

**Alburgh Board of School Directors  
Minutes of April 7, 2014  
Alburgh Community Education Center**

Present: For the Administration, Principal Janet Cerro and Superintendent Robert Phillips; for the Faculty, Wendy Fountain; for the Public, Tara Couture; for the Board, Chairman Mike Savage, Rene "Skip" Prairie, Alton Brusco and John Goodrich, recording.

Mr. Savage called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and the Minutes of March 13, 2014, were approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Prairie (2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Goodrich)

Ms. Cerro introduced Ms. Wendy Fountain, our newly hired long-term substitute for Kindergarten Teacher Tammy Spear. Ms. Fountain reported that her first week teaching here found the children and staff to be welcoming and receptive; the children's and teacher's needs have all been effectively met and adjustments have been successful. (See **Board Action**, "Memorandum of Understanding")

During **Public Input**, parent Tara Couture advised that from her perspective, the Kindergarten students have experienced multiple teaching styles and personalities so far this year and that the last long-term substitute should be retained as an adjunct to Ms. Fountain's role. The Board thanked Ms. Couture for her valued insight and pledged to consider her input further.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Phillips announced that on May 27, the VSBA will provide a training session for GISU Boards' Members and that ACEC will likely be the host facility. - A document, *Vermont Code of Ethics for School Board Members* was introduced and discussed at length. The Board agreed to consider the merits of that instrument at a later date. - On March 8, the GISU Personnel Committee will meet to begin a process to recruit new business manager. - The Vermont Labor Relations Board has unilaterally decreed that school districts should, despite the absence of bargaining, revise Negotiated Agreements to include school behavior interventionists' rights and benefits. Members challenged this judgment as being capricious and inconsistent with best practice; the VLRB obviates the very purpose of negotiating with their pronouncement.

**Principal's Report:** See *ACEC Principal's Report April, 2014* by Ms. Janet Cerro.

**Board Discussion:** The Board discussed arrangements for its budget presentation meeting on April 21; the 7 pm vs. 7:30 start times were discussed, as the Select Board will also present that evening. The school budget vote will occur on April 22 at the Town Hall. - The current school year calendar was examined; students will have met for 178 days (as of Friday, June 20) and discussion around teachers' responsibilities and the Negotiated Agreement's specifications were analyzed. (See **Board Action**)

**Executive Session:** At 6:07 pm Mr. Prairie moved (Mr. Brusco 2<sup>nd</sup>) "to enter **Executive Session** to discuss a personnel matter." Executive Session ended at 8:04 pm with no action taken.


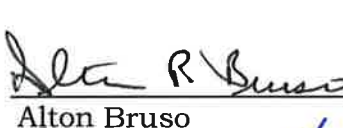
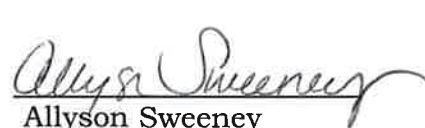

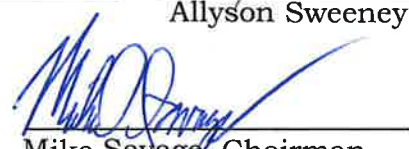
**Board Action:**

- Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Prairie 2<sup>nd</sup>) "to authorize the Superintendent to provide a long-term substitute *Memorandum of Understanding* to Ms. Wendy Fountain to teach Kindergarten for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year." (Unan.)
- Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Brusco 2<sup>nd</sup>) "to authorize the Superintendent to provide a long-term substitute Memorandum of Understanding to Ms. Liz Capito for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year." (Unan.)
- Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Brusco 2<sup>nd</sup>) "to decide that the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 2014 shall be a half-day of school for students and that the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 2014, shall be a full day for teachers and staff and their last required attendance date for the 2013-14 school year." (2 yea; 1 nay. Motion carried)
- Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Brusco 2<sup>nd</sup>) "to approve and sign Teacher Contracts for the 2014-15 school year as presented by the Superintendent." (Unan.)
- Mr. Prairie moved (Mr. Goodrich 2<sup>nd</sup>) "to authorize the payments of accounts payable as reviewed by Mr. Brusco." (Unan.)

**Agenda Building:**

- VSBA Conferences past and future
- Budget Vote review
- Other

Respectfully submitted,

 _____ John Goodrich	 _____ Alton Brusco	 _____ Allyson Sweeney
 _____ Rene "Skip" Prairie	 _____ Mike Savage, Chairman	

## Alburgh Community Educational Center

### Principal's Report April 2014

- Our current total enrollment at the Alburgh School is 201 students.
- There remain two para openings at Alburgh. Substitutes are currently filling this classroom positions.
- April is Autism Awareness Month and students and staff are planning many activities to understand and support those identified with autism. These activities include hosting a bake sale, sharing poetry, designing bulletin boards and T-Shirts and working in partnership with the Alburgh Library in our effort to educate our school community about Autism.
- Members of the Grand Isle Sheriff's Office have been working with intermediate students to strengthen skills in how to be safe when home alone and how to respond to unexpected situations. Sheriff Allen and Lieutenant Polk are working collaboratively with Darra Kell, the GISU Health Coordinator and with this group of students to develop personal safety plans. Sheriff Allen will also host a community forum at the Alburgh School to discuss improving home security and substance abuse in the Islands.
- This month, students in grades 4 – 8 will participate in the Developmental Asset Survey titled: Me and My World, Profiles of Students Life, Attitudes and Behaviors. This survey will provide our school and community with a wide range of information such as how students spend their time, their perceptions of school, family, community life, and the extent in which they participate in risky behaviors.