

**DORSET BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.
THE DORSET SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Approved as
Motion By: Allen
Second By: Salsgiver

10/27/07

DORSET BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Robert Allen: 768-8065; Liz Berard: 362-2949; Stephanie Breed, Clerk: 867-2531; David Chandler, Chairperson: 867-5533; James Salsgiver: 867-4115; James Merryman, Principal: 362-2602; BRSU Superintendent Daniel French: 362-2452

Regular scheduled meetings held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noticed.

PRESENT: Board Members: Robert Allen, Liz Berard, Stephanie Breed, David Chandler, and James Salsgiver; Principal Jim Merryman, BRSU Supt. Dan French

ABSENT: None

AUDIENCE: Jennifer Allen-Andres, Renee Bornstein, Beth Eyre and Tracey Mathyas

Clerk Stephanie Breed called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the library at The Dorset School. Chair David Chandler joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m. and continued with the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- **MEETING MINUTES:**
Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2009 were approved as corrected – Moved by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Salsgiver, and so moved unanimously. Superintendent French clarified a section of the 8/25/09 meeting minutes pertaining to legislative issues and tuition costs. Mr. Chandler stated he felt these issues should be placed on the meeting agenda for a future board meeting since these costs would definitely be part of the budgets for all school districts within Vermont.

● **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:**

Mr. French reported on the following:

A. TUITION REQUESTS: 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR:

A Motion was made to approve the secondary tuition requests for the following Dorset students. The Motion made by Mrs. Berard, and seconded by Mr. Salsgiver and so moved unanimously:

BURR & BURTON ACADEMY:

| NAME OF STUDENT | GRADE | PREVIOUS SCHOOL |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| BERGER, A. | 9 | The Dorset School |
| BILLER, V. | 9 | Maple Street |
| BUTLER, T. | 9 | The Dorset School |
| CHANDLER, J. | 12 | BBA |
| CHANDLER, M. | 9 | The Dorset School |
| CHARNOW, L. | 12 | BBA |
| COLE, B. | 9 | The Dorset School |
| CORVINO, C. | 9 | The Dorset School |
| DONOVAN, D. | 9 | The Dorset School |

During the tuition approvals, Chair David Chandler inquired about legality of any Dorset taxpayer, who still owns property in Dorset, applying for tuition approval even though the family has moved to another town where they permanently reside. Mr. French explained that each tuition payment request is traditionally approved upon confirmation of residency in Dorset, but exceptions do occur whenever there is a question about joint custody, and other issues. If any board member questions residency, they can discuss this with him after meeting or call him to look into the issue.

- B. As part of the board member's continuing education about the Supervisory Union's "ENDS Policy Development, Mr. French gave a presentation on "Technology and The Future of Education." This included several websites he accessed that reinforces the thought "collision of what it was and what it will be in the future" and the significant ^{challenges} changes entailed in these changes, some of which have already occurred. Mr. Chandler remarked that during the joint study merger conducted by members of Dorset and Manchester board members and community members, it was agreed that planning building a new school building to meet the needs of the 21st century would be quite challenging. Mr. French noted that the "ENDS Policy" was rooted in what the school districts wanted for their students to learn and not test scores, or the values each community wants their students to achieve.
- C. **DORSET SCHOOL DISTRICT FY '09 YEAR END FINANCIAL:**
Superintendent French reported that current figures project a possible small Surplus, however, final figures will not be available until the audit is completed sometime in the next few weeks.
- D. **H1N1 FLU:**
The BRSU will offer their facilities for immunization centers The Dorset School will be utilized to administer the vaccine to the school staff. The VT Dept. of Health will also offer immunization clinics for the H1N1 immunization shots and more information will be forthcoming by the end of October.

BUILDING
● **REPORT OF BUILDING PRINCIPAL:**

- A. Mr. Merryman earlier reported that he had just become a first-time grandfather on 9/21/09 when his grandson, Jude Daniel Merryman was born weighing 10 lbs. The board offered their congratulations to Mr. Merryman.
- B. Good progress being made with the school's efforts towards energy conservation. Improvements have been made and others coming along, i.e. reduction of use by refrigerators by 2/3, new weather stripping installed around outside doors, etc.
- C. Preparations for the school's "Open House" on Wednesday, 9/23/09. The ~~S~~chedule for the Open House is in the DNN.
- D. Observations and evaluations for the staff are currently being scheduled.
- E. The bus pickup schedule for Sunderland tuition students is going well and the majority of these tuition students are involved in after-school activities.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
There was none at this time.

recommendations, and he was pleased that through this cooperation by the board and school, the end results will help with possible reduction within the school budget.

B. TEACHER RETIREMENT RECOGNITION:


Mr. Salsgiver stated that he and Dorset Teachers Assn. Representative Cindy Tosone had created a questionnaire, which was sent to all staff members requesting their input as to suggestions of ways to recognize those staff members who would be retiring. Eleven questionnaires had so far been returned and Mr. Salsgiver planned to e-mail those responses to the other board members. It was also commented that the board was proud of the joint effort of having the Teachers Association and board work together on this project.

C. Mr. Salsgiver also gave a concise report on the 9/21/09 BRSU Board meeting. As part of this BRSU Board meeting, he alerted the Dorset board members to think about some ideas for goals for the BRSU superintendent and asked the members to send them directly to him. He will then take these suggestions to the next joint BRSU board meeting for further discussion. Mr. Chandler commented that historically, the BRSU Board, as a group, had not been particularly good at the evaluation of the superintendent. He additionally commented that he felt this was the first step in the process of putting an evaluation process together for the superintendent, and the next process will be to develop a similar process for each BRSU principal's evaluation.

D. Mr. Allen reminded the board members that prior to the last teacher's contract negotiations, conversation took place by the board members about merit pay for the teachers. At that time, Superintendent French requested to be part of any further discussions on this issue, and Mr. Allen stated he brought this up this evening so the board members could begin thinking about this issue.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chairperson David Chandler adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty Morsch
10/09