

THETFORD ACADEMY
VERMONT'S OLDEST SECONDARY SCHOOL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
December 15, 2008

1. Call to order-7:05 p.m. Mr. Briglin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Meeting Participants. The following TA Trustees were present: Faith Alexandre, Vice President; Peter Boyd, Alumni Representative; Tim Briglin, President; Denise Froehlich; Peter Herman; Gene Kadish; Karen Kaliski, Thetford Representative; Therese Linehan, Strafford Representative; Chip Odell; Stephen Page, Clerk; Conrad Reining; Curtis Richardson, Treasurer (arrived 9:15); Jim Wilson. A quorum was present.

Representing the school: Martha Rich, Head of School; David McGinn, Assistant Head of School, Keith Merrick, Business Manager; Sarah Clarke, Development and Community Relations Director.

These Trustees were not present at the meeting: Charlie Buttrey; Kevin Kerin, Lyme Representative; Barbara Mason; Barbara Truex; Bill Weyrick;

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 4 November 2008

A motion (Herman, Odell) to accept the minutes as written was approved.

4. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Capital Project Update.

I. Regulatory Update, Cost Estimates, and Financing: Mr. Briglin began his presentation in light of the fact that he would be giving this report again the next evening, Tuesday, December 16, with Mr. Reining. This would be for the petitioned town meeting.

Bids are back, and, the construction committee has brought information to the board. Phase One plans for the renovation of the science building and construction of the new gymnasium were explained. Also, an explanation was given of why the plan will go forward. That includes, for the gymnasium, the fact that there is planned, two gym floors, lined sideways. This will help in the emphasis of fitness, classes can be assisted because

physical education is mandatory. Practices should not have to go so late in the evening.

Renovations to Anderson Hall were explained. The primary floor provides a cafeteria and a stage. The capacity of the stage would be _____. The present capacity of the Shark Tank is _____. There would be a scene shop.

It was mentioned that Anderson Hall is now on the National Register of Historic Places. This will result in the East side of the building being preserved.

There was a reporting of changes that have taken place since town meeting a year ago. The Board decided to go with a Phase One for now and a Phase Two later. Phase One includes: elimination of a full size cafeteria, no seating on one side of the gymnasium, and a change in auditorium seating. (Notes?) There would be \$7.9 million in expenditures, to include _____. Total project cost \$6.7 million...liability...outstanding debt will be _____. \$2.4 million to be provided by TA. Of tuition ...\$1,700...Phase One construction... These changes have been instituted within this year since Town Meeting.

There is a local Development Review Board. Their function is to oversee local, neighborhood concerns. Several issues they have dealt with include, noise and time of construction, landscaping and the painting of windows.

Photos were shown that depict the future exterior of Anderson Hall.

In June, an Act 250 hearing was held. (Notes?) ...People have "standing." ...local neighbors who are affected...It was decided to drop Phase Two of the application process.

A foundation permit was issued in September. We are waiting for a water supply permit to come in in January. Then there will be a 3 week _____, followed by a _____ period. We have been told (by whom?) that the final construction permit, for April, 2009 should be no problem.

Upcoming ledge work, especially in the south west corner, will come from contingency funds.

The cost is now \$1.5 million higher than last year. This month the board has worked to get rid of \$900,000. (Notes?)\$_____+\$_____+\$_____+\$_____=\$7.9million. Financing is not better now. The agreement with Mascoma Savings Bank has expired.

There is debt service on \$7.25million over 25 years. 70% of cost comes from tuition.

70% of tuition comes from the town of Thetford.

ii. Capital Campaign Update. Sarah reported that we have \$546 million pledged and the

Campaign office has not started public mailings. It is felt that people gave when they were approached, out of a feeling that the project was very important. Cut backs jeopardize Sarah's ability to raise money; new, proposed areas for the school have been dedicated on behalf of concerned contributors. Karen Kaliski spoke on behalf of the Thetford Elementary Board.

iii. Academic Update: Ms. Rich discussed her observations in regards to two standards we are incorporating. (Notes?)

iv. Business Report: Mr. Merrick discussed budget items. More budget information would be with Mr. Richardson when he arrives.

Mr. McGinn, regarding the disciplinary front, stated that school started out relatively easy. It has gotten tougher with a few issues of late. A lock down drill was carried out in record time. It was less than a minute from when Mr. McGinn, using a card, identified himself as a terrorist.

The HAC has expressed a concern about the amount of professional meeting time after school. The administrative team will look at options. No changes will be made this semester.

The trip to Mt. Anthony is part of a two year commitment.

During the recent power outage, Bruce Hyde put in many hours, "off the clock" to help around the school. Mr. McGinn moved and _____seconded to have the Board thank him and his staff for their "yeoman" efforts.

v. Town Reports. Lyme was not reported. Mrs. Linehan reported briefly for Strafford. Mrs. Kaliski, speaking for Thetford, explained that the Partnership will draw up some language. (Notes?) There will be a Principal Search Committee.

At the Academy, the Head's Transition Team is contacting other schools to discover different administrative make up in their schools. On February 8, in the afternoon, there will be a Board Retreat. the theme will be, "The future of TA as this leads into a search for a new Head of School."

iv. Business Report. (Continued) Mr. Richardson arrived at 9:15. He explained budget items briefly, since the Board would soon go into executive session. This year is a contract year. The Board is attempting to build a budget, staying as close to this year as possible.

Health insurance is the most expensive benefit that is offered. TA pays 100% of singular, 80% of family. \$5,000 is paid to teachers who do not take TA's health insurance. This \$5,000 stipend is the most generous plan in the state. Our numbers are projected to decline by 13 students. If you take a tuition cost of \$16,225, there would be a 9% increase including debt service. The increase would be 4.3% without debt service. FTE's for administrative positions will be the same as before.

Discussion ensued concerning the supply side of student enrollment. Can we inquire about enlisting more towns?

5. Adjournment of Open Meeting: (Richardson, Herman) at 9:50.
6. Adjournment of Executive Session: (Herman, Koliski) at 10:56.
7. Minutes prepared by Tom O'Quinn.