

Minutes of the Chester School Board Meeting
March 3, 2010

The March 3, 2010 meeting of the Chester School Board was called to order by Chairman Royal Richardson at 7:07p.m. The meeting was broadcast live on analog channel 22 and digital channel 100.3 on the Comcast cable system and recorded for future playback.

Present:

- Chester school board members Chairman Royal Richardson, Valerie Weider, Catherine Treanor, Mat Stover, and Michael Romick.
- Superintendent Victor Petzy, Jana Ruiz, Special Services Coordinator, Principal Leslie Leahy, and Annmarie Scribner – District Financial Manager.
- Guests Kelly Glynn, Kelsey Slade, Jodie Antoine, Lorna Hazelton, Maria Veale, and Matt Rittenhouse reporter from the *Tri-Town Times*.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MANIFEST

Chairman Richardson presented the following manifests for approval:

AP Manifest #15 \$51,999.60
Payroll Manifest #18 \$256,975.88

The motion to “accept the manifests as read” was made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Mr. Stover.

There was no discussion.

Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Mr. Stover. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

MINUTES

February 10, 2010

Minutes submitted to board from the December meeting.

Mr. Romick made a motion to “accept the February 10, 2010 minutes with the spelling and grammar corrections presented by Mr. Stover.” Motion was seconded by Ms. Treanor.

There was no discussion.

Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Treanor. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

SCHEDULED GUESTS -

1. Pinkerton Students: Kelly Glynn and Kelsey Slade gave an update on happenings at Pinkerton Academy and an update on future events.

Chairman Richardson informed the public that the Annual Reports are available throughout the town and online at the chesteracademy.org web site. The reports were distributed on March 1st and were delayed due to the power outage that affected the region.

PUBLIC INPUT – Jodie Antoine spoke regarding the recent use of Chester Academy as a shelter for the wind storm that left Chester without power for several days. She reported that the shelter was opened

and several residents took advantage of it. There were some minor problems with electric outlets, but she wished to commend the custodial staff that came in to check on the generator and Ms. Musser for operating the kitchen. Ms. Antoine was disappointed that the Alert Now system was not used to notify residents that the shelter was open; she requested that the board reconsider the use of the system for non-school use.

BUDGET COMMITTEE INPUT – None.

REPORTS – Written reports were provided to board members.

PRINCIPAL – report submitted and delivered by Ms. Leslie Leahy.
Summary of topics:

Academic

Teacher Workshop Day-Friday, March 12th - Teachers will be using new NECAP technology tools to look for ways to improve instruction; ASCD training on recommended 21st Century skills; subject area teachers will meet to review topics taught and revise instructional plans for remainder of the year; teachers may also use this opportunity to visit other schools to see teachers using new strategies or materials in the classroom.

2010-2011 Calendar Proposal-School calendar presented to school board for perusal. Request for final approval at April meeting.

Personnel

Nothing of Note

Student Management

Enrollment Report- Enrollments have continued to increase.

	<i>Oct</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>
Public Kindergarten			37	37	35	35	34	34	34	34	34
Grade 1	64	63	69	71	68	68	68	68	69	70	70
Grade 2	67	66	64	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
Grade 3	68	67	65	67	65	65	65	65	65	66	66
Grade 4	82	83	68	67	67	67	67	67	68	68	68
Grade 5	76	78	83	84	83	84	85	85	84	84	84
Grade 6	84	82	79	80	75	75	73	73	74	74	74
Grade 7	81	80	83	88	84	84	85	85	85	84	85
Grade 8	82	84	80	84	83	84	84	83	83	84	84
SUB-TOTAL	604	603	628	641	623	625	624	623	625	627	628
Pre-3 yr	6	9	5	5	7	7	7	7	8	8	9
Pre-4 yr	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	6	7	7
Kindergarten	11	11									
SUB-TOTAL	25	28	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	15	16
TOTAL	629	631	641	654	636	638	637	636	639	642	644

Building and Grounds

Generator Adjustments- The generator was used for the Emergency shelter and seemed to work fine. The kitchen operated fine; the cafeteria was reported to be cool. After review a problem was found with a faulty valve and Wilkins Mechanical is scheduled to come in and repair the valve.

Masonry work: The wall around the loading dock door is deteriorating and a mason has been called to give an estimate of cost and scope of work needed.

Gym and Cafeteria Blower Units: Despite repairs, are in poor condition due to constant exposure to the weather. All three units are rusting. Don Ennis is looking at replacement costs and is planning to try and break the installations over two years in order to keep costs down.

Administration

8th grade parents: Will receive a letter by next Monday, March 8th with passwords and directions to access their children's grades on a regular basis. This is a pilot this year. Parents will be able to see reports cards, schedules, and ongoing grades. 7th grade parents will have the same access for the last quarter.

Community Relations

March 8th-Faculty Student Basket Ball Game 6-8pm - rescheduled

March 9th-Voting at the Town Hall from 7am to 8pm on the school district budget and other ballot articles.

March 15th Winter Sports Awards 6-7:30 pm in the cafeteria

March 19th PTA Mother Son Dance at the MPR from 7-9pm

March 27th-PTA Auction/Dinner Dance- for more details contact the PTA directly or the front office.

Executive session- None

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR – Ms. Jana Ruiz reported nothing new to report this month.

FINANCIAL MANAGER – Report submitted and delivered by Ms. Annmarie Scribner.

09-10 Budget Forecast - Ms. Scribner reported that the current financial forecast for the 2009-10 Fiscal year shows a positive balance of \$52,333.

Regular Education is currently showing a positive balance of \$78,506 due to savings in the following areas:

1. Tuition – Public school tuition has a projected surplus of \$114,838
2. Improvement of Instruction - \$5,000
3. Office of the Superintendent - \$8,834 mostly from a change in the insurance plan
4. Salary savings in Technology of \$7,773

Special Education is currently showing a deficit of (\$-26,173) and is reflected on the following area:

1. Out of District Tuition (\$43,804)

Mr. Romick asked if the food prices had been reduced as per a previous vote by the board. Ms. Scribner said that by Federal law the prices cannot change mid year.

Chairman Richardson brought forward a concern from School District Clerk that is was brought to his attention that Chester Selectman Joe Castricone made a comment at a recent Selectmen's meeting that the school district had no funds for the upcoming election. Ms. Scribner reported that there are funds available and the money is in the School Board account 2310.

SUPERINTENDENT

Reference Superintendent Report by Dr. Victor Petzy.
Items covered throughout the agenda.

Dr. Petzy reported that he had the opportunity to take part in the annual Dr. Seuss Read Across America program and read “Green Eggs and Ham” to the first grade.

OLD BUSINESS

Voting Day Responsibilities: District Clerk Bob Grimm sent a correspondence to the school board regarding the responsibilities and obligations by the school board on voting day. Chairman Richardson recited the Article:

New Hampshire Constitution Article 2, Section 32:

[Art.] 32. [Biennial Meetings, How Warned, Governed, and Conducted; Return of Votes, etc.] The meetings for the choice of governor, council and senators, shall be warned by warrant from the selectmen, and governed by a moderator, who shall, in the presence of the selectmen (whose duty it shall be to attend) in open meeting, receive the votes of all the inhabitants of such towns and wards present, and qualified to vote for senators; and shall, in said meetings, in presence of the said selectmen, and of the town or city clerk, in said meetings, sort and count the said votes, and make a public declaration thereof, with the name of every person voted for, and the number of votes for each person; and the town or city clerk shall make a fair record of the same at large, in the town book, and shall make out a fair attested copy thereof, to be by him sealed up and directed to the secretary of state, within five days following the election, with a superscription expressing the purport thereof.

District Clerk Grimm in his correspondence explained that after speaking with the NH Secretary of State that the NH Attorney General has determined that even though the article refers only to selectmen it also applies to school district officials as well.

The board set up the following schedule to be at the polls on March 9th and to have a quorum to view the ballot count and sign the sealed box.

Ms Treanor will cover the 7 a.m. to Noon, Chairman Richardson will cover Noon to 4 p.m., Ms. Weider will cover 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Mr. Romick will be there, as well as Ms. Treanor to make up the quorum. Mr. Stover will be out of town on voting day.

NEW BUSINESS –

Superintendent Search: Chairman Richardson reported that the school board has begun the process and is looking at the initial steps for the search process and the board has met with the School Boards Association for guidance. Chairman Richardson will keep the public informed.

Chester Academy Calendar, 2010-2011: discussed earlier in meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE – Chairman Richardson distributed to the board a mailing that would be sent to the voters to remind them of the upcoming election and to outline the collective bargaining agreement between the district and the Chester Educational Association.

Mr. Stover reported that the New Hampshire School Board Association sent an application to nominate school districts to be recognized for effective initiatives. Mr. Stover suggested the board look at applying for recognition by sending in a report regarding the collective bargaining agreement and the use of technology in the school.

POLICIES – None.

PERSONNEL –None.

OTHER – Ms. Weider reported that she attended the recent Chester PTA meeting and discussed the collective bargaining agreement and there was a good exchange of dialogue.

ANTICIPATED DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, April 7, 2010.

NONPUBLIC SESSION, RSA 91-A: 3II (c, e)

Mr. Stover made a motion “to move the meeting to a Non-Public Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3II (c,e) for personnel and student issues” Ms. Weider seconded the motion.

Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Stover and seconded by Ms. Weider. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.

Meeting went into Non-Public session at 8:00 p.m. on March 3, 2010.

Also in attendance and participating in the Non-Public Session were Superintendent Dr. Vic Petzy, Special Services Coordinator Jana Ruiz, and Chester Academy Principal, Leslie Leahy.

CLOSURE OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Romick made a motion “to conclude the Non-Public Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3II (c,e) for personnel and student issues” Ms. Treanor seconded the motion.

Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Treanor. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.

The meeting returned to Public Session at 9:25 p.m, on March 3, 2010.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION –

Pursuant to the discussion regarding the Public Workshop with the NHSBA, Mr. Stover made a motion to authorize the Chairman to engage the NHSBA to formally begin the Superintendent Search process. Ms. Weider seconded the motion. Board Members Richardson, Romick, Stover, Treanor and Weider all voted in the affirmative.

There were no further specific items for the Board’s consideration or any items to vote upon.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stover made a motion “to adjourn the meeting.” Ms. Weider seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Stover and seconded by Ms. Weider. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. on March 3, 2010.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted March 4, 2010.

Minutes Approved on April 7, 2009 by a vote of 4-0.

A true Attest.

Robert S. Grimm, School District Clerk