

Vernon Town School Board Joint Meeting with Vernon Select Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting, December 15, 2009

Directors present: Mike Hebert, Mary Ann Gardner, Kelli Lee-Allen.

Directors absent: Deb Hebert, Walter Breau.

Also present: Mark Speno, Sally Brassor, Kelly Harrison, parent (departed at 6:15 pm).

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Chair Mike Hebert.

Kelly Harrison wanted to have the bus stop moved on Silver Lane since there is only one child at the bus stop. Mike Hebert and Mark Speno agreed that the move should be made, but if more children move into the area, the stop will need to return to the original location.

- Meeting minutes for the November 23, 2009 were approved on a motion by Mike Hebert and seconded by.

Select Board Members present Lynda Starorypinski, Mike Courtemanche, Mike Ball, Leonard Howard, Bill Miller, Elaine Howard.

The Joint Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mike Hebert who opened up to the Select Board and discussed possible opportunities to combine efforts with the town and to discuss budget items and how to cut costs. He stated that they had a couple of items from the School Board that they were hoping to shift to the Town. Since Act 60 it is easier to raise money for the Town than on the School. This has worked out well in the past and has freed up funds for them, one being with the rental of space to the Recreation Department; another area that the School has had much discussion about is grounds maintenance.

Mike Hebert suggested that like other towns there ought to be a Parks and Recreation Department that takes care of all ground maintenance, he stated that the mowing at the school during the summer months prohibits their custodians from doing other jobs inside the building like painting and cleaning the windows; instead they are contracting out for those jobs. If they could save from contracting out work and shift the mowing to the Town then their custodians would be freed up to do those inside jobs. Lynda Starorypinski asked if he was only talking about the mowing or plowing as well. He also stated that currently the Vernon Highway Department takes care of all the plowing of the parking lots. Mike Hebert stated that they have a ball field which the Recreation Department also uses so maybe offset something with that department for the use. In the School Statutes maintenance of the grounds is part of the educational expense which can not be farmed out.

Mike Ball suggested that if there were some areas outside the school that were Town owned and the Town took care of those areas that could alleviate costs to the school. Mike Hebert stated that the school has to have so many square feet per child, so reducing the outside area would be very limited. Mike Hebert conveyed that it's a great idea but it not feasible with the Department of Education. Mike Ball stated that there is already an ordinance for a Parks and Recreation Department. It might just need some changing. Mike Hebert suggested renting the parking lot to the town but this would need some checking into further.

Both Boards discussed the cuts that will be happening in the future at the school level and how this will impact the Town.

Mike Ball asked what the school does for buying paper products in bulk and other supplies. Mike Hebert

stated that all bids are thru the District Office WSESU which they are a part of. The Vernon School takes advantage of this purchasing power for the best savings. Mike Hebert stated that the School has taken advantage of all discounts and savings on that end. Mike Hebert will speak to Jim Kane to see if the Town can also take advantage of the District savings.

Mike Hebert asked if there are any specific concerns the Selectboard wanted to discuss and Mike Ball conveyed that one item would be the school's generator. The capability of the generator is currently inadequate for the school to be used as an emergency operation center. This would come under the Town funds. Sally Brassor stated that it was already in the Capital Plan. The School Board would like to have it replaced sooner. The Town is appropriating \$10,000.00 per year for this item. The Capital Plan has \$30,000.00 in place already for this item. The projected cost is at \$55,000.00. Mike Hebert asked when the generator would be replaced. Mike Ball stated that the need year is at 2012-2013. If it is to be sooner than that the board would have to look for funds else where.

Lynda Starorypinski brought up the to the School Board about the emergency road for the buses to be able to enter and leave in an emergency to transport students from the school if Governor Hunt Road was busy with emergency vehicles. Mike Ball suggested that if one member of each board approached one of the abutting land owners to ask for a right of way to construct an emergency roadway, the town would be able to create a road way. With discussion about where the money would come from the board continued on with storing the snow plow on the school property.

Mike Hebert conveyed that the School board would like to meet maybe quarterly with the Selectboard and suggested that a summer session instead of just at budget season would be beneficial to all. The Selectboard agreed. Mike Hebert would like to meet more frequently and support any mutual goals several times a year.

Possible fundraisers like looking into town events like "Movie Night" here at the school. Utilizing space at the school for not-for-profit events, room rentals, workshops, etc. are being entertained. Mike Hebert asked Sally Brassor what a penny on the Town raised for the School. Sally stated that she had last year's figures as one penny raises \$50,104.00 on the School.

Budget informational meeting will be joint with the Selectboard.

Next joint meeting will be February 1st or the 15th of 2010.

The joint meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. and Select Board members departed.

School Board Meeting Continued:

Finance Committee Report

- Warrants moved to be paid by Mary Ann Gardner, seconded by Mike Hebert.

Principal's report by Mark Speno.

- December 11 second H1N1 Clinic went well
- Child Nutrition Food Network program by state. Very impressed, but nothing official yet.
- Quote on addition of locks \$5,000.
- Smile Group – 6th Grade researching what that is. HIV issues and \$468.84 was raised.
- Student Council is in place 12 students in all. Each member of the council is assigned to a classroom to represent all the grades.
- Feed the Thousands is the first project of the Student Council.

- Literacy assessments being done now, and Brian is meeting with each literacy block and assessing one on one what needs are.
- Staff meeting about the new programs.
- Future programs, African Drumming – Artist in Residence
- Creating survey to staff to generate feedback on use of laptops.
- Issue with another bus stop that Mark changed on Newton Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – to be revisited by full board.

A. Policy Review: These policies will be adopted at our next meeting, December, 14, 2009.

- B3 “Board Member Conflict of Interest” – 1st Reading
- C9 “Board Commitment to Non-Discrimination” – 1st Reading
- D9 “Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace” – 1st Reading
- D12 “Policy on Prevention of Harassment of Employees” – 1st Reading
- D14 “Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Compliance – HIPAA” – 1st Reading
- F23 “Policy on Prevention of Harassment of Students” – 1st Reading
- F30 “Pupil Privacy – Student Surveys” – 1st Reading
- G1 “Curriculum Development and Coordination” – 1st Reading
- G7 “Educational Support System” – 1st Reading
- H2 “Parental Involvement Policy” – 1st Reading

NEW BUSINESS

None.

The board adjourned at 8:19 p.m. on a motion by Mary Ann Gardner and seconded by Mike Hebert.
Notes respectfully submitted by Kelli Lee-Allen