the fiscal year rollover using the Infinite Vision software, which only took half a day to complete (compared to 3 days in previous years).
- School Food authority: continuing to do the monthly reimbursement, and continuing to work on centralization of the food service. The team meets monthly, and have been able to successfully complete a combined menu that will be used for all the locations across the SU.
- The next round of reporting for P-EBT Benefits extended through summer is due on June 21st.

Weatherell read from her report and shared the 'Revenue/Expenditure Summary'.

o Expenditure changes

- Reduced COVID Cost from \$1,268 to \$1,043
- Updated Tuition v. Invoiced to Tuition paid to date \$22,874 to \$14,226
- Updated Supplies overspent from \$10,369 to \$15,031
- Reduced savings for Books from \$3,189 to \$2,976
- Reduced savings for Dues & Fees from \$11,890 to \$11,622
- Reduced savings for Employee Training & Development from \$12,201 to \$11,781
- Reduced savings for Repairs and Maintenance from \$16,102 to \$9,181

o Revenue changes

- Decreased the COVID Reimbursement from \$1,268 to \$1,043. This is a result of moving the already reimbursement expenses to the special revenue funds per the AOE's

guidance.

These changes resulted in an expenditure surplus of \$38,599 and a revenue surplus of \$2,162 resulting in an overall projected surplus of \$40,761; April's projected surplus was \$44,597.

Weatherell has the documents for the financing document for the paving project the Board has approved that will need signatures, as well as the documents for the Tax Anticipation Note if the Board will take action later to accept the Tax Anticipation Note.

Davis, as a new Board member, asked Weatherell for clarification about the Centralization of Food Service. Weatherell explained that in the past, across the SU, each district had individual food services in each building, with the exception of WRUD. The Boards across the SU and the Child Nutrition Program team, and Bill Bonsignore who was overseeing the food service this past year worked together to work on centralizing the Food Service across the SU. The WRVSU Full Board approved bringing food service under the Supervisory Union instead of having it in each individual district. This is a requirement from the USDA Child Nutrition Program. It is now one entity. The Food Service lives outside of the general fund, in an Enterprise Fund and maintains its own expenditures and revenues. All the food service staff will now be employees of the WRV Supervisory Union, as of July 1 2021, instead of being employees of individual districts. Ordering previously was done at the building level, this will help with savings. Weatherell also added that in the past, the Food Service was traditionally not sustaining itself. Kinnarney added that the SU has been committed to keeping the staff, and is looking to expand on what each district has to offer. He gave the example of Sharon having a robust Farm to School program, and he wants to expand that to other districts. He wants the cooks to share ideas and recipes among themselves, to collaborate.

Shaw asked Weatherell if the price in all districts will therefore be the same. Weatherell explained that they are not, and the price cannot be adjusted more than 10 cents per year.

7.4. WRVSU Policy Committee (Draft #3 Anti-Racism Policy)

Kinnarney shared with the Board draft # 3 of the Anti-Racism Policy the Policy Committee has been working on. This is the second reading at the Board level. Kinnarney explained that all the comments have been collected after Draft #1 and Draft #2, and edits were made. Marcy Marceau and Theodore Marceau, Sharon residents, inquired about the process, they also had complaints about the lack of communication to the community about this policy. Kinnarney and Antal explained to the Board the documents has been uploaded on the Sharon Elementary website for people to view, had been shared on the listserv when this meeting was warned, and was warned in the agenda. The Board discussed posting it on the listserv before the next meeting in August. Kinnarney invited the public to email their concerns. The feedback and concerns are shared with the committee. Marcy Marceau also inquired about having Sharon resident on the committee, and said she would be interested to be part of the committee as a

community member. Shaw said that members of the public were involved in the drafting of the first draft, and Sharon also had a community member on the committee, Steve Gagliardone. Marcy Marceau said that she hadn't seen that advertised, and shared her concerns about only having one Sharon resident's views shared. Shaw said that the Board welcomes feedback and questions, and will be posting about it on the listserv. Marcy Marceau said that she has read the drafts of the documents, and even though she has shared her comments, she hasn't been able to read and access other people's comments and feedback. She said it doesn't seem like it's a transparent process. Kinnarney said that the feedback is emailed directly to the committee members (Brackett who is on the committee has received all these feedbacks). Kinnarney wanted to make sure the public and the Board knows that he is forwarding that information along.

7.5. WRVSU Energy Committee

Chris Reilly will be sharing some data about all the buildings at the next Energy meeting on Thursday June 10th. Davis asked if the committee has looked at a community solar/large ground-mounted solar system/shared metered system that would benefit all the districts. Shaw said they haven't. He thinks that siting would be an issue, as well as dividing the financial aspect of the projects with each district would also be difficult. Kinnarney explained that one of the reason the committee was created is that a lot of companies were approaching the SU and the districts for solar projects. Kinnarney said that the Energy Committee decided last month to not pursue any solar projects before they have completed the Energy Audit that they have coming up around the RFQ and to see whether or not there are recommendations in the audit so we can capitalize on upgrades around solar to offset additional upgrades we may need.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Spring Academic Achievement Data Report - Principal Haley will review 20-21 academic report

Haley shared the Spring Academic Achievement Data Report (*see documents*).

Haley said that the scores are telling him that 1) the investment the SU has put towards the literacy program has paid off, and 2) that it is time to start turning our attention to Math. Sharon has already taken a step this year to initiate a full year of professional development with a Math consultant. The SU is also going to start dedicating resources to make Math a priority and develop quality math instruction. Sharon will also have a math interventionist, through the SU, next year. Haley is confident that we will start seeing gains.

Kinnarney explained that he wanted to start seeing a focus on scale scores, which is the score that combines the whole cohort over time. In general, we should see the cohort grow at least a full year worth of growth.

Haley went over the scores of the report. The Board said they would be interested to continue seeing the reports going forward.

8.2 VSBA Code of Ethics

No discussion. Every member had a chance to review it prior to the meeting.

8.3 Tax Anticipation Note

Weatherell gave an overview of what the Tax Anticipation Note is, and why the Board has to approve it. It allows the School Districts to operate and pay its employees until taxes are collected by the towns and money is received by the State in 3 payments during the fiscal year. Weatherell recommended the Board to continue with Community National Bank with a rate of 1.25%, and an investment rate of 1.23%.

9. Action/Possible Action

9.1 VSBA Code of Ethics

Brackett made a motion to adopt the VSBA Code of Ethics. Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2 Tax Anticipation Note

Brackett made a motion to accept the Tax Anticipation Note of \$1,394,878 with Community National Bank for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Shaw seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Resignation/New Hires

- Anticipated hire for the open art position. The candidate is wonderful and she has accepted. Kinnarney only needs to sign the document to make it official, and will do asap. Tanya Libby has taught in Chelsea, she has been an art teacher in Rivendell School District also. Haley is enthusiastic about the future of the Art program at Sharon Elementary School.
- Carmen Colon has been a kitchen helper for 10 years. She is moving to Puerto Rico. With the centralization of the Food Service, the position and what it entails is going to be revisited, but help is needed.
- A high school student is helping on our lawn + building.
- Haley is still looking for a night custodian. The position has been advertised on Facebook, on School Spring + Indeed, listserv and Front Porch Forum. Hard position to fill.

11. Confirm Next Meeting Date

Meeting August 10, probably in person. A retreat was talked about but no definite answer, and no dates in mind.

12. Adjourn

Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. Brackett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.