

**WORTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
WORTHINGTON, MA 01098**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
7/23/15**

**R.H. CONWELL BUILDING
6:30 PM**

Minutes

Members present: Chairman John McDonald, Maria Bebee, Debbie Carnes, Alex Lak and Alison Todd.

Guests: Gretchen Morse- Dobosz and Christina Knox

1. Call to Order Meeting opened at 6:36 P.M.

2. Audience Participation – for items not on agenda

3. Routine Matters

3.1 Approval of past Meeting Minutes Maria made a motion to accept the minutes of 7/09 as amended. Alex seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Correspondence Emergency Management Plan needs to be reviewed by the Police and Fire Department.

3.2.1 Building maintenance activities: Items discussed at Selectboard meeting:

- Significant flooding - investigation will be conducted; Dead tree will be removed before school starts; Drop in asphalt at cafeteria door will be fixed; Debbie mentioned a curb cut in the middle at the School bus pick-up that needs to be addressed; AHERA training was advised for staff working in an environment containing asbestos; Lead testing came out positive - Selectboard will take care of problem; Custodians - Selectboard will speak to possible employees; Roof - building stabilization will take care of roof.
- Treasurer: Gretchen will keep track of possible problems and report back. The Selectboard will attend the 8/13 School Committee meeting.

3.3 Superintendent/Principal Update (Gretchen)

- Gretchen updated the board on a successful two day retreat with the newly hired teachers. Amazing brainstorming occurred on these attributes: Progressive learning, Transparency, Find AWARES and Engaging.
- Gretchen hired Sam Willis as the Pre-School Teacher. Gretchen has been interviewing art and music teachers but has not had a PD applicant.
- \$18,846 has been received in Title 1 grant money for targeted assistance. Gretchen will meet with Gail to discuss ways to wisely spend the money.
- The current enrollment in kindergarten and grades 1-2 is 11 each, grades 3-4 is 6, grades 5-6 is nine and the projected Preschool count is 20.

3.3.1 Wraparound update: none

3.4: Transportation Bids: One annual bid came in from Lecrenski for \$121,597.20. \$90,000 was budgeted. Discussion ensued. Debbie moved to accept the bid from Lecrenski for \$121,597.20. Alison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Finance Items Budget needs to be looked at during the year so that everyone is aware of the spending before the 2017 budget is determined. About \$10,000 has been returned to the town from the transitional budget.

Cummington School: Christina Knox updated the Committee on Cummington's school status. Cummington voted to withdraw from Central Berkshire School District in early July. The Selectmen contacted the School Committee to start working on a transition agreement. They are interested in pursuing a tuition agreement for primary school. They have approximately 74 students: 30 students for primary, 30 for secondary, 10 for home school and 4 for private school. Discussion ensued. Christina will keep Worthington apprised of the situation.

5. Policy

Policy Subcommittee Update (Debbie)

5.1.1 Discussion of Section J policies. These policies will be discussed at the next meeting.

5.2 Hampshire Regional Contract Discussion: Main concerns: An agreement is necessary, the more contractual agreements, the better. 2) Not having the tuition agreement get muddled up with the service agreements

6. New Business/Future agenda items

7. Adjourn: Alex made a motion to adjourn at 8:52. Debbie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Suzanne C. Lemieux

Recording Secretary