



The Pomfret School

CHALLENGING THE MIND ★ ENCOURAGING THE HEART

**Board of Directors Monthly Meeting - DRAFT
Thursday, April 23, 2015 @ 6 PM, The Pomfret School**

Present: Tom McKone, Greg Greene, Bob Coates, Jody Eaton, Jenny Hewitt

I. Call to Order 6:00 PM

II. Approval of Minutes: March 16, 2015 and March 31, 2015

Moved: Greg Greene

Seconded: Jody Eaton

III. Correspondence

Letter of resignation from Tim Wheelock

IV. Reports

Principal – Tom McKone

The entire school performed an evacuation drill to Chippers on April 23. The kids did a good job. Chippers completed the work on the school gardens by completely restoring the beds, edging and mulching. The asbestos report is back and the school is in compliance. Woodstock Rec Center has started using our fields for spring sports. We will need to spend \$5000 on a back up circulating pump this year. In the event that one of the pumps stops, we need to have a back up. It is very important that we have all of our systems working.

We now have three sets of numbers for our rooms. In the fall, we numbered inside of the school, above the doors. We will be hanging ADA signs soon. The other numbers that have will go on the outside of the building. We are anticipating 4 or 5 kindergartners coming in from Pomfret next year. Our teachers and Bridgewater teachers have organized a lot of events to bring together both schools, TPS and BVS. TPS students attended BVS's production of Peter Pan. BVS will be coming to TPS for Farm Day. Second graders from both TPS and BVS will be going to Billings Farm on three separate occasions to participate in the Super Junior Rangers program. We have started cleaning out the shed in the back. The kitchen cabinets will need

to be cleaned out along with the old PALS room. We will be renting a dumpster along with recycling old computers and metals. Tom has started cleaning out and shredding old files.

Superintendent – Alice Worth – April 2015

Board Chair Superintendent Training:

The VSBA and VSA are co-sponsoring a training for school district and supervisory union board chairs at Lake Morey on May 20th beginning at noon and ending at 8:00 PM. If you are interested in attending, please call Rayna who can register you. Session topics include: collective bargaining; Vermont Open Meeting Law and Public Records Act; school governance initiatives; finance, budgeting and internal controls. The Key Note speaker is Gary Marx from the Center for Public Outreach speaking on “*Educating for the Future-The Future is Now*”. This looks like a valuable agenda. There may be room for other board members should you wish to attend. Please let me know of your interest.

The Bridgewater Pomfret Joint School: A principal has been hired for the new joint district school. I am pleased to welcome Lisa Sjostrom to the WCSU Administrative Team. Lisa was one of twenty-three applicants for the position, four of whom were interviewed by a team with teacher, board and community representatives from both communities as well as Raphael and Alice. Lisa has recently been the principal at The Chatham Middle School, a 5-8 school of 175 students in Chatham MA where she lead strategic planning, a STEM initiative, a mathematics curriculum revision project and provided leadership in vision setting. She has extensive experience in curriculum design, enrichment, supervision and evaluation and project-based learning. She received her BA from Yale University with a major in economics and her M Ed from Harvard University. Lisa is happy to be joining friends and family members in the Upper Valley. She will be visiting the SU on May 13th and 14th.

Administrative Team:

I want to remind Board members of the three goals adopted by the Administrative Team this year with the recommendation that these become a regular topic of discussion at the local Board meetings.

1. Implement the WCSU Supervision and Evaluation System to inform, analyze and support the growth of professional practice throughout the supervisory union.
2. Continue to gather, review and use data for decision-making.
3. Work more closely together on common initiatives and support our Boards to be focused on our core values of unity and cohesiveness around educational initiatives.

In relation to the first goal, Principals are evaluating each teacher’s progress on the goals they each established last spring as well as their general practice related to our Danielson Framework. Teachers are expected to provide evidence of progress made toward the goal; Principals are expected to review this progress, their

walk-through data and determine whether the teacher will continue in on-going supervision or move to intensive supervision and submit this to the central office as part of the teachers personnel file by the beginning of June.

Curriculum and Instruction:

Aimee Toth will be joining us again next school year as our literacy coach beginning with a training on August 24th in the K-8 literacy curriculum *The Continuum of Literacy Learning*. This curriculum was adopted last year and is the cornerstone of the Benchmarking Assessment System we are using in our schools. The curriculum is fully aligned to the Common Core State Standards and when implemented well, will prepare our students for the rigor they will encounter in college and careers.

We are conducting a search for a 50% math coach to continue the work Luke has undertaken over the last three years. We are looking for someone with the skills and experience to support our teachers as they implement Investigations and CMP3 as well as our local math assessments.

The Next Generation Science Task Force will be meeting April 23rd to plan next steps following the fantastic March inservice that focused on engineering practice with the engineering cycle of inquiry. Our goal is to move ahead slowly but intentionally with the NGSS and in tandem K-5 with unit design started this year at WES while also making plans to collaborate on curriculum 6-8.

Student Support Services:

Sherry has been at work with the Summer Soak planning and advisory team. Parents began enrolling their children on March 16th and within the first two weeks, close to 250 students began the enrollment process. This year the team has been very tight regarding not enrolling students until all medical and participation forms are complete to insure that all students have the necessary paperwork at the start of the program. While some parents have been frustrated by the process, they acknowledge the importance of having accurate information available regarding their child. The new online registration system is much more efficient than the past Google based system making the enrollment smoother.

In conjunction with applying for childcare licensing for the Summer SOAK program Sherry has opened applications for all of the elementary schools. This is the first step in the process of establishing the infrastructure for state approved afterschool programs. Parent, student and staff handbooks are in the process of being developed as well as other requirements for the Agency of Human Services. We have put together a Fact Sheet for after school programs to assist the principals with planning.

A District Wellness Team has been formed to review the health and wellness practices and policies of the district. The group is composed of school nurses, a school counselor, physical education teacher, the District Food Service Coordinator and the Director of Instructional Support Services. The goal of the group will be to review health related policies and practices, identify areas of need, and provide new ideas.

At the monthly meeting for special educators, Katie Kardashian, special educator WES, and Julie Brown, reading specialist WUMS/HS, presented on strategies for motivating readers and lesson planning for Wilson instruction.

The Consolidated Federal Grant has been drafted in preparation for submitting the final format to the state. We received approximately \$25,000 less than the previous year. Title funding for the state was reduced by \$400,000.

Teacher – Jenny Hewitt

On Monday, April 20th, students attended a show at Pentangle. Jump Rope For Heart is on April 22. The fifth and sixth graders will participate in a hockey tournament at the Union Arena on April 23rd that Greg Labella organizes with other schools in the district. April 24th is Farm Day. Sarah Woodhead is organizing this fun day for all of the students in our school along with students from Bridgwater Village School. The 6th graders will participate in Nature's classroom again this year. On May 13th, our 3rd and 4th graders will be planting trees in a Riparian zone. Grades K – 4 will be take part in a literacy assessment, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, during the month of May. PNOA end of year assessments will also be done in May for grades K – 3. SBAC testing in math and literacy will continue for the next couple of weeks for grades 3-6 and NECAP science testing for 4th graders.

V. Action/Discussion

Motion to accept Tim Wheelock's resignation and thank him for his many years of outstanding service to The Pomfret School

Moved: Greg Greene

Seconded: Jody Eaton

Motion to purchase a back up circulating pump for the heating system at The Pomfret School in the amount of \$5000, using the maintenance fund

Moved: Greg Greene

Seconded: Jody Eaton

VI. Executive Session to discuss personnel: 7:40 – 8:07 pm

VII. Adjournment at 8:07 PM

VIII. Upcoming Meetings:

Pomfret School Board Meeting: May 18, 2015 @ 6 PM @ The Pomfret School

WCSU Meeting: May 11, 2015 @ 6:00 PM @ WCSU Conference Room

JDS Meeting: April 28, 2015 @ 5:30 PM @ WCSU Conference Room

