

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Region #9 Vocational-Technical Education Center
Monday, September 28, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The school board meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM by Chair James Rines.
Members Present: Ernest Brown, Diane Drelick, Wendi Fenderson, Dr. James B. Manning, Donald Meader, Charlene Seibel, Stacy Trites, John Widmer

Also present at this time were Superintendent Robertson, Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert and Business Administrator Mary Patry.

II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: To go into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91 A:3 Subparagraph IIB and IIE at 6:42 PM to discuss A. Student Matter, Personnel & Legal Matters.

Moved by: Donald Meader Seconded by: Dr. Manning

Vote: All voted in favor, including the Chair.

Mr. Robertson updated the Board on personnel matters. No actions were taken.

III. END OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: To come out of non-public session at 7:07 PM.

Moved by: Mr. Meader Seconded by: Mr. Brown

Vote: All voted in favor, including the Chair.

The regular portion of the meeting began at 7:08 PM. Also in attendance at the regular meeting was Tim Campbell, Student Representative, Ben Donahue, who videotaped the meeting, Heather Terragni from the Granite State News and interested citizens.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

V. AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of September 14, 2009 as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Seibel Seconded by: Dr. Manning

Vote: Six voted in favor, including the Chair. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Drelick & Mr. Widmer abstained.

VII. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Tim Campbell provided an informative report for the Board. A copy of Tim's report is attached.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Request for Memorial/Dedication

Mr. Robertson introduced Mr. Edward Roundy, who submitted a request to the Kingswood Alumni Association for a plaque to be placed on the Memorial Rock at the Kingswood Fields to honor Howard E. Bean Sr. Mr. Bean was a sports enthusiast and ardent support of the athletic endeavors as well as a school board member. Mr. Roundy requested his name be placed on the rock along with Robert Hale, Barry Tibbets and Lester Bean, which was expected to cost approximately \$200.

The plan is to announce it and ask for donations at the Kennett/KRHS football game on Friday, October 30th at 7:00 PM. A notice will be placed in the local newspaper asking for donations.

Motion: To amend the agenda to make Item A. Request for Memorial/Dedication an action item.

Moved by: Mr. Meader

Seconded by: Mr. Brown

Vote: All voted in favor, including the Chair.

Motion: To approve Mr. Roundy's request to place a plaque honoring Howard E. Bean Sr. on the memorial rock at Kingswood Fields.

Moved by: Mr. Widmer

Seconded by: Mr. Brown

Vote: All voted in favor, including the Chair.

Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Roundy. Mr. Meader asked Mr. Roundy to contact him for a check as he would like to donate the plaque. Mr. Roundy thanked Mr. Meader for his generous offer. The Board thanked Mr. Roundy for donating his time for a worthy cause.

B. CHPS Program

Mr. Robertson reviewed with the Board the requirements necessary to attain high performance status through the use of renewable energy such as, the collection of rain water to recycle for various uses, and energy efficient lightening and switches. If the building project meets the long list of standards it will qualify for an additional 3% in building aid which translates in to an additional \$1,500,000 that would come to the District. Mr. Robertson also noted the requirements are varied in that it includes non-idling buses as well as how contractors handle waste to using energy star rated products. He informed the Board some policy changes would be coming their way in the near future in an effort to meet these rigorous standards. The process to be certified as a CHPS building also involves a commissioning agent to look at and certify the qualifications for these additional savings.

C. Revision to Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Robertson reviewed the approved meeting schedule and noted the next scheduled meeting would be Monday, October 5th at Ossipee Central School. He suggested changing the date to October 19th as there would not be much to report in a week's time.

Motion: To approve changing the next Board meeting date of October 5th to October 19th at Ossipee Central School.

Moved by: Mr. Widmer

Seconded by: Mr. Brown

Vote: All voted in favor including the Chair.

D. NHSBA Resolutions

XII. CLOSING ACTIVITIES**A. Advanced Planning**

Mr. Rines noted the events scheduled at the bottom of the agenda.

B. Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

C. Closing Comments

Tim Campbell reported the underclassmen were very excited about the upcoming renovation project and the new arts center. He remarked about the technology rooms that the students are enjoying where the Internet opens many resources that they can now use.

Mrs. Fenderson stated the teachers did a fabulous job with the demonstration and she was happy to see the teachers' enthusiasm. Ms. Seibel was happy to meet the new staff and thought Chef Brideau did a great job with the refreshments. Mr. Widmer said it was a great opportunity to meet the new and enthusiastic staff. Dr. Manning noted a southern school has converted over and gone totally digital in every classroom and might be willing to help us with the learning curve. Mr. Meader reminded the Board they were invited to attend the Pizza Bowl on Thursday, October 29th from 6:00-7:00 PM at the Pizza Barn. The two rival football teams from Kingswood and Kennett come together to eat a lot of pizza and talk. This will be the 9th year. Mr. Brown asked the Board members to sign their name on a McDonald's tray mat that was printed announcing all the winners of the "ED"ies for the year 2009. Dr. McCabe's name was one of them. The mat will be laminated and sent to her as a keepsake.

XIII. PUBLIC STATEMENT

Mr. Rines read a statement into the record regarding a recent situation at the high school regarding a teacher's writing assignment to an inappropriate prompt. (A copy is attached).

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Moved by: Mr. Widmer

Seconded by: Mr. Meader

Vote: All voted in favor, including the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne K. Fiorini
School Board Secretary

Student Representative Report – Tim Campbell

- Students are currently very excited because this week is Spirit Week. The themes for each day are: Pajama Day, Layers Day, Decades Day, Clash Day, and Class Color Day. Student Council organizes Spirit week each year with the support and input from the rest of the school.
- As part of Spirit Week each class will be decorating a particular hallway this Thursday night.
- We will be having our annual pep rally this coming Friday. Each class and some athletic teams will put on skits for the rest of the school.
- Members of the Drama Club are working very hard on their fall production called “The Wedding Singer”. Production dates are November 5, 6, and 7th.
- Students in the Agriculture Science program will be attending several fairs in the upcoming weeks. The Deerfield Fair begins on October 2nd and the Sandwich Fair will begin on October 10th.
- On September 16th students from the Culinary and Hospitality programs prepared appetizers for the Chamber of Commerce Meeting.
- Congratulations to Jess Champion for attending the National Leadership Conference in Health Science in Washington D.C. from September 19th through the 22nd. She is the acting HOSA State President.
- Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. will be coming to Kingswood on October 22nd. This event will benefit HOSA.
- This past weekend members of Key Club, National Honor Society, and Student Council helped read names at the Vietnam Moving Wall at the Nick.
- Our nursing is working very hard informing staff and students about H1N1 and preventative steps.
- This week is also called Homecoming Week and all athletic teams will have home games this week.

BOARD STATEMENT as read by Chairman James Rines

During the first week of school in August, a high school English teacher asked their 12th grade class to write a reaction response to an inappropriate writing prompt. A staff member who was assisting a student in the class with his homework brought the assignment to the attention of the Academic Coordinator. During nearly 10 years of employment in the District, there have been no other reports of this teacher using poor judgment in their lesson design. In fact, they have been credited with motivating some of the school's more reluctant writers. Nonetheless, the Academic Coordinator and the Principal immediately and directly confronted the teacher addressing their lapse of judgment in a manner that is consistent with the laws governing public employment.

While the intent of the teacher was to shock and motivate pupils to write, this type of prompt is unacceptable and will not happen again. While privacy laws in non-criminal matters prohibit the District from commenting to the specific actions taken with staff, a lapse of judgment is a serious matter and one can be assured that it has been addressed to the fullest extent allowed by law. Should anyone in the public learn that an inappropriate lesson has been taught in school, we encourage you to contact the school principal so that the matter can be investigated and addressed as swiftly as possible.

Several years ago we were put into a position of dealing with a swastika patch. The student involved had the luxury of speaking with the media while privacy laws prevented the District from doing the same. The District was widely criticized in this situation, but it adhered to the laws in dealing with it. Repeatedly, the public was told that the District was addressing the matter, but could not speak about it. In the end, not only the Federal District Court, but also the First Circuit Court of Appeals found in favor of the District for both the actions it took as well as the process it followed in taking such actions. Simply, the District followed the law in addressing a significant problem without costing taxpayers a lot of money by violating the perpetrator's rights. That is how we did business then and that is how we do business now.