

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

GARVIN LIBRARY

January 2, 2019

Present:

Board Members: Brent Abare; Angeline Alley, Chair; Paul Hazel; Judy Murray; Wade Parker; Kelsey Root-Winchester; Bruce Stevens

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Scott Blood, John Barone, Lori Blood

Members of the Public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair
- II. Update on After-School Program
 - A. Paul Jewett and Theresa White reported on the success of the After-School Program
 - B. Average of 24-26 children attend per day, with a total of 33 enrolled
 - C. Communication with parents has been satisfactory regarding pick-up times, etc.
 - D. There is interest in a February vacation and April vacation program, and it is hoped that a summer program will be a possibility
 1. Hoping to offer an 8-hour day program with snack and lunch for a minimum of 20 children
 - E. Working closely with the Newbury After-School Program, with volunteers offering to come to both programs
 - F. Thanks was given to Scott Blood and Trista Burns for all their help and support
- III. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kelsey Root-Winchester to approve the Board minutes of December 5, 2018. Correction was made that the vote on the minutes of October 18, 2018 meeting were not unanimous and should reflect that Brent Abare opposed. Motion voted on and approved unanimously with the noted correction.
- IV. Update on Business Office
 - A. Lori blood reported that things have gone well in the transition. Two people are still in the business office at BMU, but expect they will be moved to Bradford at some point.
 - B. Human Resources is at the Central Office and being handled by Judy Colby performing some of the responsibilities, and Melanie Elliott, Director of Human Resources
- V. Budget
 - A. Common Level of Appraisal was distributed
 1. Used in calculating the tax rate
 - B. Still waiting for Equalized Pupils count to calculate tax rate and warn a budget
 - C. By the January 16th Board meeting, better information on the Equalized Pupils count will be available.
 1. The budget needs to be warned on January 16th.
 2. Health insurance premiums are up almost 12%.
 3. Recommended that the entire Board meeting on January 16th be devoted to the budget.
 4. Enrollment for the coming year looks stable.

a. The number of anticipated tuition students for next year is projected to be about the same as this year.

5. It was requested that budget proposals be available for Board members to see and process for at least a day prior to the January 16th Board meeting.

6. Board members requested a copy of the budget information distributed at the last Board to be e-mailed to Board members.

7. It was noted that BMU is now debt-free.

D. The Audit has been received, and it's all good news.

VI. Correspondence—None

VII. Public Participation

A. Follow-up letter had been sent to some Board members from the Groton Select Board.

1. They were asking that a permanent policy be put in place that one member from each town (Groton, Ryegate, Wells River) be a representative on the OESU Board.

2. They also asked that proportional representation on the Board be addressed now and not be put off until the next census.

B. A community member stated being uncomfortable with Brent Abare putting out information, reporting on happenings at the School Board, which had not been approved by the School Board.

1. Mr. Abare stated that he had only spoken as a citizen of Groton.

VIII. Test School Date Presentation

A. Allyson Coburn (literacy coordinator), Beth Fraser (math team leader), Co-Principal John Barone, and Co-Principal Scott Blood presented

A. Allyson Coburn, shared information on the Primary Observation Assessment (literacy), administered three times a year to Gr. K-2

B. John Barone shared data on the STAR Reading and STAR Math Assessment in Gr. 3-8.

1. Pre-assesses the students at the beginning of the school year on the Common Core Standards

2. Will be administered again in February

3. Dr. Barone described the increased enthusiasm the middle school students are showing in independent reading and book clubs

C. PSAT given to 14 11th graders, who did very well when compared to the State of Vermont and National scores

D. SBAC results from last spring

1. The hardest thing about this assessment is getting student buy-in

E. Scott Blood spoke about what BMU is doing in Literacy and Math to improve the culture of learning in the school

1. Focusing on the strategies the students are using in math

IX. OESU Update

A. Judy Murray reported. A Consultant from VSBA is reviewing required policies and bringing recommendations.

1. Then recommended policies will be reviewed.

2. The consultant recommends not making sweeping changes.

3. Pending mergers and restructuring within OESU should have no impact, and OESU policy work should be completed first.

4. Required Policies not at the OESU level that will be reviewed first are:

- a. Firearms (BMU Policy 4342 & 4343)
- b. Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying (BMU 4905)
- c. Student Freedom of Expression (BMU doesn't have this policy)
- d. Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (BMU 2051)
- e. Animal Dissection (BMU 2453)

B. Next meeting of the Policy Committee will be Tuesday, January 22nd at 4:30 PM at OESU Central Office.

X. Action Item

A. MOA date change only of teacher agreement and support staff agreement. By Sept. 1st, District shall provide Association a list of all employees and their addresses. By Sept. 15th, Association shall provide District a list of names of employees who are not members of the Association. Motion by Bruce Stevens, seconded by Paul Hazel to approve MOA date changes. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

XI. Executive Session—None needed

XII. Other

A. Question asked about composition of hiring committee for new Director at River Bend

1. Supt. Knisley supplied the information

XIII. Setting Next Agenda

A. Next Board meeting will be January 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM. (OESU Board is meeting at 5:30 that night)

1. The BMU meeting will be devoted to the Budget
2. The Chair will send the To Do List again to be on the agenda for the first meeting in February

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.