

September 8, 2008

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Chesterfield School Board
Chesterfield School, 5:30 PM

Present:

Ege Cordell, Board Member
Becky Auger, Board Member
Judy Idelkope, Board Chair
Deb Clemente, Board Member
Greg Blair, Board Member
Wayne Woolridge, Co-Superintendent
Brenda Finn, Assistant to the Superintendents
Timothy Ruehr, Business Administrator for Towns
Sharyn D'Eon, Principal
Kathleen Selvidio, Recording Secretary

Also present for all/portion of meeting: Nancy Eddy, Ruth Van Houten, Kim Joslin, Bob Stein, Suerae Stein, Susan Wiles, Darlene Smith, Helen DiRusso, Alisa Barry, Jennifer Pepin, Lisa Weidenheimer, Nancy Brooks, Catherine Weil, David Potter

1. Call to Order: Judy Idelkope called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. A few ground rules were laid out in regards to the meeting of the board and having public input. Mrs. Idelkope introduced Brenda Finn, the new assistant to the superintendents. Ms. Finn gave a summary of her background and her experience.

2. Celebrations: Mrs. D'Eon shared the success of Chesterfield School's first day opening. Highlighted the busy summer with two additional maintenance staff on board. At this point in time Mrs. D'Eon celebrated the 17 phenomenal new hires she has new to staff.

Suerae Stein applauded Kim Joslin for stepping up to be the boy's soccer coach this year. Ruth Van Houten commended a Chesterfield graduate, Amos Winter for a recent write up in the Union Leader. Mrs. Wiles welcomed the new vice principal, Mr. Mark Speno. Nancy Eddy commended the work being done for the upcoming fall fundraiser by FRIENDS. Becky Auger was happy with the success of the staff back to school breakfast and the work the Board did together to make this happen.

3. Public Input: Suerae Stein read a letter to the Board regarding her feeling on head lice in Chesterfield School. Mrs. Stein expressed her desire for the Board to make a policy change and would also like to recommend the school adopt the following policies:

- Use of the nit rating scale
- Head checks in classrooms where lice are found

- Purchase of a special lamp at a cost of approx. \$125.00 (magnifying)
- Those with lice discreetly sent home with directions for treatment
- Classroom, siblings, team mates checked by trained staff or parent volunteers (in rooms with active cases)
- Trash bags provided for belongings for the next 2 weeks in a class where active lice are found.

A hand out was provided to the board regarding the “nit rating scale” as well as a copy of the letter she read to the Board. An additional letter from a parent not present was presented to the Board to read.

Ms. Idelkope said the board would review the presented material.

Mrs. Auger thought that it was a good issue to be raised by the Health and Wellness Committee.

Darlene Smith questioned whether the Board intended on responding this time?

Ms. Idelkope stated that the Board does not respond during public input.

Discussion ensued on the frustration of parents and the lack of Board feedback. Ms. Idelkope stated that the issue would be put on a future agenda for future discussions.

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. June 9, 2008 – Non Public Student and Staff, accepted as written.

June 9, 2008 – Regular Meeting – section 12o, remove the word “new” in sentence beginning with Mr. Hogancamp...Section 12a, remove the whole sentence beginning with Ms. Idelkope moved that significant....

Mrs. Cordell made a motion to accept above minutes as amended. 5–0, motion passed.

b. June 16, 2008, Non Public Student and Staff, accepted as written.

June 16, 2008, Regular Minutes, June 19, 2008, Board Retreat, June 19, 2008, Staff Personnel, July 18, 2008, please note that morning session was with staff and was the board/staff goals meeting, July 18, 2008, Board Retreat Only, July 18, 2008, Non Public Student/Staff.

Ege Cordell made a motion to accept the above minutes from June 16, 2008 to July 18, 2008. Becky Auger seconded the motion. Vote taken, 5–0, motion passed.

5. Bills and Manifests

a. *Ege Cordell made a motion from Finance Committee to recommend the acceptance of checks (# 1004095 – 1004140) in the amount of \$127,560.04.*

Vote taken, motion passed, 5–0.

6. Financial Report:

a. General Fund: Mr. Ruehr reviewed the General Fund Financial Report for the close of the 2007-08 budget. Net available as of 6/30/07 was \$20,097. Mr. Ruehr stated that Capital Reserve will have \$40,000 withdrawn for the window project and \$20,097 will get transferred to the expendable trust balance.

Ms. Idelkope asked if we could have a food service report every month, it would be put on the agenda next month.

Mr. Ruehr was asked to do a report next month in regards to overage in building services.

The budget schedule for the 2009-10 school year was presented and approved.

Ms. Idelkope said that the town budget committee has requested an approximate budget figure for October 7, 2008.

10a. **Bus Routes:** Moved ahead on agenda, Paula Leslie from First Student was present to speak to the Board. Ms. Leslie spoke about a variety of bus issues and Chesterfield School, i.e., the combination of high school and middle school students riding together on some of the same busses, the possible use of more feeder vans to outlying areas. Mrs. D'Eon shared that one dismissal time for K–5 and middle school has been brought up, does create some issues. Ms. Cordell asked if there was a savings if we did this? Ms. Leslie said she would need to take a look at the numbers.

7. Reports:

a. Principal: Sharyn D'Eon

- Current enrollment is 375. Mrs. D'Eon spoke on specific numbers at each grade level; K = 29, 1 = 41, 2 = 45, 3 = 49, 4 = 37, 5 = 39, 6 = 45, 7 = 39 and 8 = 51.
- Outlined staff summer curriculum work.
- Carol Tolman is helping out with Core Reading Program.
- Reviewed summer building maintenance projects.
- Handyman hired for 10 hours each week. Mrs. Idelkope questioned overtime in this instance since he is employed by SAU 29 as well

b. Co-Superintendent: Wayne Woolridge

- Energy is a key issue with facilities this year.
- 75 employees hired within SAU with more than 1,000 applications received.
- There was a 3-day administrative workshop held at Harris Center this summer.

- Next Tuesday the NECAP science results will be out.
- September 27th, new board orientation at KHS Cheshire Center, all board members are welcome.
- October 27th, Advisory Board Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 28th, AREA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Idelkope requested the Board have written material from AREA **ahead** of time to review before the meeting. Questioned the approval rating of technology in our building, feeling under serviced. Might consider hiring own within our building.

c. Board Members: Mr. Blair celebrated the Liberal Arts Scholarship recipient who was Brandon Capron. Mr. Blair reminded the group that the Chesterfield Public School Foundation Auction is September 20, 2008.

Ege Cordell attended the Chesterfield Select Board rotation. Mr. Speno is on the Safety Committee now, which will meet once a month. Mrs. D'Eon is the administrative representative to facilities, which will meet the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:00 am.

Becky Auger reported from the Communications Committee. Feels that for the school to move ahead they need to project an image of togetherness. Would like to view other school boards and what they offer their staff. On September 18th, FRIENDS will hold their first meeting. Health and Wellness Committee need to set up a time that works for everyone to meet.

Mrs. Idelkope did a rotation at the Select Board meeting. Selectman's room at the new Town Hall is only open if there is no other place in town to meet. Stated that the town's Budget Committee would like an approximate figure of our budget and would like a 5-year plan on capital expenditures.

d. Staff Liaison: Currently no staff liaison, working on another one on staff to represent at meetings.

8. Public Input II: Catherine Weil congratulated Mr. Speno and noted that she believes he has made a positive difference. Mrs. Weil is concerned about the staff turnover at the school and sees that as a huge red flag. Concerned that there was \$51,000 not spent in the administrative salary line. Disappointed that the money was not spent and also that Mr. Walsh's work would not continue.

9. Old Business:

a. Mrs. Idelkope asked about Mr. Walsh's final report. Mrs. D'Eon shared that is still to come.

10. New Business:

a. **Bus Routes**: Discussed earlier in the evening.

b. **Special Education Study Follow Up**: Ms. Cordell was disappointed that the report didn't answer as much as she had hoped it would. Mrs. Idelkope was disappointed that she was unable to do specific case studies or do an audit of appropriate servicing of cases. Mrs. Clemente would like an answer to the Grade 3–4 jump.

c. **Gap Analysis Follow Up**: Mr. Woolridge presented a top 25% Analysis of NECAP results.

Mrs. Idelkope was troubled by the performances in Grades 5, 6, and 7. Notes that grades K–4 are at the top and then there is a severe drop off, a large decline in scores.

Mrs. D'Eon will look at our transient population at this grade level (Grade 6) that might be making a difference in scores.

d. **School Board Pamphlet**: Mrs. Auger presented the board with two pamphlets that the Communications Committee would like to hand out regarding the school board and their role. Would like the pamphlet to be easy to read and decipher. Discussion ensued on the two different pamphlets and their layouts and language used. *Becky Auger made a motion to accept the use of the 1st pamphlet (with logo), Greg Blair seconded the motion, vote taken 5–0, motion passed.*

11. **Future Agenda/s**:

- October Budget Committee Request
- November Status of students at KHS
- October – review if the board would like to review the head lice policy or not. Ms. Idelkope would like to review the info and look at the policy and determine if the board needs to make a change or not. Mr. Woolridge said that they could look at it next meeting and vote to revise if they want to or not.
- November – Overview of Board Communications options
- October – Goal action plan and objectives
- October – Revised bullying plan – Lisa Markland
- October – Wellness Report – Sharyn D'Eon

12. **Public Input III**: Mr. Potter felt that the Special Education Study merely offered a summary of what we do. Felt that the staff did not understand the purpose of the study. Few days before study was completed he felt that staff felt cornered. Noted that Special Education does a great job here at Chesterfield School.

Nancy Eddy felt that report a bit insensitive.

13. Non-Public Session R.S.A. 91-A:3

Ms. Cordell made a motion that the Board move into non-public session under the provisions of R.S.A. 91-A:3 at 9:02 p.m. to discuss negotiations/staff/student personnel. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion, all in favor 5-0.

Mr. Cordell made a motion for the Board to return to open session at 9:39 p.m. All in favor 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Selvidio
Recording Secretary