

June 11, 2008

TAMWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Tamworth School Board was held at the Kenneth A. Brett School on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 5:32PM. The meeting was called to order by Lisa Remick. Present were Brenda Robinson, Dana Littlefield, Laura Pike, Dan Rowe, Gwen Poirier, Pat Kehoe, Noel DeSousa and Donna Ulitz.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Poirier requested the agenda be amended to reflect the following additions:

3a. Non-Public; 8d, Designation as Emergency Meeting Place; 8e. Eddie Eagle Request; 9f. Oil Situation.

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3a. Approval of Minutes (May 14, 2008)

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2008, as reported. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed. Dan Rowe abstained from the vote.

Non Public Session

b. RSA 91-A:3 II c

At 5:34PM, Brenda Robinson made a motion to go into Non-Public Session. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed. At 6:00PM, Brenda Robinson made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. Dan Rowe seconded this motion. Motion passed.

4. Director of Special Services Update

Pat Kehoe reviewed the enrollment report, including out of district placement. Interviews are being completed for the Ready Readers teaching position. Four students from K.A. Brett have been identified through the Kindergarten screening to qualify for the program next year. Ms. Kehoe distributed assessment data comparing mid-year and end-year scores of the Ready Reader students. She reported that Summer Enrichment enrollment is down from previous years, but that she hopes more students will register before the end of the school year.

5. Education Views Special Education Team - 5/6 Team and Middle School Team

Michelle Patton-Henley, 5th grade – Ms. Patton reported that she teaches math, science and language arts, following the middle-school model. She continues with differentiated instruction in math. Skills across the board are improving with use of the same curriculum programs throughout grade levels. Ms. Patton introduced the Insights Science Program that she will be using on a trial basis next year.

Jennifer Shinnars, 5th grade – Ms. Shinnars reported having an exciting first year in her position of 5th grade teacher. She stated the Trophies Program and Six-Traits as valuable resources, especially as they are used in preceding grade levels. Next year she hopes to use more simulations in her U.S. History instruction.

Scott Hayman, 6th grade – Mr. Hayman reported teaching math and science. He also utilizes the Every Day Math program and sees continued improvement with continuous programming across the grades. He has used e-mail as a means of communication this year with parents and has found it to be very effective. He introduced the CPS (Classroom Performance Systems) he is using on a trial basis in math and science. This is an interactive program that allows students to participate with remote devices.

Mr. O’Neil, 6th grade – Mr. O’Neil reported teaching social studies and language arts this year. He piloted the Trophies Program this year and found it to be a very comprehensive reading program. The Six Traits Program continues to make a positive impact, especially now that it is used in the lower grades.

Anne Chant, 7/8 math & algebra - Mrs. Chant informed the board of the recognition bulletin board in the hallway where she has posted K.A. Brett alumni’s achievements and reflections. This board has become quite popular and parents have started to post pertinent student news as well. She introduced the Reality Math Fair that was organized by Kim Whitted. Students traveled to Bartlett and were introduced to the topics of budgets, occupation, salaries, savings, loans, etc.

Johanna Vienneau, 7/8 science – Mrs. Vienneau continued the discussion of the Reality Math Fair explaining the process the students conducted to find an appropriate career path, apartment rental search, car purchase, etc.

Abby Hambrook, 7/8 social studies – Ms. Hambrook reported on the recent Food Expo project which is an integrative project that is done every other year in the 7 & 8 grades. The project gives students opportunities to do comparison research on their chosen product.

Eileen McDonald, 7/8 language arts, reading – Ms. McDonald continued discussion on the Food Expo. The presentation piece gives the students an opportunity to work on oral presentation skills, as well as letter writing to the manufacturers regarding their product.

6. Visitor’s Comments

Don Harte stated that his family had a good time at Family Fun Night. Peg DeLong asked how much is expected to be spent of the \$347,000 remaining in the 07-08 school budget. Lisa Remick stated that expenditures would be discussed later in the meeting.

7. Committee Reports

a. Strategic Planning Committee

Next meeting date to be set.

8. Old Business

a. Pediculosis Policy/Procedure – Second Reading

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the second reading of the Pediculosis Policy/Procedure. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

b. March SAU #13 Budget Vote

The March 2008 Warrant Results of the SAU #13 Budget were distributed per request.

c. NH Municipal Association/NHSBA Retirement Suit

Board members received a copy of the memo distributed by the NHSBA in regards to the Potential Mandate (Article 28-a) Litigation. Dr. Poirier explained that the suit has neither yet been filed nor rescinded. Brenda

Robinson made a motion to spend \$411.53 to be part of the litigation against additional retirement costs. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

d. Designation of the K.A. Brett School as Emergency Meeting Place

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the K.A. Brett School as an Emergency Meeting Place for All Health Hazards Region 8. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

e. Eddie Eagle Program

Lisa Remick reported that she had reviewed the materials and understands that to introduce the entire program would take 3 ½ hours of class time. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate for a general safety program to cover such material. Brenda Robinson made a motion not to authorize the Eddie Eagle Program and to ask Chief Poirier to present a general safety program to students, including gun safety. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. New Business

a. Policy JICJ Unauthorized Communication Devices – Review

Mr. DeSousa reported that the faculty had recently reviewed the policy stating that all phones, pager, etc. not be allowed in school. Anne Chant spoke on behalf of other teachers that it would be beneficial to prohibit the devices to be allowed in the classroom, but to be allowed to be kept in lockers, turned off. This would allow students to use their cell phones after school to contact parents regarding rides, pick up after field trips, sporting events, etc. Mr. DeSousa will draft a more realistic policy to present to the board as a first reading.

b. Teacher Job Description – First Reading

Mr. DeSousa distributed the Teacher Job Description for review by the TEA. The Teacher Job Description will be brought back to the August meeting for a first reading.

c. Department of Education Authorization

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve Joanne Dolbear to give authorization for grant acceptance in Dr. Poirier's absence. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

d. Flag Disposal Receptacle

Laura Pike made a motion that the K.A. Brett School be designated as a Flag Retirement Collection Facility. Brenda Robinson seconded the motion. Motion passed. Dan Rowe abstained from the vote.

e. Superintendent Goals

Board members received a memo from Dan Rowe proposing goals for the SAU Superintendent for 2008-09 as requested at the last SAU Board meeting. Dan Rowe stated he feels the goals should be above standard expectations and address the disproportionate high expenses incurred by the SAU office. Brenda Robinson stated that the goals do not have to be approved by the Board and she would not support goals that demand implementation. She did agree that it is worth studying the feasibility of combining programming to decrease expenses. Dr. Poirier stated that she would be happy to examine and share common services, as well as study possible future commonalities between the districts. Dr. Poirier proposed all boards review the evaluation tool at the beginning of the 08-09 school year. Dan Rowe suggested that an outside evaluator be hired to review and make suggestion for improvement. This will be further discussed at the Joint Board level.

-Dan Rowe expressed his frustration with the perception of the lack of information available from the high school regarding programming and students. Mr. DeSousa stated that discussion is taking place regarding the guidance counselor's role to include that of family liaison to be at the high school ½ - 1 day per week. He has

been in contact with the high school to discuss possible implementation at the beginning of the next school year.

f. Oil Situation

Board members received a memo from Joanne Dolbear stating a lock in fuel price of \$4.25 per gallon for the 2008-09 school year with Jesse Lyman Oil. Details regarding usage and costs were further discussed. Brenda Robinson made a motion to join the Our Town Energy Alliance cooperative at a cost of \$23.75. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed. Dana Littlefield abstained from the vote.

10. Superintendent's Report

a. Expenditure Report

The expenditure report to date was given to the board for review and discussion. Dr. Poirier reviewed the Special Education Out of District budget line and the unanticipated winter expenses. The current budget reflects a balance of \$337,697.37.

b. LEA Report

Dr. Poirier reported on the drop out rates by sending towns. Drop out rates have decreased over the three years reported.

c. Other

Dr. Poirier reported August 27, 2008 as Opening Day which will be held at the Brett School. She also reviewed the topics for the scheduled professional development days.

11. Principal's Report

a. Monthly Update

-Mr. DeSousa updated the board on enrollment, recent school events and upcoming events.

-Board members received a summary of the updated Educational and Innovative Grants for 08-09. Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the additional grants as presented at \$5,650 for the 08-09 budget. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

-Mr. DeSousa reported that the new website address will be brettsschool.net and will be available by the end of June.

-Board members received a Map Testing Report submitted by Reb Pugh. Laura Pike agrees with Mrs. Pugh's recommendation to schedule a workshop to give better insight to parents and staff on interpreting the data.

-Mr. DeSousa displayed a PIRC Plaque of Recognition for K.A. Brett's Family School Partnership for 07-08. Members of the committee will receive certificates of appreciation.

-Mr. DeSousa reported that Title Grants will monetarily support the EveryDay Math Conference that 12 faculty members will attend this August.

-Mr. DeSousa notified the board that the K,1,2 teachers had requested the purchase of the Trophies Program for the 08-09 school year. The cost of the series would be \$9,800; \$1,400 of which would be paid out of supported grants. The board denied the request to expend \$7,000 from the 07-08 budget to purchase the Trophies Program for grades K, 1, 2.

- The Board received a copy of a maintenance report of facility projects in need of attention and the related costs. Brenda Robinson stated that she would not like to let the maintenance of the building fall behind. While Dan Rowe stated agreement, he also stated a problem with spending monies not budgeted to expend in 07-08. Laura Pike stated her position to complete the necessary projects related to safety and emergency needs, and reminded others that \$7,700 was spent unexpectedly for roof shoveling due to heavy snow this past winter. After further discussion, Brenda Robinson made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$7,700 out of the surplus of the 07-08 budget. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

12. Visitor's Comments

Don Harte expressed the importance to keep pushing down costs through dialogue. He also encouraged Dr. Poirier to continue to request student information from SAU #9. He suggested the Board pursue permission to lower the school building temperature through the legislative process and to look at alternative ways to save energy. Peg DeLong asked for clarification regarding the expenditure of grant monies.

13. Board Comments

-Laura Pike expressed thanks to those involved in Family Fun Night. She also commended those involved with the publication of the weekly school newsletter.

14. Communications

a. AREA Joint Board Information

Communications were given to board as informational items.

15. Non Public Session

a. RSA 91-A:3 II c

At 9:30PM, Brenda Robinson made a motion to go into Non-Public Session. Laura Pike seconded the motion. At 9:50PM, Brenda Robinson made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. Dana Littlefield seconded this motion. Motion passed.

16. Action as a Result of Non Public Session

Dana Littlefield made a motion to appoint the coaching staff as presented. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Laura Pike made a motion to deny the parent request. Dr. Poirier to notify parents. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

17. Personnel

a. Nomination of Reading Specialist

Laura Pike made a motion to nominate Jacqueline Leathers as Reading Specialist for the 2008-09 school year. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

18. Adjournment

At 9:55PM, Dana Littlefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Rowe seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Ulitz, Recording Secretary
Draft pending Board Approval.