

**Union #39 School Board
Reorganization Meeting
April 11, 2006
8:30 p.m.
Black River High School Library**

Present:

Board: Diana Chimbolo, Ralph Pace, Randy Bixby, Brent Karner, Allen Seiple

Staff: Frank Perotti, Edie Lou Cole, John Barth

Public: None

I. Call to Order:

Mr. Perotti called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

II.

A. Election of Chairman: Mr. Karner nominated Ms. Chimbolo to be chairwoman of the school board. Mr. Bixby seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and no discussion. Ms. Chimbolo was elected unanimously.

B. Election of Clerk: Mr. Pace nominated Mr. Karner to be the clerk of the school board. Mr. Bixby seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and no discussion. Mr. Karner was elected unanimously.

C. Meeting Date and Time: The board currently meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Mr. Karner noted that every other month the board meets in Mt. Holly but there is little to no public attendance. Mr. Karner noted that the Black River High School is the school building and the board should have meetings there. It was the consensus of the board to continue to meet every other month in Mt. Holly.

Mr. Pace **moved** to meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., odd months at the Mt. Holly Elementary School and even months at the Black River Middle and High School. Mr. Bixby seconded and motion carried unanimously.

D. Newspapers of Legal Record: Mr. Pace **moved** to appoint the Message as the newspaper of legal record; if the law should prohibit the board using the Message then the Rutland Herald will be the newspaper of legal record. Mr. Karner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Appointment of School Attorney: Mr. Perotti suggested appointing the best attorney that is available for the situation. It was the consensus of the board to use same attorneys that the Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union is using on an as needed basis.

F. Standing Committee Assignments:

Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union Board: Mr. Slivka, Mr. Pace, Ms. Chimbolo
Buildings & Grounds Committee: Mr. Bixby, Mr. Seiple and Mr. Slivka

Teacher Negotiations Committee: Ms. Chimbolo, Mr. Pace, and Mr. Seiple
Custodial Negotiations Committee: Mr. Bixby, Ms. Chimbolo
Para educator Negotiations Committee: Mr. Bixby, Ms. Chimbolo
Grievance Committee: Mr. Seiple, Mr. Slivka
Curriculum Committee: All Board members

Mr. Pace stated that there should be a standing budget committee. Mr. Perotti suggested looking at ways that small, independent and private schools fund their schools, i.e. endowments. Mr. Seiple suggested creating a long term financial plan based on a financial or business model. Ms. Chimbolo stated that there will be joint board meetings to discuss the long term vision of the boards that will drive a long term financial plan. Mr. Pace said that there is a need for long term financial planning as well as a need to show citizens what the board is working towards and what to expect. Ms. Chimbolo suggested that the idea for a budget committee be discussed at the upcoming joint board meeting in May. Ms. Chimbolo asked if the general public should be asked to participate on the budget committee. Mr. Pace added that faculty should also be asked to sit on the budget committee. Mr. Barth said that faculty has input on the budget by submitting individual budgets.

Handbook committee: Ms. Chimbolo stated that this committee is in charge of reviewing the co-curricular handbook. Ms. Chimbolo asked that Joe Gurdak, Mike Ripley, and Pat Pullinen be asked to participate. Mr. Barth will touch base with them about being on the committee.

Action Plan Committee: David Slivka

G. Regional Tech. Ed. Council Representative: Mr. Karner

H. Other Reorganization Business:

Ms. Chimbolo stated that she received a letter that the P.A. system will be eligible for the Vermont Department of Education construction aid reimbursement. Ms. Chimbolo read the letter dated April 4, 2006 about this.

Ms. Chimbolo received a letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) stating that Black River High School is officially on probation. Mr. Barth asked if the board wanted to remain a member of NEASC, and pay fees for no benefits, or become part of a group titled High Schools at Work. The Bellow Falls High School works with High Schools at Work. Mr. Barth stated that the association visits and evaluates every two years rather than every 10 years as NEASC does. High Schools at Work stresses reading and writing and holds students accountable. Mr. Barth will look into the costs of High School at Work and he will apply for a grant to cover the cost of membership. Mr. Seiple stated that he thought that colleges looked for NEASC accreditation. Mr. Barth stated that Black River High School is going to lose its accreditation anyway because the building does not comply with NEASC standards. Mr. Barth also stated that the State of Vermont has signed on with High Schools at Work.

Ms. Chimbolo stated that NEASC, the Nadler Report and the Buildings and Grounds Committee have reported about the poor quality of the building.

Ms. Chimbolo stated that Ms. Sue Pollender is being nominated for National History Teacher of the Year. She asked Mr. Barth or Mr. Perotti to send a letter stating that the board supports her nomination.

Ms. Chimbolo explained that co-curricular coaches are using Okemo vans to transport players and that raises transportation and liability issues. Mr. Perotti did some research and found that students cannot be transported on anything for a school event that is not a school bus unless the driver can prove proper liability insurance for their private vehicle and permission slips must be obtained from parents. Additionally, copies of driver's licenses must be on file. Ms. Chimbolo stated that 15 passenger vans like Okemo vans cannot be used and teachers must be educated about that. Ms. Chimbolo suggested there be a field trip procedure to accompany the field trip policy.

The board set a budget re-voting date of Tuesday, May 9th for the revised budget, with an informational meeting on May 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Black River High School Gymnasium.

Mr. Perotti will send out letters of intent to faculty stating that there may be a reduction in force. There was discussion that staffing is already minimal.

III. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 26, Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 27, Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, May 4, Budget Informational Meeting

IV. Adjournment:

Mr. Pace **moved** to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Karner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Balch
Board Recording Secretary