

Wells Town School District

Board of Directors

February 9, 2011

Official Minutes

**Attendance:** Linda O’Leary (Principal), Tammy Holcomb (Board Chair), Karen Stomski (Board Clerk), Charity Downs (Board Vice-Chair), Louis Milazzo (Business Manager), Joan Paustian (Superintendent).

**Audience:** Steve Kainen, Jen Miller, Rich Holcomb

**1. Call to order:** Tammy Holcomb called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**2. Consent Agenda:**

Karen Stomski made a motion, seconded by Tammy Holcomb, to accept the consent agenda. Motion carried 2-0.

**a. Approval of minutes:** Board approved Minutes of December 8 & December 15, with minor changes.

**b. Superintendent’s Report:**

The Superintendent thanked Charity Downs for her years of service on the board. NECAP results for grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 will be released by the commissioner on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Principals will receive the passwords to review the student results after the 27<sup>th</sup> to verify that all students who were tested receive results and to report any discrepancies.

Steven Dale, the new Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association met with the Superintendents last Thursday. There was a nice tribute to John Nelson in the latest issue of the VSBA Bulletin. The Superintendent stated that she valued the support he gave to our school districts.

Act 153 requires that supervisory union boards have a formal conversations about possible “merger” stating “On or before December 1, 2010 the board of each supervisory union shall discuss, and the board of every school district may discuss, whether it wishes to explore the merger of districts within the SU or with one or more districts outside the SU or both.”

We have been notified that Vermont will receive the \$19.3 million in Education Jobs Funds.

**c. Principal's Report:** Our Holiday concert received rave reviews from parents and grandparents, hats off to our new music teacher, Mr. Klami. Family Math Night was January 11. We have teamed up with Heritage Family Credit Union to provide an innovative program. Thank you to Cindy Cassidy & Kathryn Byrne Grossarth for coordinating this event.

Tim Makepeace will be replacing the slate window sills in the multipurpose room to make it safer for our students.

Basketball season is in full swing. Coaches this year include Brian Dunbar, Rich Holcomb, Elpi Blanchard, Jeanean Dunlap, and Dave Miceli. Once again Karen Stomski is coordinating these events.

Our PTO is sponsoring first free Family Movie Night on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. They will also be serving dinner and refreshments. The PTO has also purchased an event sign like the one the Town office has.

The students have begun using the net books. A Laptop Responsibility Form was given to each student and their families.

Kathryn Byrne Grossarth had her baby, Edie Ella.

Thanks to the Miceli Family the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders were able to meet an exchange student from China. They are studying the Chinese New Year.

We had built up ice on the roof and dripping in the kitchen that has been taken care of. We may need a larger ladder in the future so we will check with the fire department to see if they have one.

Kindergarten Screening-April 6<sup>th</sup>

Family Literacy Night- March 22

Consumer Science Fair-April 5

**d. Business Manager's Report:**

CLA increased from 81.65 to 87.25, an increase of 5.6 or 6.9%.

The DOE is recommending that we use the state tax rate amount of .87 and a state base education amount of \$8544. Both of these figures are being used in the tax rate form. The state tax rate is an increase from .86 and the base education amount is level funded.

Based on CLA, budget, and the state recommendations, Wells Tax rate is estimated to decrease from 1.3483 to 1.3025, a decrease of 4.5 cents.

The Wells' portion of the 19 million federal Education Jobs Fund is \$28,026, 1.67% of FY11 educational spending. These funds may only be used for salary and benefits.

Karen Stomski made a motion, seconded by Charity Downs to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

### **3. Approve Warrants:**

- a. Warrant #101 in the amount of \$13,916.78, dated 12/3/10
- b. Warrant #102 in the amount of \$146,977.02, dated 12/17/10
- c. Warrant # 103 in the amount of \$166,020.82, dated 12/31/10
- d. Warrant #104 in the amount of \$81,846.53, dated 1/14/11
- e. Warrant # 105 in the amount of \$23,498.40, dated 1/28/11

Karen Stomski made a motion, seconded by Charity Downs, to approve the warrants. Motion carried 3-0.

### **4. General Public Comments:**

Steve Kainen spoke about life in Kindergarten and how he enjoys it. He also spoke of the Reading Street Program and how great it is. This program ensures a grade to grade transfer. Teachers do not need to guess at what was taught the year before. His students are also enjoying the Lexia Reading Computer Program. This program also gives the teacher a print out of how the student is doing and what they are working on. He has ten students in his class. They recently celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school by counting by 5's, 10's, and enjoying 100<sup>th</sup> day snacks.

### **5. New Business:**

**a. Approve Substitute List:** Karen Stomski made a motion, seconded by Charity Downs; to approve the substitute list motion carried 3-0.

### **6. Old Business:**

**a. Confirm Rate of pay for substitute custodians:** The Wells Board approves the substitute custodians Jon Roberts, Barry Schoenwetter, and Jonathon Armalar at their Poultney rate of pay. Tammy Holcomb made a motion, seconded by Charity Downs. Motion carried 3-0.

**b. Update from Otter Creek Engineering: (Water Treatment):**

The design plan and the application were presented to see if there were any concerns. Only concern was whether there is room for a filter. Mrs. O’Leary will sign and return to Otter Creek.

**7. Policies:** a.E-518 Mileage and Travel Reimbursement

b. F-105 Life Threatening Allergies

c. G-14 Optimum Class Size

Tammy Holcomb made a motion, seconded by Charity Downs To adopt the above policies. Motion carried 3-0.

**8. Action on Personnel Contract:**

**i. New Hires:** Tammy Holcomb made a motion, seconded by Karen Stomski to hire Michelle Bates as a substitute cook at a rate of \$10/hr. Motion carried 3-0.

**ii. Resignations:**

**iii. Terminations:**

**iv. Leave of Absence:**

**v. Other:** Tammy Holcomb made a motion, seconded by Charity Downs, to adjust an IA position from a .5 to a 1.0. Motion carried 3-0.

**9. Executive session:** Tammy Holcomb made a motion, seconded by Charity Downs, to enter into executive session at 9:55 pm for personnel reasons. Motion carried 3-0.

Tammy Holcomb made a motion, seconded by Karen Stomski to come out of executive session at 10:00pm. Motion carried 3-0.

**Interim-Cook Position:** There were a total of seven applicants; four of them were interviewed today. The committee recommends Michelle Bates for this position, if she declines this position, the committee recommends to reinter view Judy Wood face to face and consider offering her the position. Tammy Holcomb makes the motion, seconded by Karen Stomski, to hire Michelle Bates for the Interim-Cook Position pending completion of fingerprinting. In the

event she declines the board accepts the interview committee's recommendation. Motion carried 3-0.

**10. Other Lawful Business:** Karen Stomski brought up her concerns with the organization of the basement. We will look into purchasing shelving and other things necessary.

Karen Stomski as brought up Act 153 and the fact that this board should discuss whether or not merging is something of interest or not. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**11. Set Next Regular Board Meeting:** Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Karen Stomski made a motion, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to adjourn at 10:35pm. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Stomski

Board Clerk