



The Pomfret School

CHALLENGING THE MIND ★ ENCOURAGING THE HEART

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting - DRAFT
Monday, May 18, 2015 @ 6 PM, The Pomfret School

Present: Tom McKone, Greg Greene, Jody Eaton, Rob Hanson
Richard Seaman – Director of Finance and Human Resource

I. Call to Order 6:04 PM

II. Approval of Minutes: April 23, 2015

Moved: Greg Greene

Seconded: Jody Eaton

III. Visitor

Chris Barrett –Tyler, Simms & St. Sauveur, P.C., Certified Public Accountants & Business Consultants
Chris attended the board meeting to explain and discuss The Pomfret School's Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report as of and for the year ended June 30, 2014. There were no problems.

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of The Pomfret School as of June 30, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

Richard Seaman projected a surplus in the budget for FY15. He reviewed financials with the board.

IV. Reports

Principal – Tom McKone

Tom went over the calendar highlights from now until the end of the year along with a note about the last days of school. "Since we had one more emergency closing day than the other schools in our supervisory union, we will finish one day later than they will. This will give us 175 student days, the minimum required by the State of Vermont. Superintendent Alice Worth and I reviewed the situation and state regulations to confirm that we do need to have this day. Pomfret will have a full day on June 12 and a half day on June 15."

The 4th grade has finished this year's Science NECAPs and K-3 is in the process of completing the PNOA math

testing. All grades will be doing some Fountas and Pinnell literacy testing as well. We have begun organizing and cleaning out the shed at TPS and Jenny Hewitt and Nancy Farwell took a trip to Bridgewater Village School to help figure out what will be removed from BVS and brought to the Pomfret campus. There will be no scheduling of events in TPS multipurpose room this summer. The new circulating pump is going to be installed this week.

Superintendent – Alice Worth – May 2015

Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction:

Jennifer Stainton has been leading the Next Generation Science Task Force in planning the future direction of science instruction K-12. Of particular concern has been the alignment of the NGSS standards to our 6-8 curriculum and practice and the opportunities for studying science concepts in an integrated way across the key domains of life science, physical science and earth/space science. 6-8 grade teachers will be meeting on May 19th with science consultant Jean Ward and Jen to examine ways to consider science delivery that meets the intent of the standards. They will also be doing some long range K-12 planning.

Aimee Toth will be returning to continue literacy coaching and professional development during the 2015/16 school year. Last week the Literacy Leadership Team met to review our Action Plan to ensure we were on target with our goals and to plan for teacher support for the 2015/16 school year. The Principals are purchasing individual copies of *The Continuum of Literacy Learning* for all K-8 teachers which is the adopted curriculum for reading and writing. This text was budgeted for FY16. Teachers will be trained in using this work beginning on August 24th.

To date we have been unable to fill the 50% grant funded Mathematics Coach position. We had a few applicants but none had the experience with the *Investigations* program or the *Connected Mathematics* program which we need nor did they have experience with our local math assessments. We have reposted the position and will keep the Board and Principals informed.

Administrative Team:

Principals will be finalizing their evaluation of their teacher's progress on their individual goals this month. Walk-through data is intended to guide Principal's in determining which level of the system teachers will be placed on for the next school year; teacher progress on their individual goals; and goal setting for 2015/16. Principals will submit their summative evaluation sheets to the WCSU office for personnel files before June 12. I expect the Principals to also use this observation data to inform them on common "problems of practice" that should be incorporated into the school Action Plan and/or used for professional development at inservice and faculty meetings next year. Action Plans should have been continually monitored this year for progress and revised to reflect needs.

The June meeting will focus on Response to Intervention and the Vermont Multi-tiered System of Support to support Principals and staff in using our student assessment data to inform decisions around instruction and intervention.

Joint District School:

The Bridgewater Pomfret Joint School Board has been meeting weekly to continue planning for the opening of the new school. Work has been centered around completing staff hiring; planning the kitchen renovation; naming the school; and moving useful materials from the BVES building to Pomfret. A new PTO is forming and plans are underway for the development of an after school program. Principals Ted and Tom and staff in both buildings have

had several events aimed at bringing the children together. Principal Lisa Sojostrom will be visiting May 13 and 14 to meet with staff and begin setting direction for the 2015/16 school year and beyond.

Legislative Updates:

H361 was debated in the Senate this week and was given preliminary approval Thursday. This restructuring bill is designed to expand educational opportunities for students throughout the state and consolidate governance structures. It also anticipates a reduction in property taxes through economies of scale. The Senate version would maintain supports for small schools while offering financial incentives to encourage small schools to merge with neighboring districts. Each merged district would have at least 900 students. Districts will be given five years to meet financial and educational standards established by the Agency of Education. If they fail to meet standards or fail to act the state could order them to join a larger district. After much debate senators voted 27-3 to accept its version which differs from the House-passed bill. That bill phases out supports for small schools such as the small schools grants. This is a critical bill to watch.

Student Support Services:

Sherry has been working diligently to lay the foundation for each of our elementary schools so that after school programs can be developed on each campus should the school community, wish to do so. She has opened applications for child day care licenses for each campus and an application has been submitted for the Summer SOAK program. This license permits after school programs to apply for subsidies for families in need and insures that programs are well structured for success. In addition, she and I have confirmed with Counsel that a fee for service model can be used in a public school setting with appropriate conditions. Sherry has met with parents, building administrators and teachers to collect the data needed to submit the applications. Richard is working to outline how the business office will support the collection of fees and payment of salaries for those running the programs. The goal is to have after school programs at all of the elementary schools this fall.

Sherry has been extremely busy interviewing for a number of educator openings and completing the annual CFP, IDEA and Medicaid grants. Openings due to retirement and movement of teachers include an Elementary Special Educator, Middle School Special Educator, Reading Specialist Middle/High Schools, Occupational Therapist, Speech/Language Therapist and School Psychologist. There have been strong candidates for these positions and we are very excited by those that we are recommending for hire. The Consolidated Federal Grant (Title I and II) has been drafted for board review. Over the school year data was collected on student needs from each of the schools and principals submitted plans for use of Title money.

Sherry continues to lead professional activities for Special Educators. Teachers are completing their professional development on *Wilson Reading* Instruction. Julie Brown and Kate Kardashian have provided thoughtful presentations to their colleagues on this program. The SpEd teacher group will also complete an assessment of the Professional Learning Circles that they have participated in this year.

Finally, we received a letter this week from the Child Development Division of the Department for Children and Families, and Vermont Afterschool, Inc., stating that the proposal Sherry submitted for funding scholarships for Summer SOAK was accepted. The grant, contingent on anticipated FY 16 funding, is up to \$10,000 for FY 16. This is great news as we have awarded more than 40 scholarships to students with financial challenges.

Technology:

In addition to regular responsibilities supporting the technology needs in our schools, Raphael has been involved in two new pilot projects this spring: one with Rediker software for the use of their Teacher Gradebook and Portal at the WUHS/MS, and the other for a partnership with Woodstock Community Access Television. For the past 18 years WUHS/MS has had a relationship with Rediker software. Rediker is the maker of Admin Plus, a student information system that contains student schedules, transcripts, demographic information, discipline data, and attendance information. Currently, the school uses Gradequick to record student's grades and Edline to communicate with students and parents. A survey of teachers found a broad level of dissatisfaction with Gradequick and Edline, so a team of teachers, administrators, and technical staff began evaluating alternatives to these programs.

After an extensive search, the team decided to conduct a pilot project with Rediker's Teacher Gradebook and Portal for the 2015-16 school year at the WUHS/MS. This pilot project will give us the opportunity to evaluate the ability of the Teacher Gradebook to create proficiency based grades and will vastly improve the ease with which parents can see how students are doing in school. Additionally, this agreement will move Admin Plus to a server that Rediker hosts in the cloud. This move will save us the significant cost of replacing a server, and will allow us access Admin Plus easier. If the pilot project is successful, we will consider expanding the use of these tools to all of the school in the WCSU during the 2016-17 school year.

The other pilot project, with Woodstock Community Access Television, provides elementary students with an opportunity to produce a short video using professional video equipment. On Friday, May 22nd, a group of 5th and 6th grade students from Woodstock Elementary, Pomfret, and Bridgewater will go to the WCAT studio to film a short piece on what it is like to make the transition from elementary school to middle school. The elementary students will create interview questions and then interview a group of middle school students in the TV studio. The elementary students will then work with Macy Lawrence and Rick Eary to take the raw footage from the interviews and edit it down into a short video. If the quality of the video is high enough it will be shown on the Woodstock Community Access Television channels and may even be distributed to other stations across the state. If this project is successful all of the schools within the WCSU will have the opportunity to partner with Woodstock Community Access Television during the 2015-16 school year.

Teacher – Rob Hanson

Rob said that it was a beautiful week on the coast of Maine with 80 sixth grade students at Nature's Classroom. He's happy to announce that we will be continuing this amazing tradition next year, focusing on environmental science, literacy, arts performance, and other dynamic experiences. Everyone at TPS is totally committed to the JDS and is welcoming the fresh start. The teaching staff met with Lisa Sjostrom, our new Principal for next year, on May 13th and 14th. The 6th graders will be exhibiting their Cosmic Scales photos at ArtisTree on May 27th.

Board

Mike Bald would like to control the wild mustard and poisonous parsnip around TPS. He has prepared a proposal. The JDS afterschool committee will be meeting with Kathleen Dolan and Finnie Trimpfi to discuss programming. Greg Greene will be meeting with TPS teachers to discuss their accrued compensation absences. Thank you to Rob Hanson and Tom Gubbins for their extraordinary supervision and leadership at Nature's Classroom.

V. Action/Discussion

Motion to approve Mike Bald's proposal to control invasive species at The Pomfret School

Greg Greene
Jody Eaton

VI. Executive Session to discuss personnel: 7:12 – 7:27 pm

VII. Adjournment at 7:57 PM

VIII. Upcoming Meetings:

Pomfret School Board Meeting: June 15, 2015 @ 6 PM @ The Pomfret School

WCSU Meeting: June 8, 2015 @ 6:00 PM @ WCSU Conference Room

JDS Meeting: May 28, 2015 @ 6:00 PM @ WCSU Conference Room