



THE PROSPER VALLEY SCHOOL
Board of Directors Meeting, Draft
Monday, December 5, 2016 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Seth Shaw, Seth Westbrook, Patricia Kuzmickas, Alice Worth, Lisa Sjostrom, Bob Coates, Robert Hanson, Josh Gregg

I. Call to Order: 6:37 PM

II. Amendments to the Agenda

III. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: November 7, 2016

Moved: Josh Gregg Seconded: Patty Kuzmickas

IV. Community Engagement/Public Comment: N/A

V. Action/Discussion Items

1. Act 46 update:

Bob Coates, Guest Speaker, Act 46 Update:

- Act 46 Deadline: Jan. 17th 2017 State Board meeting.
- Many towns on schedule, we are currently behind schedule.
- Final edits of report, finalization of Articles of consolidation
 - Board Makeup; A Board of 16 Members:
 - 2 Representatives from each of the 5 districts
 - Woodstock would have 6 representatives
 - 2 Types of towns:
 - Necessary town:
 - Advisable town:

-Future board consider a restructuring: Move from total equity to parity.

Recommendations:

-Pre K - 4 at Barnard / Reading. With a move at Gr5 from Reading to another area elementary school.

-Inter-district choice is still in play (Necessary for Killington?)

-Common Governance (Single Board) is necessary.

-Bringing “Variability” data back to towns for the vote; Different experiences due different boards / school would provide more parity for Elementary / Middle school students.

Concern: Actual impact of Board on performance?

-From Alice: Common governance provides more consistency and standardized educational decisions. Helps prevent a myopic view of just the elementary experience. Under disjointed boards, difficult to view total educational experience. Board Cohesion has improved across multiple boards, but individual standard setting is preventing parity across the system. Potential unification concerns by individual towns, for example. Benefits will include helping to relegate inconsistencies, accountabilities, prevent duplication of efforts, etc. "Streamlining processes" -- This is not homogeneity.

Concern: If efforts are happening now to homogenize teaching program efforts, i.e. Math coaching; Why is this consolidation needed?

From Alice: With ongoing efforts, efficacy is affected. Disjointed leadership prevents full implementation. Inconsistent application of a similar idea is not as effective as a single entity.

Concern: Mass exodus of students due to choice, i.e. Bridgewater to Killington

From Alice: There's language in the articles that reflects a 'controlled' choice, preventing volatility in student movement between schools.

From Bob C: We are not mandating a future board, but there are cautions and controls in the articles. But choice has to be part of the articles as a consideration to drive buy-in from towns. "Too Many Boards"

From Alice: Single night - board carousel seemed to be working quite well, as data showed, but voted out due to quirks of individual towns.

-Minimum of 4 towns or 1200 student population to be a consolidated district. - Implementation in FY18/FY19.

-For Pomfret, there is no financial benefits, PP cost would go up. Bridgewater/Pomfret consolidation reduced PP costs, affirming a penalty on PP costs now. Looking for a legislative reprieve from local governments to help adjust.

-Cost will rise above the current ~\$12K, but will go up due to facility investments, etc.

-Consolidation will help offset some of these investment costs.

2. Review YTD financials

FY18 Budget:

-Personnel/Benefits: Retirement reflected, move to a new teacher for GR2

-Retired Salary: 67548, New Salary:43648

-10% Insurance increase factored in, applies FW1 18

-Discussion on rejoining VEHI, instead of Exchange

Budget concerns from Principal's Report:

Professional Development:

-Responsive Classroom Summer Training - 4 Days, ~\$6000 for classroom teachers + Principal

-Lucy Calkins training - 5 days, \$6000 for Gr2 and Gr3/4 teachers.

Building Concerns / Capital improvements:

- Additional Shed Space: ~\$2000
- Current shed space inadequate.
- Need extra shed space to allay storage/safety concerns.
- Front foyer flooring: \$10000 // \$10/sqft. - Slip-resistant ceramic tiles.
 - Considered a safety concern
 - Investment money from leftover kitchen project monies
 - Requires vote by Bridgewater/Pomfret
- Kitchen Flooring is bubbling.**
 - Richard to follow up with contractor
- Total Building improvement plan : \$20000 budget add.
 - First priority will be flooring issues.
- Lighting improvements
 - Licensed Electrician, instead of Chic performing work.
 - Contents of Estimate from Chic McMaster:

I received a pamphlet from Norm Etkind in re: retrofit LED lamps from Efficiency VT. concerning some significant rebates on LED lighting retrofits.

*After speaking with Eric of Central Electric in Lebanon we were able to put together a re-lighting program that would result in a fairly significant reduction in both installation cost and operational cost. The Changes would require that the ballast in the current fixtures be "wired around" but should be fairly simple task--one that I may be able to do at a cost of \$25 hr as maintenance vs \$80 hr of electrician. (requires only disconnecting ballast) [I do need to make sure of procedure]
The new bulbs would then fit directly into the old fixtures and light as the old ones but with significant cost reductions.*

The costs and savings have been computed as follows:

Cost per bulb -- \$300. Initial outlay \$5400

Rebate per bulb --\$125 immediate return from Efficiency VT \$2250

Total cost to rebulb the gym \$3150

Savings per bulb yearly \$160

Electric Savings for the whole year \$2880

Year one net cost to relight the whole gym: (installation minus operational savings) \$3150-\$2880 = \$260

Additional savings would include no future replacement of Ballasts (as of now we need 4 at a minimum estimated cost of \$350 each)

The LED's last an estimated 50,000 hours, which I believe is 10 x the life of a metal halide bulb.

The lights can be switched on and off without additional cost or reduction in life. (Current bulbs require large input of power to "light" the bulb)

Bulbs light instantaneously.

The second and annual year savings would be \$160 per bulb or \$2880 as compared to current bill with no additional outlay.

These lights are specifically designed to replace the bulbs and fixtures in gym in terms of light quality and quantity (candles).

- Electrical use analysis: Groom Energy, Boston MA
- Cost TBD
- Identify drains / Vampiric use.
- Reign in Electrical Spending

-Budgetary Motion: Renew Abbey Group contract for current FY, June 16 to July 17.

-Moved: Josh Gregg Seconded: Seth Westbrook

-Plowing currently paid by Pomfret. Pomfret is a donating town, so if the town pays for the plowing it costs half as much as if it were part of the school budget. Municipal rate is lower than School rate.

3. Determine January Meeting Date (scheduled for Jan. 9th due to holiday, but conflicts with WCSU board meeting on same date/time): Meeting moved to Jan 5th, 2017 to accommodate WCSU meeting.

4. Mission/Philosophy: discussion/brainstorming amongst board with special meeting to follow for selection.

5. Renewal of Abbey Group Contract for FY17 School Year: See financial update above.

6. TPVS Board/Stakeholder Retreat for the Purpose of Establishing a Mission Statement: See above

VI. Reports

1. Operations report: See Financial above, re: Lighting/Flooring

2. Food Service report: N/A

3. Principal's report: 2nd Gr. Teacher posting pending for February.

4. Staff report (Robert Hanson):

-Working on Collaborating with Montshire Museum, school wide

-Kathy Earnst, Math Conversations. Surrounding instructional practices, meeting monthly. Ongoing to better develop math teaching standards, school-wide.

-Amy Toff Literacy is ongoing, showing gains.

-Wednesday Staff lunches, sharing best practices.

-Lot of face-time between educators, good impact.

-L.L. Bean Sleds have been located!

5. Board report

VII. Agenda Setting for January Meeting: Meeting date/time moved to Jan. 5 at 6pm.

VIII. Adjournment: 8:53pm

Next meetings:

TPVS – Thursday, January 5, 2017 @ 6:00 PM – TPVS Library
WCSU – Monday, January 9, 2017 @ 6:30 PM – WCSU Conference Room

