

DORSET BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY MARCH 23, 2010  
DORSET SCHOOL LIBRARY

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PRESENT: Board Members: Bob Allen (via SKYPE), Jen Allen, David Chandler, Vickie Haskins, Jim Salsgiver, Principal Jim Merryman, BRSU Supt. Dan French

AUDIENCE: Renee Bornstein, Beth Eyre, Mimi and Paul Fersen, Amy Panetta

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Supt. Dan French for the organizational portion of the meeting. A Motion was made by Jim Salsgiver to nominate David Chandler for the position of Chair. Bob Allen seconded the Motion. Motion passed 4-0.

David Chandler then conducted the rest of the meeting. Clerk: Jim motioned to nominate Jen Allen, seconded by Vickie Haskins, Motion passed 4-0. BRSU reps.: Jen Allen motioned to nominate Jim Salsgiver, David Chandler and Vickie Haskins, seconded by Bob Allen. Motion passed 4-0. Authorization for the Chair to sign contracts: Motion made Jim, seconded by Vickie to allow Chair to sign contracts. Motion passed 4-0. Truant Officer: Jen motioned to nominate Theron Trombley for said position, seconded by Jim, Motion passed 4-0. Newspaper: Jim made a motion to keep the Bennington Banner as the paper of choice, seconded by Jen, Motion passed 4-0. Meeting dates: Jim motioned to accept the denoted meeting dates, seconded by Vickie, Motion passed . Bob Allen commented that he will continue to participate via SKYPE. Meeting dates are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 6pm, The Dorset School Library. Exceptions include: no July meeting; 12/21- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; 1/11-2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday; 2/28- 7pm..

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes of 2/9/2010 were approved as corrected. Moved by Vickie, seconded by Jim and so moved. 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Dan French discussed the fuel bid process and the need to collectively bid on volume. Jen made the Motion to authorize French to accept the fuel bid in the best interest of the District. Jim seconded, Motion passed 4-0. Jim noted the new furnace was doing very well and he commented on other options for savings. Bob discussed his meetings with BBA and the need to work collectively in this area.

The following tuition requests were submitted. Cooper Fersen to attend Berkshire School: previous school BBA. French explained the school choice option for secondary students. Jen made the Motion to accept the recommendation for the Fersen request, seconded by Jim, Motion passed 4-0. French then discussed his process of reviewing schools that are approved for tuition reimbursement. There are a number of schools on the list that haven't been reviewed since the '70's.

New board members were briefed on the information sheet and upcoming new member orientation meetings. Also noted was the BRSU in-service day. Jen commented that she was very impressed by the event and was excited to see what the teachers were doing with technology in their classrooms. Dan continued discussion on goings-on at the State level and

the work being done w/ Unified Union School Districts. Jim spoke of the incentives of such programs. David noted that in all the legislative talk, there was no mention of student performance.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Mr. Merryman commented on summer school, the May 5<sup>th</sup> kindergarten screening, his final 3-4 teacher observations, and the school-wide meeting on Friday. He reiterated the excitement during BRSU in-service sessions and that the children are getting a terrific knowledge in technology.

**EMPLOYMENT:** French reviewed the employment contracts and explained that notices of employment were due April 15. In accordance with the adopted budget, the following positions were eliminated: Middle School Science Teacher 1.0 FTE; Elementary Teacher 1.0 FTE; Nurse .08 FTE; and Guidance 1.0 FTE. In addition the following teachers will not be offered contracts for the 2010-2011 school year: Ellen Goepel, Mike Iglinski, and Betty Young. It was noted the positions were being eliminated and not the individuals. Jen commented that she was sorry to see such highly respected teachers leave. She thanked them for their service. A Motion was made by Bob to accept the recommendations for reduction in force (RIF), seconded by Jim, Motion passed 4-0.

French then explained his recommendations for offered contracts for 2010-2011. Jim made the Motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Bob. Discussion followed. Mr. Merryman provided information on how the middle school would work with just 3 sections of classes (1 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 2 8<sup>th</sup> grades). Beth Eyre asked if the 5/6 looping would continue, Mr. Merryman stated that he was quite certain it would continue unless a better alternative was discovered. Discussion continued as to how the middle school would work and the possibility of additional 7<sup>th</sup> graders. After discussion, the Motion passed 4-0.

**DIRECTORS ORDERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Mr. Cepela prepared the Warrant for the board's approval and the report for revenue received. See attachments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mimi and Paul Fersen questioned the policy recently adopted (4/09) on secondary school tuition reimbursement. The policy states that secondary tuition will be provided up to 4 years. Their son will be attended a private school next year and will be required to repeat the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Discussion ensued as to the intent of the policy and the considerations that were required for a previous waiver. It was noted that documentation should be compiled and that a waiver could not be approved at this time. They may apply for a waiver consideration when their child is approaching his senior year. An alternative would be to change the policy at the District level, yet French noted the policy saves the District.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Jim commented on the BRSU Policy and Procedures Committee. Discussion continued concerning the BBA tuition decrease and the complexity of the tax rate and property values. French noted that the legislative language was complex due to the complex nature of the situation.

Chair David Chandler adjourned the meeting at 7:57.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Stephanie S. Breed*  
Stephanie Breed (sitting in for Betty)

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT  
BOARD MEETING - March 23, 2010

REVENUE RECEIVED: ( February 9 – March 22, 2010)

FEBRUARY:

HOT LUNCH REVENUE	\$	554
BREAKFAST REVENUE		132
TUITION – DANBY		3,667
TUITION – PAWLET		7,253
8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE FUNDRAISERS		34
MILK		214
HULBERT – PARENTS		450
FOREST REVENUE		5,089
AFTER SCHOOL DONATIONS		110
ARRA GRANT		33,173
8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE FUNDRAISER RECEIPTS		728
TUITION-PARENT-PAWLET		949
4 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE RECEIPTS		<u>115</u>
TOTAL	\$	52,468

MARCH

EDUCATION SPENDING – ADVANCE	600,000
LUNCH-FED REIMB	1,517
BREAKFAST-FED REIMB	135
COBRA REIMB	452
HULBERT – PARENTS	414
HOT LUNCH REVENUE	4,465
BREAKFAST REVENUE	223
ADOPT A CLASSROOM DONATION	250
GIRLS ON THE RUN DONATION	57
8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE FUNDRAISER RECEIPTS	1,644
MILK	216
AFTER SCHOOL DONATION	50
TUITION- SUNDERLAND	33,671
FARM TO SCHOOL DONATIONS	<u>753</u>
TOTAL	\$ 643,847

**THE DORSET SCHOOL  
WARRANT SUMMARY  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING      03/23/10**

FUND ACCOUNT NUMBER	100	100-200	106	108	700	700	106	700	TOTAL
FUND NAME	GENERAL	HOT LUNCH	SUPP FUND	ADOPT A CLASS	700 8TH GRADE	700 4TH GRADE	FARM TO SCHOOL	HULBERT	WARRANT
PAYROLL AP WARRANT 2/22/10	16,934.78								16,934.78
PAYROLL WARRANT 2/19/10	52,691.53								52,691.53
AP WARRANT 2/17/10	5,094.57				1,466.00				6,560.57
PAYROLL AP WARRANT 2/17/10	5,398.40								5,398.40
AP WARRANT 2/26/10	22,761.07	4,119.94		83.56		195.33			27,159.90
AP WARRANT 2/27/10	0.00		324.00		100.00				424.00
AP WARRANT 3/10/10	642,871.94	628.18	148.80				622.07		644,270.99
PAYROLL AP WARRANT 3/08/10	15,350.81								15,350.81
PAYROLL WARRANT 3/05/10	46,019.30								46,019.30
PAYROLL WARRANT 3/19/10	49,048.92								49,048.92
PAYROLL AP WARRANT 3/22/10	19,689.17								19,689.17
AP WARRANT 3/10/10	83,449.38		81.53	527.30					84,058.21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>959,309.87</b>	<b>4,748.12</b>	<b>472.80</b>	<b>83.56</b>	<b>1,566.00</b>	<b>195.33</b>	<b>622.07</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>967,606.58</b>