

UNAPPROVED DRAFT 12/13/11	BOARD APPROVED 1/9/12	CORRECTIONS 1/10/12
------------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

**Vergennes Union High School  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
Monday, December 12, 2011  
6:00 p.m.  
VUHS Library**

**Board**

K. Bristow  
L. Gutowski  
R. Kerschner  
N. Kamman  
C. Cousineau  
C. Wyckoff (6:37 p.m)

**Administration**

T. O'Brien  
K. Cannon  
E. Webbley  
P. Reynolds

**Guests /Visitors**

Kathy Kennett  
Lee Hodsden  
Lisa Rowell  
Nancy Ambrose  
Amanda Bodell  
Cookie Steponaitis  
Peter Maneen  
Carol Kauffman  
Jay Stetzel  
Janet Kepes

C. Jones, Student Rep.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Bristow.

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion** was made by N. Kamman, seconded by L. Gutowski, to approve the minutes from November 14, 2011. N. Kamman asked to amend the sentence under the French trip to state “select in the year with the maximum amount to participate.” So voted and motion carried with the amendment.

**Public Comment:** N. Ambrose asked if there was any progress to go from a nut free school to a nut restricted school. Principal Webbley stated the nurse is still waiting for results from an allergist. The hope is to open the school to *allow nut products* but restricted from the cafeteria.

N. Ambrose asked if the Board received the parent group email. Only the parents on the Board received it. Chair Bristow stated the Board should receive all communications that goes out.

K. Kennett wanted the Board to know what the status of the buses at this time.

Bus #1	2002	193,000 miles
Bus #2	2005	99,350 miles
Bus #3	2008	65,000 miles
Bus #5	2007	87,244 miles
Van	2010	5810 miles

L. Hodsden reported the football season highlights (sheet distributed). Positive impacts have been reported. Their budget has a surplus going into next year. They are looking for board support to keep the program going. Chair Bristow stated the approval for the next season will be added to next months agenda.

C. Steponaitis requested approval for a US History trip to Washington DC, Virginia and Pennsylvania during March 22-26, 2012. This is a repeat of a 1990 trip with 100 middle school students she had taken. Current US History students from this semester and next semester and

Civic students will be attending the trip, about 25 students and five adults. They will only miss a Friday and Monday of school. **Motion** was made by C. Cousineau, seconded by L. Gutowski, to approve the request for the trip. So voted and motion carried.

C. Kauffman brought a letter and read it to the Board. Reminding them of Title 16 Chapter 9 Section 554 - asking for “reasonable” time for audit concerns. Her concerns are on the audit summary submitted to the local town reports by the ANWSU business office for the past eight years and audit reports. She stated the Addison Central Supervisory Union report included the independent auditor’s report. She has asked why the auditors aren’t submitting the audit summary required by law. She would like the Board to consider inviting the auditors to a public discussion and answer questions and to post the four final auditor reports online for the years missing. Chair Bristow thanked C. Kauffman for the information and asked if the Board could have a copy of her letter to review and come back to next month’s meeting with a response.

J. Stetzel reported that it was questioned at the Community meeting held by the City about having the police dog in the school and why it hasn’t happened. Chair Bristow stated they feel they wouldn’t do it unless there was probable cause. Principal Webbley stated it would only be used for reasonable suspicion. He is not against the prophylactic use of dogs and stated they have had on average 4.5 drug interdictions per year. N. Kamman stated he is very uneasy of prophylactic use of dogs. Superintendent O’Brien stated the Board had approved to use the dog as appropriate in the parking lot. C. Kauffman remarked that it might allow students to feel safe.

**Board Communications:** N. Kamman reported that the Community meeting was great, had good dialogue and presentations by administration. C. Cousineau had heard good responses from the meeting. The next Community meeting is planned for January 11.

Chair Bristow shared a letter from Mr. Bassett, VUES Principal, sent to Cookie Step and the History Club for their Veterans Day presentation.

Chair Bristow distributed to the Board a copy of the VSBA updates including the budget memo from Governor Shumlin.

### **Reports to the Board:**

Student Representative: C. Jones reported on the following:

- On November 29<sup>th</sup>, NHS inductions were held with 14 members inducted
- November 28th winter sports started
- The first of the food drive collected 450 items and the second session going on now

Chair Bristow announced that Steve Sickles, Senior Student Representative *has earned* the DAR Good Citizen Award.

Principals’ Report: Principal Reynolds reported on the following:

- Training on the Common Core, a foundation of new standards, Vermont is 1 of 35 states participating, will be replacing the NECAP’s .
- At the end of November, the local food feast was held. Walden students helped with preparing and serving.

- Working on "rebranding" the five guidelines. Students are actively involved with presenting the guidelines, including a logo contest.
- "Music Man" was an outstanding production.
- Literacy Intensive class is a semester long class by Jenn Lawson that is two high school block classes, helping the transition from middle school into high school.

Principal Webbley reported the following:

- Staff worked hard at the BEST conference this summer, how to handle student interventions. This is an added value activity from staff that needs to be recognized that helps individual students.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent O'Brien reported the following:

- He is part of the task force reviewing ACT 153 to make changes and clarifications. These changes and recommendations will be presented to the State Board on December 20 with the hope the legislature will adopt.

Hannaford Career Center: None this evening.

Governmental Relations Network Representative: None this evening.

#### **Action Items:**

Approval of Bills and Director's Orders – **Motion** was made by C. Cousineau, seconded by N. Kamman, to approve the bills in the amount of \$317,454.28. So voted and motion carried.

Policy Matters - none this evening.

Personnel – The following recommendation for Middle School (7<sup>th</sup> grade team) boys' basketball:

Whitney Troy-Vowell

**Motion** was made by L. Gutowski, seconded by C. Cousineau, to approve recommendation. So voted and motion carried.

**Discussion Items:** FY '13 Budget - 3rd draft – copies were distributed and reviewed. Another draft in January will be needed before adopted.

- reflects 2.47% increase with adjustments to prior information
- Teacher leaders line has been added. This addresses the initiatives within the school and extra time by teachers. This has not been in the budget before. Teachers will be paid at rate of \$35/hr, previously had been paid thru Supervisory Union by a grant.
- Software in General Instruction – Fast ForWord program
- most changes come from compensation packages (each department was reviewed with increases in compensation package and reductions of requests made)
- \$115,000 cut from consumables at meeting earlier in the day
- Currently at \$216,929 increase which would be equivalent *of* three teachers *and* 1 paraeducator totaling about \$218,000 or reduction in programs

Superintendent O'Brien reminded them the letter from the Governor was to TRY to get to level funding. Numbers (enrollment) are decreasing not increasing.

- May be able to modify some personnel costs without affecting programs
- Jobs money available for about \$125,000 to help offset costs
- Off-campus placements need to be reviewed
- Busing contract/figures will be available at next meeting

C. Wyckoff asked if Drivers Education had to be offered. Discussion ensued.

A special budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2012, 6 p.m. at VUHS

Annual Report – Discussion *having* the Annual Report online rather than printing and mailing to save on costs of mailing and printing. Postcards would be sent to let people know how they can access the report. N. Kamman asked to have a front page summary with bullets to make it easy to look up information. K. Kennett stated she feels as a taxpayer, she pays enough to have one sent to her home. Board agrees with the possibility.

**Executive Session:** None this evening.

**Next Meeting Dates:**

January 3, 2012	6:00 p.m.	Additional Budget Meeting	VUHS Library
January 9, 2012	6:00 p.m.	VUHS Regular Board Meeting	VUHS Library
January 25, 2012	6:30 p.m.	ANWSU Board Meeting	VUHS Library

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glory Martin  
Recording Secretary