

January 12, 2009

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Chesterfield School Board
Chesterfield School, 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: Judy Idelkope, School Board Chair
Ege Cordell, School Board Member
Becky Auger, School Board Member
Greg Blair, School Board Member
Wayne Woolridge, Co-Superintendent of Schools
Timothy Ruehr, Business Administrator for Towns
Sharyn D'Eon, Principal
Mark Speno, Assistant Principal
Kathy Selvidio, Recording Secretary

Also in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting:

Kristin McKeon, Helen DiRusso, Suerae Stein, Cindy Walsh, Nancy Eddy, Francis Walsh, Debbie McLaughlin, Catherine Weil, John Lee, Nancy Brooks, Christine Montgomery, Karen Rydant, Julie Fenrich, Pamela Prentiss, Susan Wiles, Ann King, Priscilla Whitford, Joe Kowalski, Helen Ann Kelly, Denice Kowalski, Cathy Carter, Patty Harris, Kim Milliken, Luba Lischynsky, Kristen Warner, Diana Warhall, Chris Young, Ruth VanHouten, Kelli Rooney, Josh Goldberg, Mary White

- 1. Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.
- 2. Celebrations:** Ruth VanHouten expressed her admiration for the cooperation between the school, fire, road and police crews during the 11 days of power outage. Mrs. D'Eon commended her staff during this time, feels they provided normalcy for the kids while their families were under duress. Commended Bart from the highway department, appreciated his efforts in removing snow for the school, feels that the highway department treats the school very well. Ms. Cordell commented on the success of the Yearbook Marathon Fundraiser and said all had a good time. Thanks to Mrs. Warner for making this event such a success!
- 3. Public Input:** Helen DiRusso asked if the reading program was possibly to be cut during budget time. Concerned with our NWEA reading scores and feels that a reading program would be helpful at this time. It was her

feeling that people move to Chesterfield because of what we provide here. Questioned what programs or models do other schools provide?

Mrs. Idelkope responded that the budget cuts to the reading program only affect grade 3. The original proposal was K–3, scaled back to K–2. Did not cut the entire program.

Ann King questioned whether students who we tuition to out of district can be serviced here in Chesterfield?

Mrs. Idelkope asked Mr. Woolridge and Mrs. D'Eon to comment on the special education issues asked above.

Mrs. D'Eon stated that the majority of serious special education issues were at the high school level. Those caseloads are always reviewed. There is also a large special education population at the preschool level. Mrs. King questioned whether we had room here at Chesterfield for a collaborative? Mrs. Idelkope stated that the needs are too widespread and could not be met in one collaborative.

Mr. Woolridge stated that Chesterfield adopted the Keene model. 18% of the population of Chesterfield is special education, which is comparable to Keene. Keene is looking at the same issues in regards to tutor cuts, they plan to cut 23 tutors overall. Mrs. Weil questioned what would happen if we make cuts to paras and more special education issues arise next year, how would we address that? Mr. Woolridge said that the school must meet the mandate of the IEP. We will attempt to make due with staff we have.

Discussion ensued on special education issues.

Ruth VanHouten requested the board hold a special meeting on special education issues alone to provide a forum for people to ask questions.

Discussion ensued on use of Capital Reserve Funds and special education and the use of funds for this year.

Mrs. Eddy made a presentation on the views of the middle school staff and their stand on potential cutting of paras from the budget.

- feels that they have let go of all non-essentials
- people are important

- this would be a radical departure from our current model
- paras meet the needs of all students, not just special education
- having a hard time conceiving of a new working structure
- Aides provide continuity, support in classroom, differentiate instruction, deliver curriculum, etc.
- provide limits on behavior
- points out the success of Chesterfield students at KHS
- would like to see a fully funded bare bones budget with current model of paras left in classroom
- stressed the importance of Mrs. Warner and technology integration
- feels that they are committed to an inclusionary model, what will happen without the aides?

Acknowledged that the economy is difficult, but can we ask our kids to foot the bill?

Mrs. Idelkope pointed out that there has been no change in the budget that affects Mrs. Warner's position.

Mrs. Warhall reiterated what Mrs. Eddy had to present. Felt that her children come home and what they talk about most are the aides and their support in the classroom. Feels it is money well spent.

Mrs. Idelkope pointed out that the current presented budget reduced aides from 1 to $\frac{3}{4}$ per classroom. Positions have not been cut.

Mrs. McKeon asked why not cut 4.5 aides full positions instead of the 9 to part time?

Mr. Kowalski felt that these positions are very essential.

4. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 8, 2008, Regular Meeting, Page 6, section 7c. *“did not agree to mow it”* should be changed to *“who will mow is still up for clarification.”* Page 8, Section 11, 2nd paragraph, *“an additional”* should be omitted. *“who supervises the kitchen personnel”* should be added to the end of the sentence. **Becky Auger made a motion to accept minutes of December 8, 2008, Regular Meeting, as amended. Mr. Blair second the motion, vote taken, 5–0, motion passed.**

December 8, 2008, Non-Public Student, accept as written. December 8, 2008, Staff Personnel, pointed out that someone will call Ms. Belyea to advise her of the board decision, change to “request from staff member *on leave*” **Ege Cordell made a motion to accept December 8th non-public student as written and December 8th staff with two changes, Deb Clemente second the motion, vote taken, 5–0 motion passed.**

December 15, 2008 Special Budget Session, minutes accepted as written.

December 16, 2008, Special Budget Session, *page 1, 3rd paragraph add “in regards to the 2009–2010 budget”, page 2, section 1100, question mark should be replaced with New Equipment/Musical Instruments.* **Becky Auger made a motion to accept minutes from December 16th, 2008 as amended, Deb Clemente second the motion, vote taken, 5–0, motion passed.**

6a. Financial Report: Mr. Ruehr presented the current status of the General Fund for the 2008–2009 school year. Currently showing -\$118,204. There is a shortfall from the state in regards to catastrophic aide.

6b. Food Service Report: Handed out a budget overview of Food Service Fund. Currently showing 51% participation in school lunch program. Administration looking at the possibility of outsourcing. This is still on going. Two vendors have declined, still waiting on one response. Current budget - \$14,338.

5. Bills and Manifests: **Ege Cordell made a motion from Finance Committee to accept checks # 1004428 – 1004508 in the amount of \$338,138.39. Vote taken, 5–0, motion passed.**

6. 2009 – 2010 Budget Overview: Mr. Ruehr presented an overview of the unapproved 2009–2010 Budget. This budget shows an increase of \$315,924 or up 3.9%. This includes a cut of nine paraprofessional positions cut down to four hours per day.

Deb Clemente made a motion to approve the teacher contract as attached.

Mrs. Idelkope reviewed the changes made to health contributions. There is an increase in the board’s contribution to dental. There is an increase in the

penalty for failure to notify of leave. There is an increase in the team leader stipend. An increase in staff development has been moved up to \$12,000. There is a change reflected in bereavement time, and a retirement stipend increase. **Mrs. Cordell second the motion, vote taken, 5–0, motion passed.**

Mr. Ruehr 8 presented potential Articles for the State of New Hampshire School Warrant. Also pointed out the support staff contract will be needed in time to post, which would be February 20, 2009.

Mrs. Idelkope wanted final consideration of the 2009–2010 School Budget.

Becky Auger made a motion to put forth the budget as presented at \$8,421,482.00. Ege Cordell second the motion.

Mrs. Clemente would like to take time to discuss cuts in the special instruction. Proposes looking at cutting five paraprofessionals to ½ time as opposed to nine.

Lengthy discussion ensued on paras and cuts proposed.

Mrs. Clemente made a motion to add \$88,164 to special instruction to restore four part-time staff to full time. Ege Cordell second the motion,

Discussion ensued.

Vote taken, 3–1, motion defeated, with Ms. Cordell abstaining from the vote.

Becky Auger made a motion to restore \$168,038 back into the original budget. No second on the motion.

Judy Idelkope made a motion to amend cut to 4 full time aides and making one part-time. Greg Blair second the motion.

Discussion ensued on nine full-time to part-time or cutting four full-time and making one part-time. Wanted to give administration flexibility and discretion to work with the new numbers.

Vote taken, 3–2, motion passed.

Mrs. Idelkope takes forward Mrs. Auger's motion on the table for the 2009-2010 budget for \$ 8,421,482. (Mr. Ruehr will recalculate new figure and put that figure in regards to the aides' change and the teacher contract). Vote taken, 3–2, motion passed.

Warrants put forth to board seeking “yes” or “no” vote.

Warrant 1; yes, Warrant 2; yes, Warrant 3; yes, Warrant 4; yes, Warrant 5; yes, Warrant 6; yes, Warrant 7; discussion ensued, \$75,000 appropriated to the general fund deficit.

Mrs. Idelkope would like to add an article that enables the board to put up to \$30,000 into the Capital Reserve Fund.

7. Reports

a. Principal: Mrs. D'Eon stated that we currently have an enrollment of 370 students.

- Primary Bathroom is now completed.
- Leak in the gym storage area, coil in cooling system welded and fixed.
- January 23rd workshop at Antioch. Critical Friends model.
- NWEA window now open.
- Chesterfield School 8th grade selected again to participate in NAEP.
- January 21st, Title One Parent Meeting.
- January 28th, All School Assembly
- January 29th, Early Childhood Meeting, 3:15 p.m.
- Food Service; have met with lunch staff. Numbers need to come up. Have been consulting with Keene Food Service. Snack Pak instituted. Maureen Wells has instituted a new menu change.

In regards to an effort to go more green

- Use of more volunteers to do repairs
- timers on air exchange in gym
- timer on hot water heater
- new solar faucet in boy's primary bath
- new efficient water usage toilet installed in primary bath
- windows now all replaced
- would like to put in programmable thermostats in classrooms
- looking into cutting a bus run
- volunteer put new light bulbs in main entrance

- recycling program
- new summer programs and will be charging students, self funded.

b. Co-Superintendent: Mr. Woolridge reported that three students have missed five or more days. One moved to the Seacoast.

Reported on a meeting with area senators and representatives from the state. Handed out minutes from the meeting between SAU Administrators and the NH Area Senators and Representatives.

AYP due by the end of next week.

7c. School Board Member Reports:

Becky Auger: January 22nd, Communications Committee, would like to invite Mrs. Idelkope, 5:00 p.m.

Deb Clemente reported that teacher negotiations are completed.

Ms. Cordell shared that this Saturday is the NHSBADA.

Mrs. Idelkope reported that on January 27th the Advisory Committee will be discussing proportion to Mr. Woolridge and Mr. Gurney's compensation. Will be asking Keene to pick up some of Mr. Woolridge and for Keene to pay all of Mr. Gurney's.

8. Public Input II: Mrs. VanHouten would like for someone to check on seniors and their fixed income, some help for that. Questioned whether free and reduced lunch costs the district money?

Mrs. McKeon asked when is the Early Childhood Meeting? She offered her daughter to speak to the on-line school she is attending.

Catherine Weil thanked everyone for the budget work. Questioned whether the 6-day cycle is working?

Mrs. D'Eon explained the whole 6-day cycle philosophy.

9. Old Business: Mrs. Idelkope shared that during break Mr. Ruehr had an idea to add a warrant article that would cover the remainder of the costs for

the aides that are cut in the presented 2009–2010 budget. The Board gave Mr. Ruehr 5 thumbs up for his recommendation.

10. New Business:

a. 2009–2010 School Year Calendar: Administration of SAU 29 requested two early release days along with the two early release days for Chesterfield School. Staff would like to November 25th to be a day off and add a day in June. Mr. Woolridge wanted the Board to review the calendar and vote in February so we can line all calendars up.

11. Future Agenda:

February

- District Meeting Preparation
- Policy Update
- Professional Development Master Plan
- 2009–2010 School Year Calendar

Mrs. Idelkope will work on budget and board evaluation to send home to parents.

12. Public Input: None

13. Non-Public Session

Ms. Clemente made a motion for the Board to move into non-public session under the provisions of R.S.A. 91-A:3 for the purpose of discussing student/staff personnel at 9:05 p.m. Ms. Auger second the motion, all in favor. Accompanying the Board were Ms. D'Eon, Mr. Speno and Mr. Woolridge

Mr. Blair made a motion for the Board to return to open session at 9:30 p.m. Ms. Clemente second the motion, all in favor vote 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Selvidio

Recording Secretary