

**Deer Isle-Stonington CSD #13 School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Deer Isle-Stonington High School
Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.**

Board Members Present:

Walter Kumiega, Jim Adams, Aimee Hunt, Donald Sargent and Skip Greenlaw

Board Members Absent: Mark Cormier

Staff Present: Robert Webster, Catherine Ring, Jane O'Connor, Penny Wendell, Judy Rhodes, Anne Douglass, Heather Barton-Lindloff, April Coombs, Susan Guilford, Linda Weed, Sally Foley, Donna Foster, Tasha Brown,

Guests: Wendy Alpough, David Walsh, Meredith Gray, Josephine Jacobs, William Shaw

1) Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum:

Chair Greenlaw called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 6:13 P.M.

2) Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

3) Citizen Comments:

4) Approval of the Agenda:

Addition of an Executive Session before Action Item C. Addition of Action Item C.6. Special Services Director. **Motion by Kumiega, second by Greenlaw to approve agenda as amended. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.**

5) Approval of the minutes of the March 8, 22, 26 and 29, 2007 meetings.

Motion by Hunt, second by Kumiega to approve the minutes of the March 8, 22, 26 and 29, 2007 meetings. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.

6) ACTION ITEMS

A. Request for Leave of Absence

Tasha Conary-Brown stated that she is requesting a leave of absence for another year. She would then like to plan to return to work part-time if possible. Robert Webster indicated that he would endorse giving Tasha another leave. **Motion by Kumiega, second by Greenlaw to approve the leave of absence. Vote: 4/Y, 1/N (Hunt).**

B. Special Education Position Reduction

Robert Webster indicated that Special Education Director Warren Berkowitz is recommending the reduction of one special education teacher at the elementary school. The student that this position serves is moving on to high school. Webster also indicated that he would foresee cooperating with other schools for a life skills program if one is needed in the future. **Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to approve the elimination of one special education position at the elementary school. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.**

Motion by Kumiega, second by Sargent to enter into executive session at 6:18 p.m. Participating were Skip Greenlaw, Aimee Hunt, Walter Kumiega, Jim Adams, Don Sargent and Robert Webster. Returned to regular session at 6:31 p.m.

C. 2007-08 Administrator Contracts

1. DISES Principal

Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to approve a 3.5% raise and all benefits remaining the same percentage as last year for Catherine Ring. Vote: 4/Y, 1/N (Sargent).

2. DISES Assistant Principal

Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to approve a 3.5% raise (\$59,222) and all benefits remaining the same percentage as last year for Jane O'Connor. Vote: 4/Y, 1/N (Sargent).

3. DISHS Assistant Principal

Robert Webster indicated Mike Wood has asked that his adult education director salary be reduced to allow funds to hire a part-time assistant director. He has asked that his assistant principal stipend be raised to \$11,000. The adult education director salary would be \$22,597. **Motion by Kumiega, second by Adams to approve Mike Wood as DISHS Assistant Principal at a stipend of \$11,000. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.**

4. DIS Adult Education Director

Robert Webster recommended approving Mike Wood as Adult Education Director at a salary of \$22,597 with the same benefits. **Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to approve Mike Wood as Adult Education Director at a salary of \$22,597 with the same benefits. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.**

5. DIS Head of Maintenance

Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to approve Ken Keen as Head of Maintenance at a salary of \$37,867.55 with the same benefits. Vote: 4/Y, 1/N (Sargent)

6. Special Services Director

Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to approve Martha Jordan as Special Services Director with a 3.5% raise with all other benefits remaining the same.

Vote: 4/Y, 1/N (Sargent)

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2007-08 CSD Budget

Skip Greenlaw indicated that there have been proposed cuts to positions. Those people effected by the proposed cuts have been invited to speak. Robert Webster distributed the second draft of the budget reduction options to the Board. He is suggesting keeping the RPAC director position at full time but reducing the salary. Nelson Monteith has indicated that he will not be returning to this position.

April Coombs spoke in support of the afterschool program and the volunteer coordinator position. Next year they are hoping to open the after school program to 4-8 graders for 5 days a week for 7 months of the school year. She arranged for 126 different volunteers to work at the school through the volunteer coordination.

Anne Douglass explained the gifted and talented program at the school. She feels that such a large part of the budget is spent on children with learning difficulties, that some monies should be spent on children with talents. She is working towards becoming a certified GT teacher.

Heather Barton-Lindloff explained some different ways to fund her position. Robert Webster indicated that until last week, they had proposed funding Heather's benefits for their local share. However, the DOE is insisting that the school needs to include the share of the Maine State Retirement which brings the cost to \$11,440. Now, funding 20% of her salary is the more affordable option at \$8,300. Heather also indicated that the DOE is asking that we have middle level and high school certified health teachers. Heather also feels that changing the high school lunch program would not be a good idea. If the meals were prepared at the elementary school and taken to the high school, it would mean a return to the pre-prepared meals, less variety, poorer quality and less participation by the students.

Donna Foster indicated that she provides occupational therapy three days per week at the school. All her work is referred through the special education department. All the students she works with have IEP's and are required to her to see her. A reduction in her time would not allow her to adequately service those students. Robert Webster indicated that there may be revenue from CDS and Isle au Haut which would allow the position to remain at full time.

Sally Foley explained her program. She works with K-4 students five days per week. She indicated that 75% of her day is working with students, 15% is morning meeting, recess and lunch duties, and 10% is as math specialist. They are in the third year of a MATHS grant which allows for K-12 professional development. This grant has paid for over \$90,000 of professional development.

Susan Guilford distributed a handout of her job responsibilities and the resources of the library. She explained that she has two volunteers who work repairing books and re-shelving. Discussion held on library duties.

Skip Greenlaw questioned the amount of funds contributed to the lunch program. Robert Webster distributed a lunch program financial statement. Greenlaw asked that Julie prepare a history of the deficits and local share contributed to the program.

Jim Adams wanted to go on record that he would endorse a 5% increase in the budget.

B. 2007-08 School Calendar Draft #3

Catherine Ring indicated that the staff have not had a chance to review the latest draft. She will report back to Webster with any changes. Discussion held on the calendar. The calendar will be an action item on the May agenda.

C. High School Principal Search

Robert Webster explained that he would like to follow the interview process which Brooklin Elementary used in hiring their new principal. A brief survey would be made available to staff, students and community members. They would use that information to choose the five to six applicants who will visit the school. The applicants will meet with the staff, students and the screening committee. The screening committee will be made up of representatives from all groups, i.e. parents, teachers, staff. Then, three of these applicants will be formally interviewed. There was a consensus of support from the Board for this type of interview process.

D. School Committee Retreat

Discussion held on when to have the retreat. May 22nd from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. was chosen. Skip Greenlaw indicated that it would be helpful if the board members would submit any questions they would like to discuss before the meeting.

E. Update of School District Consolidation Legislation

Robert Webster indicated that there is no new information. Skip Greenlaw indicated that he had spoken with Hannah Pingree who doesn't think that the Appropriations Committee's proposal will pass. She feels that the opposition to the bill is softening. Discussion held on the possible consolidation.

8. REPROTS

A. Elementary School Principal

Catherine Ring distributed a written report. Skip Greenlaw questioned how many middle level students received letters regarding their grades. Ring indicated that 15 letters went home to students.

B. High School Principal

Penny Wendell distributed a written report and highlighted:

- She reviewed the drop out and student expulsion numbers with the Board.
- Walmart has given a grant of \$500 for the fly fishing service learning project.
- Dennis Saindon has been invited to the USM Technology Conference regarding our applied engineering project
- Katy Helman has received a \$4,500 grant for textile printing
- The CREST team was able to raise the funds to go to Valencia, Spain to watch the trials of the America's Cup.
- The peer support group is going to sponsor a play regarding domestic violence.

Wendell also distributed a summary of the numbers of students in each class and the master schedule for next year.

C. Superintendent

Robert Webster reported:

- He has received three resignations: Nelson Monteith, Mary Banfield and Cari Quiterio.
- A special meeting should be scheduled for early May to review probationary teachers' contracts. The meeting will be scheduled for May 3rd.
- On the financial statement, the temporary salaries, special education resource room temporary salaries and operations and maintenance temporary salaries are over expended.

Aimee Hunt inquired if there was any additional information regarding First Student buying out Laidlaw. Webster indicated that he has not received any additional information.

D. CSD Strategic Plan

1. Student Council

No report.

2. Survey of Staff Priorities

Robert Webster indicated that he is almost finished with the compilation of the information. He will have it ready for the Thursday meeting.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Skip Greenlaw indicated that he has been encouraged to produce more newsletters.

Jim Adams asked if the school newsletter could come out more often.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Kumiega, second by Sargent to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.

Respectfully submitted,

**JoAnna Haskell
Administrative Assistant**