

Alburgh Board of School Directors
Minutes of August 18, 2014
Alburgh Community Education Center

Present: For Administration, Principal Janet Cerro, GIU Superintendent Robert Phillips; for the Faculty, Ms. Simone Tefts; for the Public, Ms. Renee Patterson, Ms. Sarah Mowl, Ms. Tara Couture and Ms. Emily Deyo; for the Board, Michael Savage, Chairman, Alton Bruso, Rene "Skip" Prairie and John Goodrich (recording.)

Mr. Savage called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. *Minutes* for the July 29, 2014 were amended and approved on a motion by Mr. Bruso (Mr. Prairie 2nd.)

Public Input: Ms. Deyo questioned the placement method of pre-Kindergarten students in the Tuesday/Thursday sessions; she advocated for the placement of her son into the Monday/Wednesday/Friday sessions and asked for the criteria differences. Ms. Cerro explained that comprehensive assessments were reviewed by a team of professionals who composed, based on known data, compatibility factors of mixed, three- and four- year old children. Ms. Deyo further challenged ACEC's reporting practices of children's progress and challenges; she called for improved and increased teacher-parent communication. Ms. Couture and Ms. Mowl also suggested that communication between school personnel and parents could be enhanced. Ms. Couture represented the view that our school's emphasis on increased academic time-on-task has shortened lunch/recess times; the parents question the soundness of that reform. Administration and the Board explained that heightened national education standards are being expected of children and teachers across the country. Ms. Patterson asked that the Eighth grade Class be granted a coin-drop permit by the School Board. (See 'Action'.)

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Phillips introduced Simone Tefts to the Board and recommended her to the position of .7 FTE Pre-School Teacher. (See 'Action'.) – Mr. Phillips also recommended Kathleen ^{Woodward} ~~Woodard~~ to the Library Media Specialist position and Kayla Patnode to a Pre-K-K para position. - Jaqueline Harding, who recently signed a contract to teach mathematics in 2014-15, has withdrawn from service. - Liz Capito, a recently-hired para-educator has also resigned. – Principal Cerro will, with our Administration, provide orientation and mentoring services for new teachers beginning on August 21. – Business Manager John Gifford provided a FY 14 financial report for the Board's perusal. - Mr. Phillips concluded his remarks with the candid report that, according to Secretary of Education Holcomb, no Vermont school will meet AYP goals and that NECAP Assessments are discontinued as of 2014. "Smarter Balance," keyboard-administered assessments, are becoming the new practice and they are intended to align with Common Core curricula.

Principal's Report: Dated August 2014, Ms. Cerro's report detailed new hires and resignations and the numbers change weekly (daily). – Ms. Casey Dragoon, our new Kindergarten teacher, has already successfully completed "KinderCamp", a new summer program for incoming students. – School Counselor Kathleen Cramer recently wrote a School Safety blog featured on

the Agency of Education’s website. – Ms. Cerro reminded the Board and Public that the new school year begins for teachers on Monday, August 25 and for children on Wednesday the 27th.

Board Discussion: Mr. Goodrich and Mr. Phillips discussed VSBA and private school funding forums. Mr. Bruso reminded the Board that Alburgh historically is a state revenue-receiving school district. – Building preparations for the new school year are on schedule, thanks to our maintenance crew. Six new, replacement windows are currently being fitted as well. – The Board reviewed the dilemma of its responsibility with regard to teachers who fail to honor their signed contracts and leave the District. - The Board heard from Mr. Bruso that new boiler (furnace) repairs will cost approximately \$6,500. - Mr. Bruso also reviewed current invoices.

Executive Session: At 6:30 pm, Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Prairie 2nd) to enter **Executive Session** to discuss contracts. (Unan.) **Executive Session** ended at 7:06 with no action taken.

Board Action: Mr. Bruso moved (Mr. Goodrich 2nd) “to approve the Eight Graders’ and Parents’ request to conduct a fund-raising coin-drop in September.” (Unan.)

Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Bruso 2nd) “to sign a .7 FTE, 2014-2015 contract for Ms. Simone Tefts, Pre-School Teacher.” (Unan.)

Mr. Goodrich moved (Mr. Prairie 2nd) “to sign a 1.0 FTE, 2014-2015 contract for Ms. Kate Woodward, Library Media Specialist and a 2014-2015 paraeducator contract for Ms. Kayla Patnode.” (Unan.)

Mr. Bruso moved (Mr. Goodrich 2nd) “that the Board authorize up to sixty-five hundred dollars (\$6,500) to hire *Vermont Boiler, Inc.* to repair and update our boiler.” (Unan.)


Mr. Prairie moved (Mr. Goodrich 2nd) “to authorize payments of the current accounts payable as outlined by Mr. Bruso.” (Unan.)


Mr. Bruso moved (Mr. Prairie 2nd) “to accept the resignation of Ms. Liz Capito, paraeducator.” (Yea, 3; Nay 1)

The Board agree to meet on Wednesday, September 3 at 5:00pm at the ACEC.

Respectfully submitted,


John Goodrich


Allyson Sweeney


Alton Bruso


Rene “Skip” Prairie


Michael Savage, Chairman