

Alburgh School Board

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2015

In attendance:

Board: Mike Savage, John Goodrich, Allyson Sweeney, Jennie Lund, Rene "Skip" Prairie

Administration: Robert Phillips, Beth ~~Hemmingway~~ <sup>Hemmingway</sup>

Faculty: Al Hammel, Tracey Giroux, Erik Bushey, Kathleen Cramer, Stephanie ~~Meegler~~ <sup>Moegelin</sup>

Public: Maren Hill, Renee Creller, Amee Gotshall, Tracy Giroux

Meeting called to order at 5:06pm. Adjustments to the agenda include a presentation on *Safe Routes* by Maren Hill. Minutes were approved on motion by Mr. Prairie (2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Goodrich).

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**Safe Routes to School:** The core of this program is to promote walking and biking to get children to/from school. It is a federally funded program through VTRANS. They look at several areas including, but not limited to:

Education- Teaching about safe walking habits

Evaluations- Get a baseline at where schools are at. See what parents are concerned of and how to get their support. Also, to take note on how many walkers/bikers there are currently for future tracking purposes

Engineering- Reviewing the site and giving recommendations to the school and town/state

Enforcement- Seeing if there are issues with speeding, idling in parking lot, etc

Encouragement- Events and activities to promote walking and bicycling

There are tiered partnerships- Bronze, Silver, Gold & Platinum. Schools don't need to increase their tier but it's available based on a schools commitment. Isle La Motte is a good example as they are at the Platinum level. Maren's next step will be to set up a meeting with Mr. Ross and hopefully identifying a champion in the school who will help steer head this program. There's been a dramatic decrease in students who are walking or biking to school nationwide. Active Living Research is a national research company who has looked at this program specifically at how achievement scores have increased with the use of this program. For more information, Maren Hill can be reached at (802) 598-8651 or [maren@saferoutesvt.org](mailto:maren@saferoutesvt.org).

Pre School Discussion:

~~Hemmingway~~ Hemmingway addressed the Board after receiving a copy of the Pre-School Program schedule that she was told was made official. This program brought up many questions and some concerns that need some immediate consideration. Ms. ~~Hemmingway~~ Hemmingway presented a new DRAFT schedule that would put our children's needs first, make proper use of our current teachers time and contracts, and also meets our requirements as far as legislation goes. Another major concern brought up was the number of enrolled children for Alburgh's pre-school program. At this time, we have seven 4-year olds and six 3-year olds enrolled. We are licensed to have up to 20 students. In comparison to past years, this enrollment number is low. There will be another effort to reach out to the 4-year olds in the community to make sure our numbers are accurate before we make a final decision on the pre-k program for 2015-2016. Beth ~~Hemmingway~~ Hemmingway is asking that we consider allowing her to oversee the EEE AND Pre-School program as she did in the past. There will be a final decision made at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be a meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> where further discussion around the initial schedule can take place if desired.

#### Superintendent's Report:

H361 : This was finalized on Saturday morning and offers several incentives to become one supervisory unions including lowering the tax rate. Our district hovers around 940. The minimum number is 900 to be recognized as a school district. There's a merger support grant being offered for small schools as well. As this roles out, we will dive into the needs further.

GISU Staffing: Several auditors visited the Central Office about two weeks ago and reviewed our books and files. Due to the office operating with a part-time business office manager for only part of the year, our filing and bookwork did not meet the criteria they were looking to see. At this time, Federal Funds have been frozen and a letter will be sent out this week giving further detail on how we can clear this matter up in a timely manner.

#### Principal's Report:

Ms. Cerro provided a Graduation update to the Board. More discussion on this will take place at the next meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Board Discussion:

Building update: We need to appropriate funds for the doors. Mr. Prairie has not put a quote together for the windows at this point. Mr. Prairie will be speaking with the Town of Alburgh to discuss what the Street Scape plan includes and also to discuss the possibility of adding a bus lane.

FNWSU Study: The Board attended an informational meeting with Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union. The meeting was left with FNWSU and Alburgh deciding if they would be interested in doing a study to explore the opportunities/benefits/negatives for both parties.

Other: Mr. Bushey addressed the Board to see if the Board would consider adjustments to his and Ms. ~~Meeglen's~~ Meeglen's contracts to include changes to their retirement and bereavement days. The Support Staff are offered a 403B plan that is matched up to 2%. Mr. Bushey and Ms. ~~Meeglen~~ Meeglen wondered if they could be considered for this. They also do not have any bereavement days

added into their contract. The Board asked both to put into writing a proposal of what they are looking for us to consider on or before our next meeting.

Board Action:

Mr. Prairie (2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Goodrich) motioned we encumber in the 2015/2016 school year a sum not to exceed \$15,000 for the purchase and installation of new exterior steel entry doors (Unan.).

Mr. Goodrich (2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Sweeney) motioned that the Alburgh School Board invites FNWSU to engage in a study to explore the possibility of joining the FNWSU in the future at zero cost or better benefit to the districts (Unan.).

Mr. Goodrich (2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Sweeney) motioned that we approve and pay the accounts payable as presented and amended. \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Session:

Mr. Goodrich (2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Sweeney) motioned that we enter Executive Session at 7:32pm to discuss the employment of a public employee.

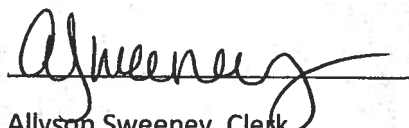
Executive Session ended at 7:40PM with no action taken.

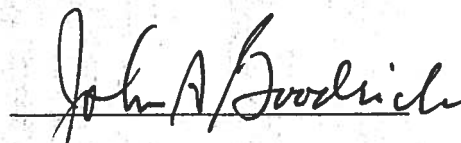
Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jennie Lund

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Rene "Skip" Prairie

  
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Allyson Sweeney, Clerk

  
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John Goodrich

  
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Michael Savage, Chairman