

Georgia Board of School Directors
November 11, 2008 at 6pm
Georgia School Library
Regular Meeting

Agenda

I. *Call to Order*

II. *Public Comment*

III. *Consent Agenda*

- *Minutes: 10/7/08 (Regular Mtg), 10/30/08 (Special Mtg)*
- *Reports: Principal, Financial*
- *Correspondence*
- *Other*

IV. *New Business*

- *Technology Presentation - Dayle Payne*
- *Ski Program Presentation - Gabe Coleman*
- *Community Forum Planning with VSBA Representative*

V. *Policy Review*

- *Enrichment Policy - **Action***
- *Animal Dissection Policy - 1st Reading*
- *Student Medication Policy - 1st Reading*
- *Board Meetings Policy - 1st Reading*

VI. *Other*

VII. *Upcoming Meetings*

- A. **Special Budget Work Session:** November 18th at 6:00 PM at Georgia School Library
- B. **Regular Meeting:** December 2nd at 6:00 PM at Georgia School Library

VIII. *Adjourn*

Georgia Elementary/Middle School Goals

- *To create a committee structure that actively supports the priorities and objectives of the School Board.*
- *To continue to a budgeting process that provides for educational programs and supports the School Action Plan.*
- *To encourage and facilitate communication with Georgia Town Committees and Town Offices.*

Georgia Board of School Directors
October 7, 2008 at Georgia School Library
Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM
MINUTES

Board Present: Jennifer Petrie, Carl Laroe, Doug Bergstrom, Casey Hager, Irene Bonin
Administrators: Flora Hurteau, Armando Vilaseca, Frank Calano, Chris Sumner,
Others: Mary Lynn Riggs, Curriculum Director, FWSU

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

II. Executive Session – None required.

III. Public Comment - There have been some adjustments regarding the bus pick ups. Some folks have not approved of some of the new arrangements. This is regarding a single stop. This issue has gone through the Transportation Committee and the Principal's Office. A couple was present to discuss their bus issue. Their issue is regarding a cluster stop. Their child has to walk on a busy road where cars travel at a high rate of speed. The bus stop is .5 miles from the house. The bus stop is not visible from the house. The parents are upset that Armando did not respond the way that she deemed appropriate. Armando accepted responsibility for the issue. Doug stated that the bus company and transportation committee had come up with good solutions to saving money regarding the bus routes. They have shaved over 120 miles from the routes. Armando reviewed the concerns that were reviewed in relation to each bus stop when the routes were created. The parent asked if it is a financial decision and if so they stated they would be willing to pay. Armando stressed to the Board that each case is individual and should be voted on accordingly.

ACTION: Motion by Irene Bonin to recommend modifying the bus stop back to the original stop, seconded by Carl Laroe. Motion passed with 3 members in favor and 1 opposed.

Carolyn Branagan was present to advocate for the Enrichment Program. She stated that her three children had participated in the program and it was wonderful. One of her children has been credited for his writing skills and she attributes some of that from the Enrichment Program that he attended at Georgia Elementary and Middle School.

Armando asked Carolyn if there were any new funding bills. She states that consumer taxes are down and people are already under pressure due to property taxes. The education fund was healthy up until last year. The land values attribute directly to the education fund. Armando has a concern that human services and some other groups are looking at the education fund to supplement their budgets. Armando urged that this money is for education funding.

IV. Consent Agenda

- Minutes – September 2, 2008
- Reports – Principal

- Correspondence –
ACTION: Motion by Jennifer Petrie to pull the correspondence from the Consent Agenda, seconded Casey Hager, approved unanimously.
ACTION: Motion by Irene Bonin to accept Consent Agenda, seconded by Jennifer Petrie, approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

- **Board Recording Secretary Pay Rate** – Armando suggested increasing the rate for the Board Secretary from \$50 per meeting to \$75 per meeting. Armando stated the budget currently is for two meetings per month at \$50 per meeting. The Board is currently meeting once a month.
ACTION: Motion by Irene Bonin to increase the recording secretary's pay rate to \$75 per meeting, seconded by Jennifer Petrie, approved unanimously.
- **Community Forum Discussion** – Armando and Doug have met with Winton Goodrich who works with the Vermont School Board Association (“VSBA”). He helps Boards come up with long range plans. Winton Goodrich would like to attend the October 21st meeting. There are different levels of the VSBA's intervention. Doug and Armando recommend having the VSBA be involved with the entire process to accommodate the current time frame. The Board needs to come up with 10 potential community members to become facilitators that will require training. This training will require 10 hours of training. The expense is not currently budgeted.
ACTION: Motion by Irene Bonin to continue pursuing the Community Forum, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously.
- **Retreat Follow-Up (electronic newsletter)** – There has been a lot of work done to ensure that teachers and parents can have access to the newsletter. By the next board meeting the best option will be available for further discussion.

VI. New Business

- **Enrichment Program** – Nancy Mildrum, Nancy Volatile-Wood and MJ Mitiguy were present to discuss the Enrichment Program. Nancy Mildrum distributed a hand out explaining the Enrichment Program. They teach enrichment programs to groups of children and also individual programs. Each instructor presented a piece from a child they are currently working with. The program serves 91% of the students. 26% were served through the gifted program.
- **Kindergarten** – Armando introduced Mary Lynn Riggs, Curriculum Director at FWSU. Flora and Mary Lynn touched base on the Kindergarten plan. Flora indicated that we are capable of having 3 full-day programs and one 70% day without changing the budget. Flora also stated that Georgia is seeing more and more at risk children. Currently there are four .7 kindergarten teachers. This will be discussed October 21st at the Community Forum meeting. There will be a post card mailed out in the near future to alert community members of the meeting.
- **Transportation Contract Bidding** – It is time to consider the transportation contract. There are a few options for the Board to consider, extend the current contract, go out as a single district and bid the Georgia contract, bid this contract out with Fletcher, which may reduce the cost. Armando suggests bidding without fuel costs included. The Board would like to compare bids for a single run and a double run, for 3 years and for 5 years. Chris states that she can have the bid out by the end of October.

- **Approve Renewal of Abbey Food Service Contract –**
ACTION: Motion by Jennifer Petrie to approve the 2008-2009 Abbey Food Service Contract, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously.
- **Financial Report –** Chris Sumner discussed the financial report provided to the Board. There is a \$41,000 savings on teacher's salaries. Fuel costs will be \$13,000 over budget. There will be a \$47,000 savings on the tax anticipation note interest.
- **Budget Timeline FY10 –** There will be a budget forum on October 21, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the Georgia School Gymnasium. The Board will hold the regular board meeting on November 11th and a budget discussion meeting on November 18th. The Board reviewed the Budget 2010 time line.

VII. Policy Review

- **SU Discussion –**
 - **Enrichment Policy –** The current policy is entitled Gifted and Talented/Enrichment Education Policy. The current policy included procedures. The revised policy eliminates the procedures.
 - **Revoke Old Policies –**
 - Compensation of Principals Policy
 - Policy re: Employment of Certified Personnel
 - Title IX Non-Discrimination Policy
 - Bloodborne Pathogens Policy (replaced by AIDS/HIV Policy)
 - Hazing Policy (replaced by Interrogation of Students Policy)
 - Philosophy of Sports Policy
 - School Health Policy
 - Policy on Student Placement (replaced by Grade Advancement, Retention, Acceleration)
 - Protocol for Potential Suicide
 - Policy re Hot Lunch Charges (food service is now sub-contracted)
 - Location of Individual Evaluation for Student
 - Grants Policy
 - Student/Group Fundraising Activities
- ACTION: Motion by Casey Hager to remove the policies as listed, seconded by Jennifer Petrie, approved unanimously.*

VIII. **Other –** Frank distributed a handout that showed the Board the high school numbers. Frank stated that the reduced lunch program has steadily inclined over the past few years. This year we are at 19% of students receiving the reduced lunch program.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- **Regular Meeting:** October 21st at 6:00 PM at Georgia School Gym

X. Executive Session (Personnel/Contract) –

ACTION: Motion by Jennifer Petrie to approve both requests for leave, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously.

XI. **Adjourn –** Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.