

**Dorset Board of School Directors
Tuesday, September 27, 2011
The Dorset School, Dorset, Vermont**

In Attendance: Bob Allen, Jennifer Allen, David Chandler – Board Chair, Dan French – BRSU Superintendent, Vickie Haskins, Rosanna Moran – TDS Principal, Jim Salsgiver

Absent: None

Audience: Esther Gray, Jim Mirenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairperson David Chandler.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the August 23, 2011 Board meeting was made by Jim Salsgiver. Motion seconded by Vickie Haskins. There were two suggested corrections to the minutes. All were in favor of approving the minutes as amended, motion carried.

3. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

a) Discussion/Action – Tuition Requests – Mr. French presented the Board with a list of Secondary Tuition requests, which he recommend be approved.

A motion to approve the Secondary Tuition requests for 2011 - 2012 was made by Bob Allen. Motion seconded by Jen Allen. All were in favor, motion carried.

b) Discussion/Action – Life Insurance for Staff –

As a follow up to the Board's request to research life insurance benefits for teachers and staff at TDS, Superintendent French presented a breakdown of the life insurance currently provided by the BRSU district-wide by school. This was prompted by a staff member who is not currently covered under the plan asking to join and offering to pay the premium. Mr. French reported that for The Dorset School District to offer \$25,000 life insurance coverage to staff, which is what is currently offered to teachers, it would cost approximately \$1,377 per year. The Board discussed the issue and decided that since the cost is negligible and pricing of the coverage is relatively stable, it would behoove the District to offer the benefit.

A motion to offer life insurance benefits to staff, effective immediately was made by Bob Allen. Motion seconded by Jen Allen. All were in favor, motion carried.

c) Discussion/Action – Change in Benefit Category for Kevin Wade – The BRSU converted leave provisions for staff to be based on hours instead of days effective July 1, 2011. Under this new system, Kevin Wade would lose approximately 2 days of paid vacation as a Category B employee. His schedule had been reduced by 30 minutes per week so that he would not fall into Category A. Mr. French recommended increasing Mr. Wade's weekly schedule by 30 minutes which would qualify him for Category A benefits effective immediately, restoring his vacation leave, as well as providing him access to a greater health insurance benefit.

A motion to approve increasing Kevin Wade's work schedule by 30 minutes per week, making him a Category A employee, thus increasing his personnel benefits was made by Jim Salsgiver. Motion seconded by Vickie Haskins. All were in favor, motion carried.

d) Discussion – FY11 Year End Financials – Superintendent French reported that TDS ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$157,000, which is more than anticipated, mainly due to savings in special education programs, foodservice equipment and vehicle

operations. The surplus funds will be transferred to the Building and Grounds Reserve Fund, as indicated by a vote by taxpayers in March 2011, increasing the balance of that account to \$175,000. Mr. French will provide an itemized accounting for FY'11 when the next budgeting process begins.

e) Discussion – Update on Instructional Systems – The BRSU, along with a committee of 1-2 teachers per school SU-wide, is working on several new approaches to curriculum. Stephanie Sumner and Beth Marsh represent Dorset on the committee. The group is developing a cycle of creating, implementing and evaluating curriculum, as well as looking at big picture issues. They turn the information from the sessions over to principals to strategize about implementation.

BRSU schools are endeavoring to use the Lateral Innovation approach. Governor Shumlin is seeking a waiver for Vermont schools from the No Child Left Behind Act. In 2013, the Vermont schools will begin a new testing regime accompanied by new standards called Common Core. This will replace New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). Mr. French anticipates Boards will hold Districts accountable to the Common Core assessments using the now developing ENDS policies.

The BRSU is also looking at nationally recognized benchmarks in literacy and math called the Lexile Framework and Quantile Framework, respectively. For reading, Lexile measures reading text difficulty irrespective of grade level. The current assessment program for reading, Level Literacy, does not effectively measure reading levels after fourth grade. Level Literacy is used in grades K – 3 and requires teachers to have access to a large repository of materials to run the program. The reading program changes in fourth grade from 'learn to read' to 'read to learn'. For math, the SU is interested in the Quantile Scale, however it would be more difficult to implement.

Mr. Salsgiver asked if there are other programs that share similar broad acceptance. Mr. French replied that the RIT curriculum scale offered by Northwest Evaluation Association is also widely accepted and being looked at.

Mr. French reported that there is a committee analyzing the possibility of Floodbrook Union School merging with the BRSU. The State of Vermont has a target date of 7/1/13 to achieve a RED and assign Floodbrook to the BRSU. There will be a vote in January 2012 by the state board and the districts will vote in March 2012.

The Winhall District, which does not operate a school, rather offers K-12 choice, is also interested in joining the BRSU, and Mr. French has been working with the Winhall Board on specifics. Ms. Allen asked how the BRSU's budget would be affected by students attending private school in choice districts. Mr. French replied that the given town's tuition funds are in the town budget, so that won't affect the other schools in the SU, however, one area that might be affected would be residency investigations.

f) Discussion – Ends Public Engagement Event Script – Superintendent French provided the Board with an Ends Public Engagement Event Script as a guide for the public event coming up in October. The Script specified participants, setting and process as well as a program outline. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011. The board will start publicizing as soon as possible so that participants will mark their calendars and make it a priority to attend. The event will be in a focus group format with some videos about the future of education shown to stimulate the brainstorming process. The public is invited and the Board will also do some directed invitations. Board members came up with a task list needed to make the evening a success and divided the tasks accordingly.

g) Discussion – Negotiations Update (Executive Session Requested - Postponed until the end of the meeting)

4. Report of the Principal

Ms. Moran shared a hard copy of her Principal's Report, as follows:

The Dorset School
Principal's Report
Rosanna Moran
September 2011

Enrollment as of September 20, 2011 – 164

Opening of school went very well. We cancelled our In Service and all activities for Monday, August 29th, but all teachers were present for the In Service on Tuesday, August 30th. (One had to be picked up and housed for a few days, but the staff really came together and helped!) We were grateful to the BRSU for postponing the SU wide meeting that had been scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, as it gave the teachers a bit of breathing room before the children came back. Our opening day meeting was well attended by many parents.

Our two new teachers, Kristin Morey in Grade 1 and Amanda Chalmers in Grade 5/6 seem to be fitting in well. Beth Marsh and Stephanie Sumner are serving as mentors for them.

We hired two paraprofessionals during the first week of school; one for a vacant special education position, and the other to replace Chelsie Leggett as media center assistant. (Chelsie was offered a full time teaching job.) The two new paraprofessionals are DeeDee Anglum - Special Education para – she holds a Masters degree in Social Work and has quite a bit of experience working in nutrition and volunteering in schools. The Media Assistant is Vickie Lehr. Vickie is a retired teacher and was the long term substitute for Ellen Saltonstall last year. We just received the news that a 1:1 paraprofessional in the Kindergarten will be resigning at the end of the month, so we will be hiring for that position as well.

The Dorset Recreational Facilities Committee continues to meet to determine the budget for the entire project as well as what will comprise the first phase of the playground renovation.

The DPV is sponsoring a Meet the Principal Breakfast on Thursday, September 22nd. Originally it was to be an event for new families, but it was decided that having new families network with families who have been here would be more beneficial. Additionally, it gives a time for parents to come and meet me on an informal basis.

We have made a few changes here at the school; I have been working to make the duty schedule more equitable for all teachers, we have rearranged the lunch and recess schedule and I have also been looking at classroom instructional time. In the DNN of 9/21 I informed parents that they would no longer be able to call into their child's classroom with information regarding transportation and play dates. If they call the school, they will be put into the teachers' voice mail.

Personnel – I have asked Brenda MacDonald and case managers to look at IEPs and Paraprofessionals. We have one fewer Special Ed paraprofessional this year compared to last year, and I want to ensure that all students are receiving the services that they need, and that are listed in their IEP.

Curriculum Night will be held on Monday, September 26th. We have created a 'rolling schedule' so that parents with multiple children will be able to visit all teachers and hear their presentations.

NECAP materials have arrived and we will be scheduling that between October 3rd and October 26th.

I am really enjoying working with the students, parents and teachers!

Ms. Moran elaborated on the enrollment saying that the range per class is 13 students in 6th grade up to 22 students in each 3rd and 7th grades.

Ms. Moran also reported that the Recreational Facilities Committee is looking at a playground company called Peaceful Playgrounds that focuses on play for multiple users, fosters collaboration, social skills and accessibility. They provide templates for games such as four square that can be painted on the play surface, and this is something that can be quickly implemented. The committee feels that this would enhance and compliment the new equipment. The group is currently working to define what will be involved with phase 1 of the project, as well as the budget for the first phase. Mr. Salsgiver added that the Dorset Field Club has donated nets for the school's field and the Town of Dorset has offered to help with repaving and relocating the basketball court. The Town of Dorset already removed 2 pieces of troublesome equipment. Our Town Manager, Rob Gaiotti is very supportive of the school and is willing to help in whatever way he can.

5. Employment: Appointments/Resignations

a) Discussion – Hiring Update – Amy Gates, paraprofessional, resigned. DeeDee Anglum has been hired as a paraprofessional. Vickie Lehr has been hired to fill the Media Assistant position.

6. Directors' Orders and Financial Statements

Reviewed and signed by Board members and returned to Superintendent French.

7. Public Comment

Jim Mirenda thanked Ms. Moran for the well run curriculum night, the phone reminder ahead of time and the childcare that was provided during the event.

8. Other Business

None

Executive Session

At 7:36PM, a motion to call the meeting into Executive Session was made by Jim Salsgiver. Motion seconded by Jen Allen. All were in favor, motion carried.

The following item was discussed:

3. g) Negotiations Update

Chairperson David Chandler reconvened the Board in open session at 7:50PM.

No action was taken.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson David Chandler adjourned the meeting at 7:51PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Renee Bornstein

TO: DORSET SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: Daniel M. French
SUBJECT: 2011-2012 Secondary Tuition

Meeting Date: 10/25/11

Below is a list of tuition requests received. I recommend you approve these requests.

Last Name	First Name	Grade	School	Prnt/Guardian/Other		Physical Address
Hart	Dana	12	Burr & Burton Academy	Hart	Dana	5832 VT Route 7
Hart	Evan	10	Burr & Burton Academy	Hart	Dana	5832 VT Route 7
Hawley	James	9	Burr & Burton Academy	Herrmann	Susan	746 Squires Rd.
Hazelton	Desiree	9	Burr & Burton Academy	Hazelton	Shawn	433 Paul's Way
Kolos	Chloe	9	Burr & Burton Academy	Berardi	Cassandra	1263B VT Route 30
McGowan	William	12	Burr & Burton Academy	Heaton	Tricia	2677 VT Route 30
Zarvis	Margaret	10	Burr & Burton Academy	Schoen	Nancy	385 Village St.

The Dorset School
Principal's Report
Rosanna Moran
October 2011

Enrollment as of October 18, 2011—165

- NECAP testing took place the week of October 3rd and October 10th. We will complete make ups the week of October 17th.
- The student council is planning a dance for November 4th
- The DPV is in the process of organizing a Movie Night for October 28th. They will serve cider and donuts outside with a bonfire and come inside to watch the movie.
- A Ski Sale was held October 16th. Proceeds will benefit the eighth grade class trip.
- The Annual Book Fair was held in the library from October 13-19.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be on October 19th and 20th
- Professional Development Day October 21st
 - o Ends Policy Discussion
 - o Haiku Learning Management

I have begun the process of Ends Policy discussion with the staff. Our initial meeting was used to gather information regarding what we value in school. I have provided them with a link to the video *Did You Know? Shift Happens 2010*, which we will discuss on October 21st. I also have a meeting with Dan French and Jackie Wilson on October 19th to discuss next steps in the process.

On Tuesday, October 18, the Manchester Rescue Squad was called regarding a student who had fallen off the monkey bars. After 30 minutes or so the student ended up standing and walking on his own. His mother took him to the doctor.

The Dorset Teacher Association is planning an Electronic Recycling on Saturday, October 29th. I did speak with the people who manned the Hazardous Waste Recycling Day on the 1st; they did not have that much electronic recycling.

We have adapted the way in which lunch and milk money is collected. I am hoping that this change will make things easier for parents and will streamline operations for Sue and Kelly in the main office. It is no longer necessary for parents to pre-order meals for their children. Instead, each family will have an account and money will be deducted from that account as students partake of lunch or snack beverages.

I have begun some preliminary conversations with both David Chandler and Dan French regarding technology at TDS. At this point we need to look at the existing technology and determine what needs to be upgraded in terms of individual equipment, existing software and the server itself. In addition to determining our needs for 1:1 access for students, we need to ensure 1:1 access for teachers.

The Farm to School committee is submitting a grant for approximately \$14,000.00 in order to continue to improve the quality of ingredients used in the school lunch program, to utilize local products when possible and to complement the Recreational Facilities Project with an edible landscape. The Recreational Facilities Committee is still waiting to hear about the status of our grant for \$12,000.00.