

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

GARVIN LIBRARY

September 19, 2018

Present:

Board Members: Brent Abare; Angeline Alley, Chair; Sara Dennis; Paul Hazel; Julie Oliver; Wade Parker; Kelsey Root-Winchester; Bruce Stevens

Administration: Scott Blood, John Barone, Donna Waelter

Members of the Public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair
- II. Motion by Bruce Stevens, seconded by Paul Hazel to approve the Board minutes of September 5, 2018. Motion voted on and approved with two abstentions (Brent Abare and Kelsey Root-Winchester)
- III. Presentation/request by Senior Class
 - A. Several members of the senior class were present, requesting permission to decorate their caps for Graduation
 - B. Their proposal is patterned after the policy currently in use at Woodsville High School
- IV. Board discussion regarding Brent Abare
 - A. Mr. Abare read a prepared statement.
 - B. There were no other questions or comments
- V. Administrative Reports
 - A. Administrators had submitted written reports, and there were no questions on the reports as submitted
- VI. Committee Update
 - A. Policy Committee will meet prior to next Board meeting
- VII. Act 46 Update—legal action
 - A. Option to purchase the school property deed has passed
 - B. There was discussion on the Alliance that Margaret McLean has put together, with the help of some lawyers.
 1. If the State Board makes their decision on our AGS in our favor, we can withdraw from the Alliance without cost to the district.
 2. A total of 8 districts have signed on to the Alliance thus far.
 3. A class action suit would be filed, and there will be a cost down the road if we end up being in the Alliance.
- VIII. Public Participation
 - A. Deborah Jurist: Question on option to purchase the property. The response was that the option to purchase the property expired in 1960.
 - B. Amy Emerson: As a parent, community member, and staff member, she supported going with the Margaret McLean Alliance.
 - C. Mark Gleischer: Suggested that the public asked for a vote on choice, and the Board is ignoring it

D. Richard Roderick: The vote was an advisory vote. He expected that the Board would continue to research and make a sound decision.

E. Carrie Bogie: Many in the community said that their first option was to keep the school as is. New information has been added.

F. Richard Roderick: Ownership of property at BMU is with two towns and a village. Was the Board going to look into how to protect that property from going to a new merged district?

1. Angeline Alley: The Board has reached out to Atty. Mark Oettinger regarding protecting the property and not taking on debt.

G. Ron Phillips: Feels it's insane to consider giving up this building and property for \$1.00 and to take on a huge debt. More taxes will result if Montpelier keeps on the way they're going. Within 3 months, they decided Act 46 wasn't going to save any money. Feels we're doing the right thing to join a class action suit.

H. Jenny Nelson: How much does it cost to keep this physical building going if there is no high school? She stressed the community that we have built here. We are so far ahead of the State, they will never catch up! When you're in a rural part of the state, there is only so far you can transport kids. When you get 1,000 out at a high school graduation of 30 students, we see what we have here. There's no reason there can't be two high schools in a supervisory district.

I. Josh Souliere: If this lawsuit takes two years, what happens to us? Are we merged?

1. Angeline Alley: I am researching this.

IX. Action Items

A. Motion by Bruce Stevens, seconded by Paul Hazel to join the class action suit with Margaret McLean's group. Motion and second were withdrawn.

B. Motion by Bruce Stevens, seconded by Paul Hazel that the Blue Mountain School District become a plaintiff to join LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FORCED MERGER in the event that the State Board of Education's final Statewide Plan imposes forced merger on Blue Mountain School District. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

C. Motion by Kelsey Root-Winchester, seconded by Bruce Stevens to approve the request of the Class of 2019 for permission to decorate their graduation caps for this year and subsequent years. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

D. Motion by Bruce Stevens, seconded by Sara Dennis to approve the fundraiser list as presented. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Brent Abare)

X. Other Business

A. New e-mail addresses will be forthcoming for Board members

B. A new organizational chart will be coming out, which will show Board members' e-mail addresses instead of their physical addresses. The Executive Committee has been removed from the Organizational Chart

XI. Setting the next agenda

A. There will be a presentation of the Grade 7 trip to Cape Cod Sea Camps

B. Beth Fraser was selected as a runner up for VT State Teacher of the Year. The Board extended their congratulations. The Chair invited everyone to visit her kinesthetic classroom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 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.