

MINUTES OF THE

January 20, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING  
of the  
Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD  
Board of Education

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District was held on January 20, 2009, in the District Office.

Members Present:     Helen Lounsbury                     Michelle Fusco (arrived at 7:48 a.m.)  
                              Maureen Sikule                             Sean O'Connor  
                              John Harlow

Others Present:        Tim Holmes

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lounsbury at 7:35 a.m.

**Executive Session**

At 7:36 a.m., motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to enter into Executive Session to discuss an employee's job performance. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Mr. Holmes was present during executive session.

Mrs. Fusco arrived at 7:48 a.m.

**Return to Public Session**

At 8:23 a.m., motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Harlow to return to public session. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting was called back to order by the President, Mrs. Lounsbury at 8:24 a.m.

**New Business**

Mrs. Lounsbury stated that in response to earlier discussions, the chair would entertain a motion to have the Superintendent provide the Board with incident reports.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mrs. Fusco that Mr. Schrade request of the Building Principals incident reports and commensurate follow-up reports on a monthly basis, in a concise fashion.

Mrs. Lounsbury suggested that the motion be amended to reflect the addition of “written for Board information”

Motion was made by Mr. O’Connor, seconded by Mr. Harlow that Mr. Schrade request of the Building Principals incident written reports and commensurate follow-up reports on a monthly basis, in a concise fashion for Board information. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Mr. O’Connor prefers a verbal report, to see what is going on, going forward; Mrs. Lounsbury stated that a written report, in the Board Package labeled Board Information, perhaps in a chart form noting type of incident, disposition, and follow-up; Mr. Harlow felt it procedural, not interested in seeing follow-up; Mrs. Sikule wants to make sure follow up is being done, what type of incidents occurred. Mr. O’Connor wants to know the follow up.

Mrs. Lounsbury would like to see the Board Policies reviewed pertaining to these incidents and perhaps the development of a procedural check list that comes out of these policies. Mr. Harlow feels Mr. Schrade knows what the problem is and can handle this without a formal motion.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to direct Mr. Schrade to review Policy #7551 – Sexual Harassment of Students, Policy #7552 – Hazing of Students, and Policy #7553 – Bullying: Peer Abuse in the Schools and review them with an eye toward what our current procedures are for handling them and to recommend any changes to the Board that would be consistent with trying to resolve the issues. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Mrs. Lounsbury felt the Superintendent should give an overview of policies and practices and dealing with these incidents and public would have an opportunity to present ideas.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lounsbury, seconded by Mrs. Sikule to have the Board offer a NYSSBA Bullying Workshop or have a Board sponsored workshop; Mr. Schrade would give public information and an overview of policies and practices of the District with the opportunity for public input afterward.

Mrs. Lounsbury votes yes.

Mrs. Fusco votes no.

Mrs. Sikule votes no.

Mr. O’Connor votes no

Mr. Harlow votes no.

Motion was denied.

Mrs. Lounsbury stated that as a Board, we would be taking action regarding public unease, rather than addressing an individual concern. Mrs. Sikule would like to see this issue as a program focus first to see if there is a bigger issue. Mrs. Fusco felt the Board

needed more information for this year, how many incidents were investigated. Mrs. Sikule would like to have a report or overview of entire school year, not detailed, then move forward.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mrs. Fusco to direct Mr. Schrade to compile a summary of the school year to date, what kind of incidents we have had and numbers of them to make a determination what kind of program focus or workshop we need to have, if we indeed have a problem.

Mrs. Lounsbury votes yes.

Mrs. Fusco votes yes.

Mrs. Sikule votes yes.

Mr. Harlow votes no.

Mr. O'Connor votes no.

Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sikule, seconded by Mr. Harlow to approve the Memorandum of Agreement By and Between Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD and CSEA, Inc., Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD Unit of Local 801 for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, as attached. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

Mrs. Sikule wanted reflected that although we are in tough economic times, this settlement represents raises equal to those of other bargaining units already approved.

Mrs. Lounsbury also wanted reflected that the CSEA delayed their negotiations out of consideration to the Board, and that is only fair to take that into account.

Mrs. Sikule questioned the change in the "Dates to Remember" - student attendance during regents week. Mr. Schrade explained the need for the additional day.

### **Adjourn**

Motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mr. O'Connor that the meeting adjourn. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Denise J. Martin  
District Clerk