

# Fletcher Board of School Directors

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 6:30pm

Fletcher School Library

REGULAR MEETING

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## Agenda

1. **Call to Order** (*Bruce Chattman, Superintendent*)
2. **Board Re-Organization**
3. **Consent Agenda**
  - Minutes
    - Regular Meeting: February 18<sup>th</sup> & Annual School Meeting: March 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Reports
    - Principal's Report
    - Financial Report
    - Board Reports
  - Correspondence
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Board Business**
  - A. Town Meeting Day Recap
  - B. Suggestions for Next Year's Budgeting Process
6. **Other**
7. **Policies**

The following three policies will replace Policy Adoption, Policy Development, and Policy Dissemination policies

  - A. Role of Policy - **Action**
  - B. Policy Development & Adoption - **Action**
  - C. Policy Dissemination, Administration, and Review - **Action**
  - D. REVISED Staffing & Job Descriptions Policy - *1<sup>st</sup> Reading*
  - E. REVISED Personnel Files Policy - *1<sup>st</sup> Reading*
8. **Executive Session** (if needed)
9. **Upcoming Meetings**

Next Regular Meeting: April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, Fletcher School Library
10. **Adjourn**

# Fletcher Elementary School

Fletcher, VT

February 18, 2009

*These minutes are not approved until accepted by the School Directors at their next meeting.*

## Present

Board Members: Betsy Lesnikoski, Clerk; Dale Rock, & Diane Dayvie;  
Jen Cary, Chair (arrived at 6:50pm)

Administrators: Jeffrey Teitelbaum, Principal; Bruce Chattman, Superintendent; &  
Chris Sumner, Business Manager

Transcriptionist: Candy Granger

### 1. Call to Order:

Betsy Lesnikoski called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

### 2. Consent Agenda -Minutes:

Diane Dayvie made a motion to approve the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes with an additional sentence added in Section 6c. Dale Rock seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.

### 3. Reports:

Principal's Report: Jeff Teitelbaum informed the board of some freezing problems with the waste pipes, which cost approximately \$300 to get fixed. The school will be dressed up in fairy tale characters for one day this week. Sled dogs are coming tomorrow. The students have been scoring very well on tests lately.

Financial Report: Chris Sumner gave the Board her report. She stated that they still have plenty of money at this point to get through the end of the year. By next meeting she will begin making some projections for the rest of this year.

Board Member Reports: Betsy Lesnikoski reported that Charlie was thrilled with his \$250 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble.

### 4. Correspondence:

There was a note about Knight's of Columbus' free throw tournament.

### 5. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

### 6. Board Business:

A. Review FY2010 Budget Presentation & Brochure:

Chris shared the PowerPoint Presentation that will be done on Town Meeting Day. There was discussion regarding listing the budget cuts in order by importance. Chris reviewed in great detail, all the changes in funding from the FY09 Budget to the proposed FY10 Budget. There was much discussion regarding what the next step is if this proposed FY10 Budget fails on Town Meeting Day. The board agreed to not do a flyer mailing, but to instead leave the flyer around town at the town office & town store. Jeff will use the Alert Now system to call all parents to remind them of town meeting & to come vote.

- B. Approve School Calendar 2009-2010 – Action:  
Betsy Lesnikoski made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar.  
Dale Rock seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.

7. Other:

There were no other items.

8. Policies:

A. Role of Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

The Role of Policy was read for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

B. Policy Development & Adoption – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

The Development & Adoption Policy was read for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

C. Policy Dissemination, Administration, & Review – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

The Dissemination, Administration, & Review Policy was read for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

9. Executive Session (if needed):

There were no Executive Session items.

10. Upcoming Meetings:

Annual School Meeting: Town Meeting Day – March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ Fletcher School Gym

Next Regular Meeting: March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm @ Fletcher School Library

11. Adjourn:

Betsy Lesnikoski made a motion to adjourn at 8:35pm.

# Fletcher Board of School Directors

Annual School Meeting  
Fletcher Elementary School  
March 3, 2009 at 1:00pm

**DRAFT**

## Minutes

**Article 1:** *Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order as indicated in T-1 § 562 (1) of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.*

- Terry Riggs moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by Mary Lynn Riggs. Debate ceased after there was no discussion of the article.
- **Action:** Article 1 was passed by the voters.

**Article 2:** *Elect a Moderator for the School District Annual Meeting.*

- Mary Lynn Riggs moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by Terry Riggs.
- Mary Lynn Riggs moved to nominate Barry Doolan as moderator; no other nominations were provided. Debate ceased on the article.
- **Action:** Article 2 was passed by a majority of the voters electing Barry Doolan as the Moderator for the Annual School District meeting.

**Article 3:** *Elect a Clerk for the School District Annual Meeting.*

- Mary Lynn Riggs moved open discussion of the article, seconded by Susanne Roupe.
- Jen Cary moved to nominate Betsy Lesnikoski as clerk. No other nominations were named.
- **Action:** Article 3 was passed by a majority of the voters, electing Betsy Lesnikoski as the clerk for the Annual School District meeting.

### *Legislative Update:*

- Moderator Barry Doolan asked for approval to suspend the rules to allow non-resident Rep. Lynn Dickinson to address the voters. The voters agreed to suspend the rules.
- Rep. Dickinson addressed the town regarding details of discussions in the legislature around the education fund. She explained Act 60 and Act 68. Jen Cary asked if Governor Douglas is planning to "level fund" the block grant for education. Currently the Governor has not made a formal decision. There are transportation grants and small school grants available, but it was noted that "level funding" the education block grant would enormously impact education.

**Article 4:** *Hear and act on reports of School Directors' from previous year.*

- **Susanne Roupe?** moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by Melissa Sargent-Minor.
- Matt Webb moved to add Franklin West SU staff job titles along with the salaries, seconded by John Lavalley. Motion was approved by a majority of the voters.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

- There was a question regarding changes in the budget. Jen Cary provided response, adding that most questions would be addressed later in the presentation of the budget. Changes include added secondary students and salary and benefit increases per the teacher Master Agreement already negotiated.
- Keller Ashby asked if the Franklin West SU assessment is based on each school's student enrollment. Jen Cary replied that yes, the student enrollment is the formula used by the SU.
- Terry Riggs asked how much additional funding would need to be raised by local property taxes if the block grant for education is restricted. Jen Cary replied that such reductions in block grant funding would impact taxes, but added that the Board has already decided that if there are huge differences in anticipated revenues than the budget would be re-opened with the voters.
- Annette Kalinoski moved to cease debate on the article, seconded by Matt Webb. The motion was passed.

**Article 5:** *To elect by ballot school director for a three-year term*

- Barry Peterson moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by Annette Kalinoski.
- Jennifer Cary was nominated. No other nominations were provided. Suzanne Stritzler moved to cease debate on the article, seconded by Gloria Brunette.
- A majority of the voters present approved the motion, authorizing the Board Clerk to cast a single ballot for Jen Cary as School Director for another three-year term.

**Article 6:** *To elect by ballot school director for a three-year term*

- Matt Webb moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by, Barry Peterson.
- Dale Rock was nominated by Tammy Langlois.
- Barry Peterson moved to cease debate, seconded by Suzanne Stritzler.
- A majority of the voters present approved the motion, authorizing the Board Clerk to cast a single ballot for Dale Rock as School Director for another three-year term.

**Article 7:** *Shall the voters spend the sum of money necessary to support the public schools?*

- Elaine Sweet moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by Melissa Sargent-Minor.
- Jennifer Cary presented the proposed FY2010 budget.
- Matt Webb asked about the increase in the Supervisory Union budget. The Board explained that the increase is because of an anticipated change in rent due to the Central Office lease expiring this year. Also the local technology staff were taken out of the local school budgets and moved into the SU budget to give greater flexibility in providing services in response to schools needs.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

- Keller Ashby asked why the Fletcher portion of the SU assessment (\$63,702) did not match the school budget. Betsy Lesnikoski replied that the FWSU budget was later re-considered after the school budget was already approved. The new approved FWSU budget lowers the schools' assessment cost.
- There was a question about requirements for health education in schools. Melissa Sargent-Minor moved to suspend the rules, allowing non-resident Principal Jeffrey Teitelbaum to address to voters, seconded by Suzanne Stritzler. Mr. Teitelbaum explained that there is a health education requirement in the VT School Quality Standards. However, they have been unable to find someone to provide this instruction.
- Barry Peterson asked about the school nurse increase – the cost has doubled from the FY08 to FY10 budget. Mr. Teitelbaum replied that this is due to the need for consistent coverage throughout the week (5 hrs per day) to minimize risk in association with increased students health needs.
- The community asked if the school nurse can provide health education for students. Jeffrey replied that she does not have the endorsement or an education background to teach students. Also, the physical education teacher does not currently hold an endorsement in health education.
- Principal Teitelbaum explained the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) results. He noted that we are now further along and are beginning to see trends in our assessment data.
- There was an update on the Town's appeal of the CLA. Keller Ashby explained that the CLA was appealed to the Dept of Taxes. The appeal was denied but the Town is going to appeal the denial. Fletcher is in a unique situation with the largest landowner turning his land into an estate, which is being parceled and sold at a rate 2-3 times higher than the value assessed by the listers.
- There was a question if there is a cap for high school tuition.
- Mary Lynn Riggs moved to suspend the rules to allow non-resident FWSU Superintendent Bruce Chattman to address the voters, seconded by Suzanne Stritzler.
- Bruce Chattman explained that there is no cap on secondary tuition. There was further clarification by Jeffrey Teitelbaum.
- Rep. Dickinson added that tuition towns have to pay the full tuition amount regardless of the increase (example St. Albans).
- Bruce Chattman added that the only option for the voters would be to eliminate school choice and require that students attend a certain high school thereby having more control over the cost.
- Terry Riggs commented that the CLA is one of the things that has come up for local towns. Some towns have huge woodlots and the state has changed the rules on sales. That is one of the grounds of the appeal as the decision went back it affect some of the larger land sales in the town this past year.
- Tom Kalinoski asked about the state's \$200 million shortfall. Jen Cary responded that the revenues are completely unknown at this point and changes could happen later that can significantly impact Fletcher. She added that again, should it significantly change, the Board will re-open the vote to the community.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

- Matt Webb noted the freeze in the Principals' salary. The Board commented that Mr. Teitelbaum insisted on this action. Matt Webb added that having been in schools, he has seen that Principals have tremendous challenges and it is a tough job. The voters thanked Mr. Teitelbaum for his generosity in voluntarily foregoing a salary increase in light of the difficult economic times.
- Brenda Trenholm asked if teachers have agreed to a similar pay freeze. Jen Cary replied that salaries for teachers have already been negotiated and cannot be changed unless the Association approaches the Board. She added that currently, teachers pay 20% of all their benefits while many schools still pay 100% for their teachers. Support Staff also went to a 2.5% increase from a typical 4%. It was asked why the Board cannot cut teacher salaries. A community member commented that in the current economy, everyone needs the income they already have. No one can afford a pay cut.
- Tom Kalinoski asked about consolidating districts with fewer Supervisory Unions. Bruce Chattman replied that streamlining the way we do our business is important, but so is local control. This has been discussed at the state level but local community members need to indicate if this is a direction that they would like to go and let their representatives know.
- Mary Lynn Riggs moved to cease debate on the article, seconded by Melissa Sargent Minor.
- **Results:** The total budget of \$2,940,299 was approved with 44 in favor and 22 opposed. There was 1 blank ballot.

**Article 8:** *To conduct any other business that may come before the meeting.*

- Mr. Jeffrey Teitelbaum presented Jennifer Cary with a certificate and thanked her for her 12 years of service on the School Board.
- Mary Lynn moved to cease debate of the article, seconded by Matt Webb

**Article 9:** *To adjourn.*

- Matt Webb moved to adjourn the Annual School Meeting, seconded by Kathy \_\_\_\_\_.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_