

Alburgh Board of School Directors
Minutes of December 2, 2013
Alburgh Community Education Center

Present: For Administration, GISU Superintendent Robert Phillips, Principal Janet Cerro, *Grace Program* Director Heather Niquette and GISU Business Manager Candy Chaples; for the Board, Michael Savage, Chair, Renee Patterson, Alton Bruso, Rene "Skip" Prairie; John Goodrich, Clerk.

Mr. Savage convened the Meeting at 5:03 pm; *Minutes* for November 18 were unanimously approved after an edit suggested by Superintendent Phillips.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Phillips introduced Ms. Niquette who distributed a *Grass Roots Afterschool Education* report which featured subsections on goals, highlights and funding as well as printed and oral descriptors of GRACE and its operation. Ms. Niquette asked the Board to consider including \$5,000 in the 2014-15 Budget. – The Superintendent introduced Ms. Chaples, who presented *Alburgh 2015 Budget*, a current report of our four-year budget histories' line-items including *FY 2015* (preliminary) proposed category figures. The Board examined and questioned several categories of expenditures, past and projected. The Board questioned the value of certain costs and challenged Administration to defend several projected expenditures. The Board was successful in convincing Administration to reconsider some category requests. The Board anticipates continued scrutiny and welcomes the Faculty and Administration to re-visit cost considerations, knowing that the Board will support the programs that are vital for maintaining high-quality programs within the community's ability to pay. – Mr. Phillips' (printed) Report included the following: The state's level of local support is not known yet, but "...By their projections, a level funded budget would represent a \$.025 tax increase." – Supervisory Union Principals are discussing options for Early Release Days; the public would like to see them reduced. – Central Office is requesting report card grades from high schools that receive our graduates. – SWIFT assessments have been conducted and GISU's Team attends the *Professional Learning Institute* this week in New Hampshire.

Principal's Report: Enrollment is at 207. – Custodial and paraprofessional applications are still coming in and being reviewed. – Middle School teacher Al Hammel has submitted twenty-one student pieces for the annual *VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Scholarship Contest*. – Peter and Laurie Harrison's annual gift was acknowledged with appreciation. – On December 16, math consultant Judi Maynard will lead a *Common Core State Standards* in-service program for staff. – The ACEC Data Wall was recently moved to enhance its utility for its users.

Board Discussion: Winterization of the cottage was discussed. (See **Board Action.**) – The Board received a custodian's letter of retirement. (See **Board Action.**) – The Board received a *Building Use Application* for Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 pm -8:30 pm, "open gym" sessions. (See **Board Action.**) Mr. Bruso presented the current bills for payment.

Board Action:

- Mr. Brusco moved (Mr. Goodrich 2nd) "to authorize Mr. Skip Prairie to oversee the installation of skirting and insulation around the cottage at costs not to exceed \$3,500." (Unan.)
- Mr. Brusco moved (Ms. Patterson 2nd) "to authorize the Chairman to sign the 'open session' Building Use Application (Permit)." (Unan.)
- Mr. Goodrich moved (Ms. Patterson 2nd) "to authorize payments of accounts payable as presented." (Unan.)
- Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Brusco 2nd) "that the Alburgh School Board accept Mr. Marc LaRose's letter of retirement with regret." (Unan.)

Executive Session: At 7:12 pm, Mr. Prairie moved (Mr. Brusco 2nd) "to enter **Executive Session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Executive Session** ended at 7:26 pm. No action was taken.

Adjournment was moved at 7:31pm by Mr. Brusco (Mr. Prairie 2nd).

Respectfully submitted,

John Goodrich, Clerk

Renee Patterson

Aton Brusco

Rene "Skip" Prairie

Michael Savage, Chairman