

APPROVED MINUTES
JAMAICA VILLAGE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 18th, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Summary of Actions taken:

- Approved the Minutes for September 8th, 2016 and September 20th, 2016.
- Authorized the Chair to sign the VEHI Certificate of Authority, to empower Emily Long to vote on behalf of the Jamaica Village School Board.
- Approved Pay Orders #.28 in the amount of \$14,018.64; #29 in the amount of \$5,550.93; #32 in the amount of \$114,454.40.

Present:

Board: Stephanie Amyot (Chair), Anne Reynolds (Vice Chair), Pamela Tweedy, Amber Burrow, Jennifer Dorta-Duque

Administration: Bill Anton (Superintendent), Laurie Garland (Interim Business Manager), Laura Hazard (Principal, JVS)

Members of the Public: Janet Hamilton, Keri Brown, Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call to order

Ms. Amyot called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Changes or revisions to this Agenda – (none)

Approve Minutes: 9/8 & 9/20 meetings

Ms. Dorta-Duque moved “to Approve the Minutes for September 8th, 2016.”, Second by Ms. Tweedy. **All in Favor.**

Ms. Dorta-Duque moved “to Approve the Minutes for September 20th, 2016.” Second by Ms. Tweedy. **All in Favor.**

Approve pay orders

The Board Signed Pay Orders #.28 in the amount of \$14,018.64; #29 in the amount of \$5,550.93; #32 in the amount of \$114,454.40.

Ms. Tweedy moved “to Approve Pay Orders #.28 in the amount of \$14,018.64; #29 in the amount of \$5,550.93; #32 in the amount of \$114,454.40.” Second by Ms. Dorta-Duque. **All in Favor.**

Principal’s Report

Ms. Hazard provided highlights of her report: Math Coach Betty Young is visiting schools on a schedule and as needed to bring more in-depth practice for each school, improving the model; students are preparing for the all-town scarecrow contest with enthusiasm; Sixth Graders are volunteering for Senior Luncheon; in the all-schools community unit, bullying education began with an overview of the law, a Tiger-produced video and student-produced skits; Some furnace problems are being addressed by Clark Electric, Jeffers Plumbing and Heating; a free Radon test from VT Department of Health will be done.

There were questions; Ms. Hazard discussed Reunification Plan for emergencies, developed with the fire department; the “Host a Robot” program (through VitaLearn) helps students with coding skills as the robot gets “smarter” as it visits schools and there will be a Robot Rodeo at the end of the program.

Superintendent’s Report – sent prior – questions/discussion

Business Manager

Ms. Garland brought the quarterly report for July 1 to September 30, noting that it shows expenses and no revenues; the monthly report is included for 2016 as requested, and shows ebb and flow of expenses; she explained “E-rate”, a program that reimburses for internet costs (\$750), and explained that this will be shown as a revenue instead of a discount on the bill for this year but the reimbursement will be done. Ms. Garland addressed questions from the Board.

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Superintendent

Mr. Anton had provided copies, and highlighted points: JVS is not alone in seeing Special Education increases, it is a State-wide issue; The SU is being very specific about training for educators; the Director of Special Education has explained it well. The SU is interviewing for a new Director of Education on November 16th and 17th; this will be similar to the process for hiring the new L&G Principal; regarding the role of Principal, the Board at Marlboro is interviewing in January and Townshend is contemplating their next move; he is doing some hypothetical modeling for them.

Public/Staff comments

Ms. Brown requested an Executive Session for a Personnel matter; the Chair added this to the Agenda.

WCSU related – Report from Leland & Gray study committee

Ms. Tweedy discussed the recent L&G Towns Study Committee activities and actions; public relations consultant, Anita Rafael, has been hired; Patti Dickson is the point-of-contact Committee member with Ms. Rafael; they are drafting Articles of Agreement; progress seems positive; they have sent out a new time-line (circulated to the Board).

Ms. Hazard provided a copy of the presentation she had made before the Committee.

The new Board, to begin its work in 2019, will be formed after the vote at Town Meeting.

The Chair discussed an item of correspondence from “Vermonters for Schools and Community” entitled “*Seven Problems with Act 46*”, sent to all Boards.

WCSU upcoming meetings

Mr. Anton discussed the November 16th meeting noting that the budget will be provided beforehand; subsequent meetings will be on November 30th, and December 7th if necessary; these are all budget-related. just the WCSU Representatives will attend.

Solar Project report

The Chair discussed the WSWMD project agreed to a year ago, when nothing actually happened; they are now planning a five-megawatt solar system at the landfill in Brattleboro, under special legislation. There will be seventeen acres of solar panels; the District invests as “off-takers” for credit on electric bills when it starts generating power; solid waste district members have priority, incentives; about 25% savings on electric bill. This would be good for the town but uncertain as to the school as it is a twenty-year commitment, so if the building were shut down about \$5,500 per year would still have to be paid to the solar company. However, the credits are transferable, so other off-takers might be found in that case; 8 million kwh a year is anticipated from the project of which about one percent is Jamaica’s load; typical usage cost was about \$6,500 a year before the project. Should the school close and no off-taker found, it would become a liability.

Mr. Anton noted that the new district would own the credit; L&G spends \$75,000 a year for electricity; the question was raised whether to Warn the matter for a vote in November, and is there a MOU or other documentation on this project. The chair asked the Administration to clarify the process, considering the old project dead for the moment, awaiting more information to bring the matter up again.

Ms. Garland noted that she had asked Lou Brusio (WSWM) about the contract after recent developments in NewBrook and had received several contacts.

WEHI Certificate of Authority

The Certificate gives Emily Long authority to vote on behalf of Jamaica Village School.

Ms. Dorta-Duque moved “to authorize the Chair to sign the VEHI Certificate of Authority, to empower Emily Long to vote on behalf of the Jamaica Village School Board.” Second by Ms. tweedy. **All in Favor.**

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Future Agenda Items

- Solar Project
- Budgeting

Next meeting dates

November 15th, 2016

Executive Session: identification of students, Personnel matter

(The following kindness of Ms. Tweedy)

7:45pm Anne moved to go into Executive Session for a personnel issue. Second by Amber.

Dissolved Executive Session at 8:05pm - directed Superintendent to meet privately with the visitor.

Entered Executive Session II at 8:06pm for ID of students. Dissolved at 9:30pm. Directed Administration to draft a survey and community response plan.

Pam moved to adjourn, Amber 2nd. Adjourned at 9:31pm.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, October 20th, 2016