

TO THE GREENLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREENLAND, NH

The Greenland School Board met for its regular session on September 13, 2007 at the Greenland Central School.

CALL TO ORDER School Board Chairperson Ann Mayer called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Rich Carlin, Jim Haslam, Ann Mayer, Tina Rockefeller, Martha Stone, School Board Members; George Cushing, Superintendent of Schools, Mary Lyons, Coordinator of Pupil Services and Peter Smith, Principal.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF Mr. Smith introduced to the board new staff members Louise Provan, Jonathan Dowling and Al Garcia. The School Board members then stepped away from the table for a few minutes to talk informally with the new staff members over some light refreshments.

VISITORS Mrs. Mayer recognized visitors Barbara Prien and Katie Hennessy both grade 2 teachers at Greenland Central School.

MINUTES On a motion by Mr. Carlin, seconded by Mrs. Rockefeller the School Board minutes of August 20, 2007 were unanimously approved as amended.

MANIFEST On a motion by Mrs. Rockefeller, seconded by Mrs. Stone the manifest from August 21, 2007 to September 12, 2007 was unanimously approved in the amount of \$227,572.26.

A question was raised regarding the cost of a heating system repair and Dr. Cushing indicated that he would look into that and respond back to the board.

POLICIES REQUIRING BOARD ACTION Superintendent Cushing noted that the action required in September under policies ADC, BHDAA, CHCA, DIE, ABBC, EEAE, GCH, GCPB, JIFCA, JICI, JLCEA and JRA has or will soon be addressed as a result of start of the school year procedures.

POLICIES The School Board discussed policies EHAB, EHAA, GBE and GBEBB and after making comments and edits regarding their content and on a motion by Mr. Carlin, seconded by Mrs. Stone all were approved on a first reading.

MEETING RECESS On a motion by Mrs. Rockefeller, seconded by Mrs. Stone the School Board went into recess from their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. so that they could conduct a meeting with the Budget Committee.

MEETING RECONVENED Chairperson Ann Mayer reconvened the regular School Board meeting at 7:36 p.m.

VISITORS Chairperson Ann Mayer welcomed visitors Katherine Moulton, Lynn Leddy, Kerrie Winsor, Kim Lynch and R.B. Laurence. Invited to speak, Katherine Moulton addressed the School Board and distributed a 2 page

handout regarding the request of she and the other visitors that the School Board consider implementing full day kindergarten. Mrs. Moulton walked through the handout with the board noting the advantages of full day kindergarten and also highlighting a few potential obstacles or questions that would need to be answered. At the conclusion of her presentation she suggested that a Committee of stakeholders be formed to examine this question.

Lynn Leddy then asked the question as to why Greenland had not been moving in the direction of all day kindergarten at this point in time noting that other schools in the area had already done so. Dr. Cushing responded by suggesting that outside of the Seacoast full day kindergarten is not common and then noted that the School Board and administration would need to weigh the benefits against the challenges and cost associated with this expanded program.

R.B. Laurence indicated that his two children who had gone through the half day program had been well prepared and felt that his and most children that age did not have the stamina for more than a half day. Karen Moulton then spoke noting that the fewer transitions that would result from a full day program would be less stressful for students. Kerrie Winsor felt that her child was very capable of managing whole day kindergarten and is doing so in a program at Rye Country Day.

Dr. Cushing then stated he felt the administration should gather some baseline information regarding the cost and implications and then consider whether or not to assemble a larger committee. By consensus the School Board agreed with that approach and Mrs. Mayer indicated that she would contact Mrs. Moulton prior to the October meeting to inform her if the preliminary research by the administration would be ready for presentation at that time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cushing opened his report by sharing two items from Portsmouth including information about a professional development day and the NEASC report noting the rigor of the process. Dr. Cushing continued his report by sharing an article on the bill to change the age at which students can drop out of school and went on to provide the School Board with an explanation of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) associated with the state assessments. Dr. Cushing next opened discussion regarding the possible spraying on school property to control mosquitoes in light of the EEE threat. After some discussion the School Board determined that they would need more information and asked that the Superintendent check with the town on the status of efforts there and who should be involved in such decisions. Dr. Cushing then distributed the special education report explaining the unencumbered fund balance that had been affected by the enrollment of a new student.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Smith began his report noting that an audit had been done regarding playground safety. He explained that in response considerable improvements had taken place including additional surfacing material and the removal or upgrading of certain equipment. He went on to describe the smooth and successful start to the new school year, complimenting the Superintendent on setting the positive tone in his comments during the opening day for staff. He noted that all procedures were in place,

scheduling was smooth, student and kindergarten orientations had been conducted as well as an evacuation drill. Mr. Smith then informed the board that there had been one additional change in personnel as Elaine Langer a Title I Tutor had resigned and Deborah Perlowski had been hired to replace her. Mr. Smith then reminded the board of the upcoming Open House and the Wellness presentation by Dr. Susan Lynch that would take place a week later.

SAU 50 BUILDING
RENOVATIONS

Dr. Cushing and Mr. Carlin updated the board on renovations to the SAU 50 building and grounds. It was noted that several board members had looked at the sample roof shingles and appeared to have arrived at a color to match the existing roof. It was noted that four large trees had been removed from the back of the SAU building as planned. Dr. Cushing reported that he has a contractor lined up to provide a bid on converting existing areas of the facility into more usable space. It was further noted that the interior work will be ongoing and paid at an hourly rate and that there had been no further discussion with the library regarding a joint effort to accommodate the need for more usable space in both facilities.

AGENDA PLANNING

It was noted that the only adjustment to the dates and events listed at the August meeting was the change for the SAU meeting which was moved to October 3rd.

PROJECTION
SCREEN PROPOSAL

Mr. Smith asked the School Board to consider the purchase of a large projection screen such as the one utilized by the fire department at last year's public hearing. He explained that the current screens owned by the school were inadequate for large presentations in the gymnasium or multi purpose room. He indicated that with several large upcoming events including the Dr. Susan Lynch presentation, Veteran's Day presentation, school wide theme days, graduation, etc., such a screen would be well used for school events and would certainly be available for use by all other town agencies. Mr. Smith indicated that the approximately \$1200.00 cost could be off set by a computer that would not need to be purchased during this budget year. On a motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Carlin the School Board approved up to \$1200.00 for the purchase of the projection screen.

VISITOR COMMENT

Parent R.B. Laurence shared comments regarding the discussion around EEE, indicating that he felt that due to the timing and prevalence of mosquitoes on the school site that the risk of a student contracting the disease was very low.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Rockefeller, seconded by Mrs. Stone the School Board adjourned their meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter D. Smith

Secretary

