

MEETING OF THE
MONTPELIER ROXBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2, 2018
MINUTES

Minutes Approved:

Present

Board: Bridget Asay, Becky Bowen, Michele Braun, Lisa Frost, Steve Hingtgen (arr. 7:17 p.m.), Tina Muncy, Jim Murphy, Ryan Zajac
Administration: Superintendent Brian Ricca, Principals Pam Arnold and Ben Brownell, Business Manager Grant Geisler
Public: Laurie Gossens, Stephen Mills, Lawton Rutter, Melissa Rutter, André Souigny, Rhett Williams
Absent: Peter Sterling

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.
2. **Public Comment** The Board heard from a Roxbury community member who expressed interest in serving on the superintendent screening committee. Roxbury resident Andre Souigny expressed disappointment and frustration with the Board's previous decision to deny his family's "grandfathering" request for his daughter to tuition out of the district to The Sharon Academy.
3. **Action Items:**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes of April 11, 2018 and April 19, 2018**

Mr. Zajac moved, seconded by Ms. Bowen, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2018 regular meeting and the minutes of the April 19, 2018 special meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **Approval of Bussing Bid**

Ms. Muncy moved, seconded by Ms. Bowen, to approve the bussing bid. Following discussion about the contract term, structure and flexibility, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Braun moved, seconded by Ms. Bowen, that the Board institute a consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. **Approval of Assignment and Assumption Agreement**

Ms. Muncy moved, seconded by Ms. Asay, to approve the Assignment and Assumption Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.
 - d. **Approval of New Teacher Contract**

Mrs. Braun moved, seconded by Ms. Asay, to approve the recommendation to offer a teaching contract to Ellia Cohen (school social worker - MHS). Motion carried unanimously.
 - e. **Approval of Facilities Director Contract**

Mrs. Braun moved, seconded by Ms. Asay to approve the Facilities Director contract. Mr. Zajac questioned Superintendent Ricca in regard to the completion of reference checks. Motion carried unanimously.
 - f. **Appoint Board Members to Negotiating Committee for Contract Negotiations**

Mr. Hingtgen nominated Ms. Muncy and Mr. Sterling to serve on the Negotiating Committee for contract negotiations. Mrs. Braun seconded the nomination and the motion carried unanimously.

- g. Adoption of Policies - Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace, Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees, Prevention of Employee Harassment, Budget Execution, Fiscal Management, Substitute Teachers and Volunteers and Work Study Students

Mrs. Braun moved, seconded by Mr. Zajac, to adopt the subject policies. Ms. Muncy moved, seconded by Mr. Hingtgen, to amend the motion to remove specific names in the designated persons for reporting section of the Prevention of Employee Harassment policy and just list positions. Laurie Gossens recommended checking the legal references for this policy to ensure specific names are not required before making the change. Following further discussion, Ms. Muncy withdrew her motion to amend. The original motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss Parent Request

Roxbury residents Lawton and Melissa Rutter presented their request for the Board to pay tuition to the Paine Mountain School District which would enable their daughter to attend school in Northfield. Mr. and Mrs. Rutter cited the provisions of 16 V.S.A. §821(c) - geographic convenience - as the basis for their request. Discussion about tuition costs, exchanges, precedent decision-making, the possibility of a tuition waiver request to Paine Mountain, and decision appeal rights to the Agency of Education based on a statutory argument ensued. Following discussion, Mr. Zajac moved, seconded by Ms. Muncy, to deny the request put forward by the Rutter family. Motion carried unanimously, Mrs. Braun abstaining.

5. Policy – First Reading

- a. Education Records
- b. Student Alcohol and Drugs
- c. Limited English Proficiency Students
- d. Firearms

Superintendent Ricca asked for specific questions in regard to the subject policies. There was discussion about the exceptions section of the Firearms policy, including a suggestion to eliminate #2. Ms. Muncy inquired as to where other weapons and ammunition would fall within the realm of the Firearms policy. With regard to the Tobacco Prohibition policy, Superintendent Ricca clarified what is covered under the term “tobacco substitutes”.

6. Policy - Third Reading

- a. In-District Elementary School Transfer Policy

There were no further changes from what was presented at tonight’s meeting. This policy will be warned for vote on adoption at the May 16, 2018 meeting.

7. Policy - Fourth Reading

- a. Class Size

Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Mr. Zajac, to approve the two small changes as discussed. Motion carried unanimously. This policy will be warned for vote on adoption at the May 16, 2018 meeting.

8. Update on Superintendent Search Process and Appointment of Screening Committee

The committee meeting schedule was confirmed. Committee makeup was discussed. Principal Arnold advocated for three members of the Leadership Team to serve on the screening committee. Following discussion, the Board agreed to a 13 rather than 12 member committee to include Mary Lundeen, Pam Arnold, Grant Geisler, Tina Muncy, Lisa Frost, Morgan Lloyd, Sylvia Fagin, Peter Watt, Sarika Tandon, Rhett Williams, Stacey Sheehan, Jenna Krussman and Juna Nagle.

9. Discuss Governance and Board Work Plan Passed over.

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10. **Adjournment** On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

Heather Michaud
Recorder