



TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

Worthington Public School District R.H. Conwell Building School Committee Meeting October 16, 2014 Minutes

Board members present: Chairman John McDonald, Maria Bebee, Debbie Carnes, Alex Lak, and Amanda Brooks Clemeno

Present: Fran Gougeon, Tom Wisnauckas, Craig Jurgenson, Gretchen Eliason and Evan Johnson
John McDonald opened the meeting at 6:38 P.M.

Minutes: Sept. 24 and Oct. 6 minutes were reviewed. Debbie made a motion to accept the September 24 and October 6, 2014 minutes. Alex seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Correspondence: The School Committee now has a mail box and a voice mailbox #140 with a password of 1014, set up at the town hall. John will set up a message this week.

Letter of Approval: John read the approval letter from the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. DESE has accepted Worthington's educational plan, subject to contract approvals by the Worthington, Hampshire, and Union 66 District School Committees which must be secured by 12/31/2014 for a 07/01/2015 effective date. Fran stated that DESE is aware that contractual agreements are considered Memorandum of Agreements. The Commissioner signed the letter on 10/07/2014, John received it on 10/14/2014.

Gateway Regional Agreement: Gateway has to amend their 7 Town agreement and form a new agreement. If any difficulties arise from this, Worthington will not be prevented from withdrawing. The legislature has added a line item of \$100,000 in the budget, to help in transitional costs for the remaining towns.

Superintendent: Superintendent Craig Jurgenson was introduced to the School Board.

Craig submitted job descriptions for both the Principal and the School Secretary.

One of his goals is working towards creating a 6 town/ 1 district regional school.

Craig fielded questions from those in attendance. Some pertinent answers included:

All of the classrooms are being used but not bulging. There is plenty of room.

Diversity includes socio-economic and class. There are students and a teacher of color and a part-time teacher whom instructs non-English speaking students.

PARCC- Hampshire School committee voted to stay with MCAS because PARCC is uncertain. They are implementing a common core lined curriculum. The Principal regards this as an opportunity to improve teacher instruction. Gateway made the decision to work with PARCC.

Craig expects School Councils to set district goals, and to teach students safety and technology.

Keeping students safe and finances are some of the biggest issues.

Some things to think about when forming a school are allowing the community to feel a part of the school, welcoming them and showing respect.

Hampshire's Principal considers Worthington students joining the Regional School as a great opportunity.

There's a natural connection between Worthington and Hampshire.

Special programs: There is a new special ed director; new life skill teacher, 2 reading teachers, 5 or 6 resource specialists, school adjustment counselor and a program for the deaf.

The School Committee has integrity and will commit to a multi-year contract. Craig stated that Hampshire Regional is Worthington's high school.

The potential impact of the possible closure of Berkshire Trails was discussed.

MOA: Debbie made a motion to accept the revised language of the MOA: # 5 Worthington Elementary School *will be joining* Union 66 is being changed to Worthington Elementary School *will be eligible to join* Union 66 and add to #2, the same service will be available after a contractual agreement which is renewable annually at a rate of \$7,500. Maria Bebee seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Training: MASC orientation will be scheduled for Saturday, November 15 from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Public Relations Strategy: Amanda will be working on communicating with parents who will be impacted by the Worthington Elementary School. John will be the point of contact with the Country Journal. Amanda has volunteered to talk to the preschool and send Gayle an update and will also write up a draft for the press release.

Appointment: Maria made a motion to appoint Craig Jurgenson as Worthington's Superintendent. Alex Lak seconded the motion. Craig stated that he would like Worthington to realize their dreams. All were in favor of appointing Craig Jurgenson as Superintendent. 0 opposed.

Moving party: Tom Wisnauckas has reserved a truck for October 26 to pick up the furniture. A dehumidifier was suggested for the storage area. Fran stated that this furniture was made to withstand floods and fire.

Liability insurance: John filled out the application for liability insurance. Peg has met with the broker. The funds have been appropriated in the budget.

Tasks and Activities: Monthly meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month. Other meetings will be held on Thursdays. A tentative meeting will be held on Nov. 20.

Next meeting: Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 P.M.

Fran will research a tuition based pre-school.

Adjournment: Maria made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 P.M. Debbie seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary