

Orwell Village School Board  
Regular Meeting  
November 17, 2009

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

Members Present: Peter W. Ochs, Glen Cousineau, Judy Fyles, Herb Schulte, John Tester

Administration: Ron Ryan, Sue DeCarolis, Laura Jakubowski

Others: Mark Young, Pat Dubois, Pat Williams, Jim Heald, Mark Russell, Amy Roy, Julie Disorda, J. Wist

Herb Schulte called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. He welcomed Peter to the Board.

Judy moved the Board to approve the minutes of October 20, 2009, seconded by John.

Ron checked over the paperwork from Peter to be a Board member, and it was all in order.

On page 1 of the October 20<sup>th</sup> minutes, sixth paragraph, regarding the bus turnaround, it should read: "...to have the bus stop at the Mount Independence Farm, formerly known as the Robie Farm..." The motion passed with one abstention.

Under public comment, Mr. Russell asked if the bus turnaround was a done deal. He owns the property where the bus turned around, there might be a way to fix the driveway. John stated that he took a trip out there and he doesn't think it's the quality of the driveway that is the issue, the length of the driveway is a tight turnaround. Mr. Russell indicated that he could expand the length and width of the driveway, make it so they could turnaround easy with two loads of stone. Sue said that she had spoken with Mr. Tenzer, but hasn't heard back from him since.

Mr. Russell thought that it is an inconvenience for Mr. Tenzer, and that he could help. Sue said that one of the challenges is there are times where pickups are done and no kids are there. John stated that there were other issues, putting 200 extra miles on the bus per year, snow plowing at that time in the morning. He felt that the best solution to the school is to continue as far as the Russell Farm. Ron added that the Board designates the stops, sets them at the beginning of the year. Judy suggested re-looking at this. There was more discussion. John suggested tabling it for the December agenda. Ron felt that December may be too late.

Mr. Russell stated that his son David is home-schooled, comes to school for Phys Ed. He stated that he hasn't been able to get a report card. Ron suggested that Mr. Russell have a discussion with Mrs. DeCarolis about this. Sue stated that she would be happy to do that.

Judy asked who is going to go out to the bus area in question. Peter offered to do it. John suggested that any Board member who wants to go out there should, taking a bus to show them what they have to do. Judy moved the Board to authorize Peter and John represent the Board to

check Russell's driveway and turnaround, seconded by Glen and passed. Sue will make the arrangements, she will speak with the driver tomorrow.

There was no correspondence.

Mr. Heald went over the bus bid from Dattco Inc. The change becomes a new proposal with a difference of \$2,256.01. He needs a decision tonight. If the grant does not come through, he will not hold us to the bid. Ron stated that the State of Vermont hasn't physically given us anything in writing. Mr. Heald commented that this bus is the latest technology, all controls are on the wheel. Down the road in 2010, the engine will cost more, anything manufactured after that has to have the new engine. Mr. Heald also recommended an extended warranty program (18-19 pages) for \$2400, the engine will cost more, anything manufactured after that has to have the new engine. Mr. Heald also recommended an extended warranty program (18-19 pages) for \$2400, good for 60 months, 100,000 miles. There was discussion about the engine. Peter stated that an automatic is going to break down, need to buy the warranty.

John moved the Board to accept the bus bids from Dattco Inc. as presented, which included the extended warranty for \$2,400, contingent upon receipt and official approval of the School Bus Replacement Grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. The motion was seconded by Judy and passed.

Sue recognized two teachers present tonight, Pat Williams and Pat Dubois. Pat went over the Student Council plans for the year. Pat Dubois stated that out of 77 families, 75 were represented at the parent conferences. She prepared students so that they would be in charge of the conferences. She reported that all students in grades 6-8 participated in the conferences this year and will do so again in the spring. Fifth grade students will participate this spring.

Sue informed the Board that there is a transportation issue regarding basketball joining forces with Benson for a 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys team. They will be using the Benson gym for practices and games, our gym is not a safe gym for basketball. With practices starting at 3:30, how do we get them down there. It's a big part of a lot of kids' lives. John stated that we did it for softball and doesn't think it's an issue. Judy doesn't have a problem with it. Glen indicated that if we have going to have a basketball team we don't have a choice. The bigger issue is the future of basketball program at Orwell with inadequate facilities. Judy suggested having Benson be our first option. Sue mentioned that Kim Doty, Principal of BVS, was agreeable to our using their gym for some home games if it works with their scheduled. Mrs. Doty was going to seek approval from her board. It was fine with the Board.

Ron had Judy sign the enrollment verification page.

Judy moved the Board to approve a contract for Jennifer Sanderson, half-time paraeducator working primarily in the first grade. The motion was seconded by John and passed.

Kris Benway will have costs available for the EEE Collaborative at the December meeting, 57 percent Benson, 43 percent Orwell. John moved the Board to continue participation in the EEE Collaborative, seconded by Glen and passed. Judy stated that we need to figure out who is on the EEE Board, it was Glen and Julie. Glen said that it meets every other month. Glen moved the Board to add Peter Ochs to the EEE Collaborative, seconded by John Tester and passed.

Under old business was the issue of putting a chain on the ball field, placing them on both ends. The renter doesn't want any posts out there. Ron stated that it has been communicated. We have taken care of everything as a Board.

Judy stated that there is still drinking going on. Ron is looking into it and will report at the December meeting.

Under new business Judy inquired about the feedback from parent conferences on the combined class, positive or negative. Sue indicated that the feedback was very positive. Some parents said that they were pleasantly surprised.

Herb had a conversation with the lobbying in the State regarding speed limits around town. There's increased traffic from the Champlain Bridge, ferry in Shoreham. He would like the Board to send a letter that says it does concern them. Herb will write it up.

Glen moved the Board to approve November bills in the amount of \$118,276.28, seconded by Judy. There was a question about pumping water out of the oil tank. Sue stated that there's got to be a leak. She called Dundon's in. The motion passed.

Herb moved the Board into executive session at 9:05 for a student matter, seconded by Judy and passed.

Out of executive session at 9:23 p.m. no action taken. Motion by John Tester and seconded by Judy Fyles to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Flood