



TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

**Worthington Public School District
R.H. Conwell Building
School Committee Meeting
November 3, 2014
Minutes**

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

Present: Fran Gougeon, Tom Wisnauckas, Susan Warner, Gayle Bergeron, Melanie Manley, Maryse Pommenville and Alain Peteroy.

John McDonald opened the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

3. Business Affairs-

3.1 Minutes: Oct. 16 minutes were reviewed. Maria Bebee made a motion to accept the October 16, 2014 minutes as edited. Amanda seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

3.2 Member Updates: There was a discussion about naming the school. Alex Lak made a motion to name the school Russell H. Conwell Elementary School. Maria Bebee seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Acronyms:

Debbie Carnes volunteered to put together a list of acronyms that will be made available to everyone.

3.3 Correspondence:

John will set up a message on the voicemail this week.

An appraisal for the personal property of the R.H. Conwell Community Education Center was received.

Gateway's plan was approved as submitted by DESE.

3.4.1 Fran Gougeon provided the following options.

3.5 Preschool options:

1. Public Pre-School according to Special Education Regulations 603 CMR 28.00 for the purpose of providing services to 3&4 year olds who have disabilities. Numbers are based on how many children on IEP's are in the program.

2. Licensed private pre-school that would, in addition to general enrollment, accept 3 & 4 year old students with moderate special needs, whose tuition and services would be paid by the school district.

Special Needs Students:

There are REACH programs throughout the state that identifies special needs students and notifies the schools one year in advance. Fran will contact Worthington's REACH program, based in North Hampton, to find out Worthington's numbers. Early intervention reduces costs going forward.

Private Schools:

Private Schools require qualified teachers, not necessarily certified, as well as tuition covered personnel which could be a less expensive option for the town. Private schools are based on how many children can be supervised properly by the number of staff.

Ashfield does not have a public pre-school program. The Ashfield Community Preschool is located at a separate site and the district sends services to the preschool to serve children with special needs. Fran will be visiting the Ashfield pre-school to find out their funding mechanisms.

Fran and Superintendent Jurgenson will be looking at different school systems and see how they're managing their preschools.

R.H.Conwell C.E.C.:

Alain Peteroy explained that currently the C.E.C. have 16 students and are expecting 2 more. The tuition provides 50% to 60% of the cost of the pre-school. This year, because of generous donations from outside, they are able to provide a pre-school. Going forward, they do not expect to be able to raise enough funds to operate because the town will be supporting their own public school system. The C.E.C. will discuss their future plans at their next meeting.

This information will be available by the next school committee meeting.

Alex suggested forming a side committee to focus on the details.

3.6 Old Business

3.6.1: The Special Town Meeting passed both warrant items overwhelmingly as written.

1. Transition budget of \$80,000

2. Expenses of the school committee for \$10,000.

Going forward, the Finance Committee and the Selectboard will hopefully notify the school committee so that they can participate in discussions of their budget.

Training: MASC orientation has been confirmed to be held on Saturday, November 15 from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

3.7.1 Student Recruitment:

Amanda will speak to a co-worker about the current situation at Berkshire Trails.

Fran will check on the date to see if a newly formed school district can vote to participate in school choice.

4.1: Hampshire Regional School Committee:

Hampshire Regional School Committee meeting is next Monday. The Memorandum of Agreement is on the agenda. If the MOA is signed, the Chair will take the original copy of the MOA and the budget and send them to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Fran should know if DESE has given their approval by the next meeting.

4.2 Miscellaneous:

The CEC will collaborate with the School Committee at the open house scheduled on December 10. A public school discussion is on the agenda.

Staff: If Hampshire accepts the MOA, the committee is anticipating hiring a principal by late in January, early February and a secretary as soon as February. The process of hiring staff will begin in April.

Adjournment: Debbie made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 P.M. Maria seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary