Alburgh School Board

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2015

In attendance: Mr. Phillips, Michael Savage, Skip Prairie, Jennie Lund, John Goodrich, Cheryl Wells, Mary Ann Galica, Tracy Giroux, Mona Reed, Sharon Mathieu, Angela Prefontaine, Abby Alberico, Renee Creller

Meeting called to order at 5:02PM. Mr. Phillips began the meeting by leading the Reorganization of the Board.

Mr. Prairie moved (2nd Ms. Sweeney) to nominate Mr. Savage to be the Board Chair (Unan.).

Mr. Prairie moved (2nd Ms. Sweeney) to nominate Mr. Goodrich to be the Vice-Chair (Unan.).

Mr. Goodrich moved (2nd Mr. Prairie) to nominate Ms. Sweeney to be the Clerk (Unan.).

Mr. Goodrich moved (2nd. Mr. Prairie) nominated the Grand Isle Sheriff’s Dept. to be the Truant Officer for the school (Unan.).

Ms. Sweeney moved (2nd Mr. Prairie) to have meetings held on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month (Unan.).

Executive Committee: Mike Savage & John Goodrich

Policy Committee: John Goodrich & Rene Skip Prairie

Negotiations Committee: John Goodrich & Rene Skip Prairie

Personnel Committee: Jennie Lund, Allyson Sweeney, John Goodrich

Curriculum Committee: Jennie Lund & John Goodrich

Building Committee: Rene Skip Prairie, et al.

GISU: John Goodrich, Mike Savage and Rene Skip Prairie

Agenda Posting: Alburgh School, Town Clerk and Post Office

Ms. Lund moved (2nd Ms. Sweeney to authorize Mr. Prairie to sign the accounts payable after Board review (Unan.).

Mr. Goodrich moved (2nd Mr. Prairie) that we accept the minutes as amended (Unan.).

Adjustments to the agenda include discussion about addition credit reimbursement under the Superintendent’s Report.

Public Input:

Parents brought up concerns regarding the 70 minute classes for middle school students. This brings up concerns for behaviors and students who are academically on target.

Concerns regarding upcoming class sizes and locations in the school were also discussed. Mr. Goodrich asked this parent to be a part of the committee who discusses and plans for this.

Parents asked questions regarding what the consequences/benefits are if parents opt-out of SPAC testing.

Parents advocated for ensure that the 1st graders have adequate support for next year as the transitions and behavioral challenges over the past two years have been difficult for them.

More discussion around school consolidation in the Grand Isle Supervisory Union. Some parents were in favor, some indifferent and some felt we should at least be talking about it to see what the options are.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mr. Phillips presented James “Jim” Ross as the Principal Candidate as his recommendation to the Board. Board members and public had an opportunity to ask questions and converse with Jim about the position. The Board will discuss Mr. Ross’ candidacy for the position.

Mr. Phillips had two requests from Faculty to take more than the allowed six-credits that are granted in their contract. One member asked for an additional 3 credits and the other asked for an additional 6 credits.

Principal’s Report:

Report attached.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Goodrich discussed the possibility of hiring a note-taker for school board meetings. Mr. Phillips mentioned that two of the five boards have someone in this role. Mr. Phillips will bring back further information regarding how other boards handle this.

Mr. Goodrich spent roughly five hours at the Town Clerk on Election Day. Many tax payers had questions from individuals and couples about budgeting and how we came up with the 1.5% budget increase. Mr. Goodrich felt that this helped lead to our budget passing and feels that we should consider doing this next year but have more of a Board presence there throughout the entire day.

The Board addressed administrative needs for 2015-2016.

Board Action:

Mr. Prairie (2nd Mr. Goodrich ) moved that we accept the letters of Amanda Wright and Sharon Mathieu’s for the request of additional credits in the amount of 3 additional credit hours per person contingent upon fulfilling their contract for year 2015/2016. Should fulfillment of the contract not be completed, reimbursement of the full 3-credit hours be paid back to the school (Unan.).

Executive Session:

Mr. Goodrich (2nd. Ms. Lund) moved that we go into Executive Session at 6:47PM to discuss the Employment of Public Employee.

Executive session ended at 8:19PM with no action taken.

Mr. Goodrich (2nd Ms. Sweeney) moved that we adjourn at 8:22PM (Unan.).

Respectfully submitted,

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John Goodrich Rene “Skip” Prairie Allyson Sweeney

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Jennie Lund Michael Savage