

# Deer Isle-Stonington CSD 13

## School Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

### **Board Members Present:**

Jim Adams, Aimee Hunt, Skip Greenlaw and Walter Kumiega

**Board Members Absent:** Donald Sargent and Mark Cormier

**Staff Present:** Robert Webster, Todd West, Catherine Ring, Tom Duym, Anne Douglass

**Guests:** L. Douglass, C. Dworsky, Mr. Dworsky, C. Powell

### 1) **Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum:**

Chair Greenlaw called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 6:06 P.M.

### 2) **Moment of Silence:**

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Rosalie Keen.

### 3) **Introductions:**

### 4) **Citizens Comments:**

Tom Duym thanked the Board for the award given last year. He is truly honored and appreciates the support that the Board gives to the staff and teachers.

### 5) **Approval of the Agenda:**

Addition of Action Item 9.G. Acceptance of Reading Recovery Grant. **Motion by Hunt, second by Kumiega to approve agenda as amended. Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.**

### 6) **Approval of the minutes of the August 7 and August 28, 2007 meetings.**

**Motion by Hunt, second by Adams to approve the minutes of the August 7 and August 28, 2007 meetings.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.**

## 7) **REPORTS**

### **A. CSD Strategic Plan**

Robert Webster indicated that he and Catherine Ring presented information on the Professional Learning Communities to the staff on one of the workshop days last week. There was some interest on the part of the staff. He also wants to resurrect the thought of having student representation on the school committee. One of the roles of the vision statement is to increase student ownership of the schools and their learning. One way to do this is to have more student input into the decision making process.

Jim Adams volunteered to serve on the committee. Skip suggested Adams meet with Todd West and come back to the Board with a proposal.

## **B. Elementary School Principal**

Catherine Ring reported:

- Today was the first day of school for the Kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. It was a great day. Tomorrow everyone attends.
- She reviewed the summer school student and staff numbers. The lack of bussing had an impact on the number of students who were able to attend.
- The in-service days went well. They met with Candace Bray for a whole day. She was very well received. They also had presentations on the Kennedy Center grants. She and Robert Webster also did presentations on the Professional Learning Communities.

## **C. High School Principal**

Todd West distributed a written report and commented:

- This was the first day of school for freshmen. About 28 seniors came to school to mentor the freshmen. The freshmen met with their advisors twice during the day.
- There are approximately 180 students (45 are freshmen) presently enrolled.
- The summer maintenance work is substantially complete. We conducted a walk-through last week and now only have a punch list of things to complete. There does seem to be a problem with condensation on the roof of the gym which the engineers will need to work out.
- The custodial staff did a great job getting all the work done.
- The opening day workshops consisted of getting to know the new principal and reviewing school-wide expectations. We also started reviewing the process for re-certification.
- The advisor group met and the teachers also had some technology training. They are now all able to use the new attendance software.
- New laptops for the teachers and students will arrive later this month.
- He met with a representative from the NEASC regarding accreditation. She indicated that we have a great mission and vision statement. If we can show how we implement the statement, there shouldn't be any problem with accreditation.
- In regards to Connected Education, he is exploring applying for a Melmac Grant. He is talking to other recipients to determine if we would be able to meet the grant requests. If we do apply for the grant, he would like to partner with other community groups such as the Island Education Foundation.

Aimee Hunt asked West to extend the Board's thanks to the summer maintenance crew for all their hard work.

## **D. Superintendent**

Robert Webster reported:

- The auditors will be in next week to continue work on the audit.
- He received a letter of resignation from Paula Greatorex.
- Nick Caros would like to meet with the compensation committee.
- The annual fall school board conference will be on October 25 and 26. The deadline for enrollment is on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- At next month's meeting, he will ask the Board's approval for the committees for the 2007-08 school year.
- He and the principals will be at a conference in Portland regarding Professional Learning Communities on September 13 and 14.

## **9. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Request for Early High School Completion (taken out of order)**

L. Douglass requested early high school completion in order to go back to Italy. She is exploring two different internship possibilities.

C. Dworsky requested early high school completion to travel to Europe and Hawaii. Then when he returns in March or April, he will begin work on restoring a wooden boat.

Aimee Hunt reiterated her concern that students are less likely to pursue higher education if they have time off between high school and college.

**Motion by Kumiega, second by Adams to approve the early high school completion requests from Leti Douglass and Cyrus Dworsky.**

**Vote: 3/Y, 1/N (Hunt).**

## **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Instructional Uses of Assessment Results**

Robert Webster reviewed his spreadsheet of MEA results.

Catherine Ring indicated that the MEA results are only one portion of information that they use. They also give the DRA's twice a year. However, the MEA and DRA tests confirmed each other. In the middle level, there is a problem with reading comprehension. The teachers for grades 3-5 are starting to have conversations about the results.

### **B. Reach Performing Arts Center Program**

Jim Gray commented that he is very happy to be here and working at the Reach Performing Arts Center. He highlighted:

- The arts camp in early July had 90 attendees. They have had a planning meeting for next year.
- On July 18<sup>th</sup>, there was a jazz concert in which Lee Lehto's son participated.
- Kniessel Hall has rented the center.

- There was an Evening of Broadway performance. This will be booked again for next year.
- On August 7, a one-man show Muse of Fire will be performed. This is a show from the Maine Center for the Arts. He has begun discussions with the Maine Center for the Arts which is undergoing renovations to use the Reach facilities in exchange for free performances for the students.
- On August 26, Colonel Ann Wright will give a speech.
- On October 2, there will be a theater workshop for Max and Ruby.
- He has started recruiting students for Fiddler on the Roof auditions.
- He will be teaching three electives in the elementary school this year.
- He also has met with Lee Lehto to work out a program for team teaching at the high school.
- He will also do theater workshops with the high school students.

Skip Greenlaw commented that he would like to see the Reach center generate income to help defray operation costs.

### **C. 2007-08 Bus Mileage and Contract Cost Share**

Robert Webster reviewed the cost sharing spreadsheet. The total for all mileage was 134,455. First Student will owe the schools a small refund. This year's mileage accounting appears much more accurate than in years past. The mileage formula is based on 75% on the number of buses and 25% on the mileage usage. Because Sedgwick has reduced their number of busses by 1, the percentage share for next year is 1.5% more. Skip Greenlaw suggested this issue be discussed at the Union meeting.

### **D. School District Reorganization Planning**

Skip Greenlaw and Walter Kumiega reported that the vast majority of people have some concerns regarding the reorganization. The law gives no flexibility. Aimee Hunt commented on an article in the Bangor Daily News by Steve Bowden regarding schools going private. Discussion held on the article. Robert Webster received an e-mail from Jim Rier. He still does not have the answer on how to figure the additional local amounts. Discussion held on school district reorganization planning.

### **E. Superintendent's 2007-08 Goals**

Robert Webster asked if the Board had any additional suggestions for his goals. His goals for 2007-08 are as follows:

1. Continue activities and tasks identified for the implementation of the school district vision and mission statements with focus on five specific goals and the actions planned to achieve those goals.
2. Provide support and guidance for the new high school principal.
3. Work with DISES faculty to improve literacy instruction and select any new materials in time for 2008-09 budget planning.
4. Pilot the use of Professional Learning Communities that focus on student assessment data to achieve measurable increases in student learning.
5. Complete revision of the K-12 science curriculum consistent with revised Learning Results.
6. Work with the Reorganization Planning Committee from School Unions 76 and 93 and Surry to develop a consolidation plan for approval by the

- Commissioner of Education and consideration by the voters of the proposed regional school district.
7. Cooperate with and support the petition effort to repeal the school consolidation mandate.
  8. Develop a school district report card that will inform the community consistent with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind law.

Webster explained that No. 8 dealt with a report card about the schools, not a district-wide student report card for the teachers to use. Discussion held on the goals. This will be an Action Item in October.

## **9. ACTION ITEMS**

### **B. Request for Release from Contract**

Robert Webster reported that Paula Greatorex has taken the teaching job for Isle au Haut and would like to be released from her contract with the CSD. Catherine Ring indicated that the hiring committee is setting up interviews for Paula's position for next week. Skip Greenlaw volunteered to serve on the hiring committee.

**Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to release Paula Greatorex from her contract after the successful hiring and beginning of employment of her replacement.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.**

### **C. 2007-08 No Child Left Behind Budget**

Robert Webster reviewed the amounts of the NCLB budget for 2007-08. He commented that Clara Stone and Karen Billings will be funded from Title IA, II and REAP. Sally Foley's position is now completely locally funded.

**Motion by Kumiega, second by Adams to approve the 2007-08 NCLB Budget.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.**

### **D. Resolution Supporting Repeal of 2007 School District Consolidation Statute**

The Board reviewed the resolution. Aimee Hunt suggested a wording change for local involvement. Discussion held on the resolution. Skip Greenlaw thanked Webster for the wonderfully written document.

**Motion by Kumiega, second by Adams to approve the resolution.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.**

### **E. Transfer of Funds to School Lunch Account**

Robert Webster commented that the Department of Education has changed the rules regarding Medicaid reimbursement. Therefore, we will have some extra revenue for 2006-07. He suggests that funds from the end of year balance be

applied to the rolling school lunch deficit. Discussion held on additional funds and the uses.

**Motion by Kumiega, second by Hunt to transfer \$52,666.43 to the lunch program.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N**

#### **F. Employment of Junior High B Soccer Coach**

Robert Webster recommended April Coombs as the Junior High B Soccer Coach at a rate of \$7.00 per hour.

**Motion by Kumiega, second by Adams to employ April Coombs as the Junior High B Soccer Coach.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N**

#### **G. Acceptance of Reading Recovery Grant**

Robert Webster indicated that Clara Stone had applied for and received a grant from the Cole Family Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 to support reading recovery professional development.

**Motion by Hunt, second by Adams to accept the grant.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.**

#### **10. MSMA/Quaglia Institute Reflection Questions Part IV**

Discussion delayed until a future meeting when all board members are present.

#### **11. COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **12. Adjournment**

**Motion by Kumiega, second by Adams to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.**

**Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.**

Respectfully submitted,  
JoAnna Haskell  
Administrative Assistant