

Board of Education and Bacon Academy Portable Classroom Building Committee
January 8, 2008 – Regular Meeting
Colchester Elementary School Cafeteria
Halls Hill Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Hettrick, Elizabeth Ciccone, Mary Lynn Burke, John Mazzarella, Michael Egan, Timothy Lamp, Monica Swyden Bolles.

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Karen Loiselle, Curriculum Director Barbara Gilbert; Principals Jeffry Mathieu, Jacqueline Somberg, Candace Sullivan, Deborah Sandberg; Special Education Director Katherine Shaughnessy, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Hettrick called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS.

No comments were received.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA B Y THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

No additions requested.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ADDITIONS.

No comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Minutes of the December 11, 2007, Regular Meeting, and December 17, 2007 Special Meeting, were presented for Board approval.

Motion by: M. Egan

to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 Special Meeting as read, and the December 11, 2007 Regular Meeting with a correction to Page 2, Item 8.2.2 A. - correct spelling Keith *Delandes* and on Page 3, change Policy Committee to Policy *Subcommittee* and Page 5, Item 10.7, the sentence to read, "Bacon Academy requests approval to dispose of *library books* that are no longer in use in the curriculum, as proposed."

Second by: E. Ciccone.

Vote: Abstaining: M.S. Bolles (not a member at the time).

In favor: All others.

6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE.

E. Ciccone stated that the first draft of a field trip survey to receive input from parents before making a policy revision has been completed and will be available on the school and town websites as well as in hard copy.

7. CELEBRATIONS.

7.1 JJIS Megawhats Lego Robotics Team

The Megawhats Lego Robotics team competed with 50 other teams at the CT FIRST Lego League Championship Tournament at Central CT State University. They were awarded the second place Creative Presentation Award for their presentation about energy alternatives at WJMS.

Team advisors Rene Anderson and Sue Kimball and students representing the team presented a video of their award winning project. The team is comprised of the following students: Molly Anderson, Colleen Anderson, Alex Ematrudo, Danny Barrack, Alex Esteve, Alex Levine, Colin Hiscox, Mitchell Hallee.

7.2 JJIS Stock Market Game

Team Advisors Linda Stoddard, JJIS Math Specialist and Kim Fan, JJIS Math Lab Paraprofessional introduced student team members Matthew Schneider, Valeria Mokrenko and Brianna Holt. The team competed with 54 teams in The Hartford Courant Stock Market Game. Certificates from The Hartford Courant were awarded to students present this evening.

7.3 DAR Good Citizen Award

Bacon Academy Senior, Stephanie Davenport was named the 2007-2008 Regional Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award winner. Stephanie read her award -winning essay and will compete at the State level.

7.4 Bacon Academy Environmental Club

Bacon Academy science teacher, Jill Levasseur and Environmental Club students Lauren Midgette, Sabina Camboulives, Colleen McGill and Alyssa Eddy have conducted activities to reduce the energy used in Bacon Academy. Students introduced "A Bright Idea" Day and asked teachers to turn off lights on December 12, 2007. The students then calculated the savings for the one day and hope to encourage more days of energy savings. They suggested turning off computers and copiers at least one overnight per week.

First Selectman Hodge has said she will involve Town Hall on the next energy saving day.

7.5 Winter Athletic Teams Success at Bacon Academy

Principal Mathieu highlighted the initial successes of the winter athletic teams - second place in the State for the undefeated wrestling team, 7-1 boys' basketball, 8-1 for the girls' basketball, indoor track. Schedules for the JV and Freshmen teams are available on www.casciac.org. TV Channel 3 will be featuring Colchester on Friday Night Sports, January 11, 2008.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

8.1 Principal's Reports.

Principals submit written reports to the Board on the activities and programs in their respective buildings.

8.2 Superintendent's Report.

8.2.1 Cody Camp Foundation – Donation Proposal

Bob McGovern, the chairman of the Camp Cody Foundation, described the two Little League regulation baseball fields the Foundation would like to build on school property, to be donated to the Colchester Public Schools for use by the community. Architect Anwar Hossain has reviewed the field plans and determined that the proposed location of the donated fields will not impede future renovations and/or additions to the WJJMS facility as determined through the recently completed Facility Study. The need for additional fields has been identified in the recent WJJMS/BA Facility Study, the Physical Education Curriculum Program Evaluation and the Community's Athletic Task Force.

Mr. McGovern explained that there are local companies willing to donate materials to the project and there is the possibility of improving the existing soccer field.

The Foundation has presented Superintendent Loiselle with a list of requests related to the building of the fields:

That the fields be named, in perpetuity, The Cody Camp Memorial Field, a Memorial for all the Children of Colchester who have passed before their time.

The Foundation is allowed to erect a stone monument at the field entrance.

The Foundation agrees to participate in a building committee that will approve the field design as well as vendor selection. The Foundation will retain final say over the distribution of its resources.

The Foundation, in conjunction with the building committee, will negotiate with vendors who wish to donate their services, and/or material in the development of the fields.

During construction, a Foundation member will be allowed access to the field site to oversee field construction.

Motion by: M.L. Burke

that the Board of Education expresses its support for the proposal to create two Little League Regulation baseball fields on school property and hereby directs the Superintendent to work with the Cody Camp Foundation and the Town of Colchester

to seek to develop a detailed proposal acceptable to the Foundation and the Town of Colchester to recommend to the Board of Education for action.

Second by: E. Ciccone.

Vote: Unanimous.

8.2.2 Local Capacity Development Grant

Colchester has been awarded \$50,000 to develop a blueprint for building quality services and a unified system to improve outcomes for Colchester's young children, birth to age nine. Superintendent Loiselle summarized the purpose and activities of the grant project and its alignment with the Board's Strategic Plan Goal of developing Community Partnerships. The grant proposal was developed by School Readiness Coordinator, Shelly Flynn, and Superintendent Loiselle.

8.3 Financial Reports .

8.3.1 Monthly Budget Report.

M. Cosgrove reviewed the budget through December 31, 2007.

8.3.2 Request for Budget Transfers.

No requests for transfers were presented.

8.3.3 Notification of Transfers.

Two notifications for transfers were presented. The first transfer is for a price increase in BA computer lab purchase amount. The funds are available due to materials for the working lab will be available on line. The second transfer is for updated text for nutrition/fitness curriculum. The funds are available due to reorganized priorities. Per policy, no action is necessary for amounts less than \$5,000.

8.3.4 Health Insurance Account.

M. Cosgrove stated that the Health Insurance Account for November 2007 has a monthly reserve at 2.81

9 UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

9.1 Proposed Regulation #6142.101 Student Wellness – Second Reading

The Policy Committee reviewed and revised the Wellness Regulation that was originally developed by a committee of teachers, administrators, parents and a community member. The proposed regulation is a requirement of state and federal Wellness legislation and is in alignment with the Wellness legislation and is in alignment with the Wellness Policy approved by the Board last school year.

9.2 Health Assessment and Immunization Policy #5141.3 – Second Reading

The Policy Committee revised this policy to comply with a new state law that changed the year of the required high school health assessment from Grade 10 or 11 to Grade 9 or 10. Head nurse, Jean Stauning, recommended the revision being presented to the Board.

Motion by: M. Egan

to approve Regulation #6142.101 Student Wellness and Health Assessment and Immunization Policy #5141.3, as presented.

Second by: M. S. Bolles.

Vote: Unanimous.

10 NEW BUSINESS.

10.1 Bacon Academy Portable Building Project Update and Change Orders.

Change orders in the amount of \$9,971.30 have been reviewed by G. Plunkett and recommended for approval.

Motion by: E. Ciccone

to approve change orders in the amount of \$9,971.30, as presented.

Second by: M. L. Burke.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.2 Bacon Academy Portable Building Project Expenditures.

G. Plunkett has reviewed the invoices and is recommending their approval.

The Lawrence Associates has submitted Invoice #11 in the amount of \$2,468.75 for Construction Administration and M Space Holdings, LLC Application for Payment #003 in

the amount of \$247,191.99.

Motion by: M.S. Bolles
to pay the above stated expenditures.

Second by: E. Ciccone.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.3 UCONN Research Project: Full Day Kindergarten

CES Principal J. Somberg, summarized the proposed involvement in a research project studying different ways of measuring student behavior. If approved by the Board, parents will be notified and required to complete consent forms in order for their child to participate in the project.

Motion by: M. L. Burke
to approve the CES participation in the UCONN research project involving the use of Direct Student Behavior rating forms in our pilot full day Kindergarten program.

Second by: E. Ciccone.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.4 CT Secondary School Redesign

Connecticut Education Commissioner McQuillan has proposed a Redesign of Connecticut Secondary Schools. A schedule of Public Listening Forums at which community members and Board of Education members can provide feedback on the proposed changes was presented. The Board feedback session for this region is January 29, 2008 from 6-8 p.m. at EastConn. Principal Mathieu answered questions posed by Board members about the proposed initiative stating that there will be a budget impact with these proposed changes. BOE members E. Ciccone and T. Lamp indicated that they will attend the January 29, 2008 Forum with Superintendent Loiselle.

10.5 Leave of Absence

Mary Ellen Courtemanche has requested extending a child-rearing leave of absence through the 2007-2008 school year. Superintendent Loiselle said the current highly-qualified long-term substitute is doing an outstanding job and is available to complete the school year.

Motion by: M. L. Burke
to approve the requested leave of absence for Mary Ellen Courtemanche through the 2007-2008 school year.

Second by: M. S. Bolles.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.6 Bacon Academy Proposed Program of Studies

Principal Mathieu provided the Board with a brief overview of the proposed new courses. The Robotics course and the Costuming course are part of the revised Technology Education and Family and Consumer Sciences curricula previously adopted by the Board. With the exception of the Robotics course, no additional new staff are required.

Motion by: M. L. Burke
to approve the proposed program of studies.

Second by: E. Ciccone.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.7 Disposal of Obsolete Items

Colchester Elementary School is requesting approval to dispose of textbooks that are no longer in use in the curriculum.

Motion by: M. L. Burke
to approve disposal of textbooks as requested by CES.

Second by: E. Ciccone.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.8 Field trips

- o Gamma Team (WJMS) to Framingham, MA on one day between January 29 through February 10, 2008.
- o FIRST Robotics Team Group (BA) to Boston, MA on March 27-29, 2008.
- o FIRST Robotics Team Group (BA) to Atlanta, GA on April 16-20, 2008.
- o Kappa Team (WJMS) to New York City, NY on June 12, 2008.

Motion by: M. Egan
to approve the Gamma and Kappa field trips and the April 16-20, 2008 Robotics

trip but to table the March 27-29, 2008 Robotics field trip until the next agenda.

Second by: E. Ciccone.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.9 Parks and Recreation Liaison

Chairman Hettrick noted that Andrew George was a liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Commission is requesting a new liaison.

T. Lamp volunteered to be the BOE liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

11 COMMITTEE REPORTS.

11.1 Committee Reports

11.1.a Health Insurance Eligibility Audit

M. Cosgrove stated that Ovation has a preliminary draft of initial findings that is being reviewed by the Finance Department.

11.1 b Purchasing Policy Development

Budget Committee Chairman Lamp stated that the Board of Finance has proposed a joint Town/Education Committee. Board of Finance Liaison Ronald Goldstein has suggested one or two Board of Education members be appointed to serve on a committee that would develop revised purchasing policies for the Town and Board of Education. The final draft will be subject to approval by the entire Board.

M. L. Burke and M.S. Bolles will represent the BOE on the purchasing policy committee.

12 INFORMATION ITEMS.

12.1 Enrollment

- o School enrollment for December 2007 is 3,231 students.

12.2 Partnerships:

- o Bacon Academy Marketing Class Project

12.3 Letters of Appreciation

- o Appreciation to Former BA students
- o Appreciation of Indoor Track Teams to BOE

12.4 CES/JJES Design Awards.

13 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

13.1 Transportation Contract Bid Specifications.

Motion by: M.L. Burke

to go into Executive Session and invite Superintendent Loiselle and M. Cosgrove to discuss the Transportation Contract Bid Specifications.

Second by: T. Lamp.

Vote: Unanimous. Time: 9:21 p.m.

No action was taken.

14 ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by: E. Ciccone.

to adjourn.

Second by: M. L. Burke.

Vote: Unanimous.

Chairman Hettrick adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary

