

**WENTWORTH SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
WENTWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
WENTWORTH, NH  
October 24, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Dustin

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mrs. Bownes – Recording Secretary

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

Mr. Newbury, Mrs. Gaudette, Mrs. Sampson, Mr. Garrett, Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Comeau, Mrs. Sanbron

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Gelsi called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**AGENDA REVIEW  
AND DISPOSITION**

The Board reviewed and disposed of the agenda.

It was the consensus of the Board to add the following items to the non-public portion of the agenda:

1. Student Item (2)
2. Special Education Item

It was the consensus of the Board to delete the following items from the non-public portion of the agenda

1. Personnel Item

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2005 as presented. Vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2005 meeting as presented. Vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2005 meeting as presented. Vote was unanimous.

**CHAIRMAN'S  
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Gelsi advised that when she ran for the Board there was concern relative to the possible closing of the school. She stated that most of the town at that time came forward and volunteered to help the school, but it is evident since that time that these people are not coming out to help. She said that there is the expectation in the community that the Board will fix the problems

exists. She asked that the community come together and try to help work out the problems that exist.

With regard to the opinion being expressed that there is a need for a 5 member Board she charged those present with finding additional members for the Board.

Mrs. Gelsi reviewed the ground rules for future Board meetings.

Mrs. Gelsi advised that Mrs. Holmes is trained as a school resource officer and stated that we need to start using her in every way we can.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

In addition to Mr. Keene's written report, he briefly reviewed the following items with the Board:

- Merrowvista and Youth Training for Life Conference (to develop leadership and resiliency skills to serve a collective mission of preventing and reducing youth alcohol, tobacco and other drug use - students from 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade nominated to attend conference from November 11 – 13, 2005)
- Magazine Drive (underway)
- NECAP Testing (complete)
- Kitchen Inspection (involves budget recommendations, which are to be considered during the budget process)
- Holiday Concert (December 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.)
- December 19, 2005 Board meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.
- Red Ribbon Week (Drug Awareness Week – schedule of events reviewed)
- Use of Public Library (reviewed)

Mrs. Dustin inquired as to the students are that will be participating in the Youth Training for Life Conference and Mr. Keene advised that there are 8 students in all and he will provide those names to the Board. Mr. Keene advised that this is not a school sponsored event.

It was the consensus of the Board to conduct a phone poll, once the names of the students are available.

Mrs. Gaides advised that there should be school personnel serving as chaperones, preferably one male and one female.

It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to accept the Principal's Report as presented. Vote was unanimous.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board acknowledged the following correspondence

1. "The Views"
2. Miscellaneous magazines, pamphlets, etc.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Musical Recorders  
For 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*

Mr. Keene advised that the recorder is introduced at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level.

Mr. Keene advised that they are introduced to musical instruments in grade 5.

Mrs. Comeau said her goal is for the music teacher to reconsider the introduction of recorders to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Mrs. Comeau said that a group of parents are willing to purchase the recorders if necessary.

It was pointed out that the recorders are available within the school.

Mrs. Comeau said that class size is not an issue and the students are capable.

Mrs. Dustin and Mrs. Gelsi agreed that they could support introducing recorders in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Mr. Keene said that he would discuss this again with the teacher and see if it can fit.

*Relocation – Dumpster*

Mrs. Comeau said her recommendation is to relocate the dumpster as it is distracting being right outside of a classroom. Mrs. Sanborn said that children have run into the dumpster in the past and it is a safety issue. She also commented that when the truck comes to empty it, there is distraction to the classroom.

Mr. Keene said he is already looking into this and pricing fencing for around the dumpster.

*Committee Meeting  
Dates*

It was the consensus of the Board that the School Committee meetings be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

It was the consensus of the Board to do a mailing to notify potential Committee members of the scheduled meeting.

*Educational Equity Grant*

Mrs. Gelsi reviewed the memorandum from Mr. Halloran, Superintendent, dated October 17, 2005 relative to Educational

Equity Grants. Mrs. Gelsi advised that Wentworth Elementary will be receiving \$21,793 more in revenue than was expected in March. She advised that this extra revenue will be used to reduce the assessment to the community.

*ESOL Compliance Guide*

Mrs. Gaides presented and reviewed the ESOL Compliance Guide. She stated that this guide was put together by Mrs. Boyle, Assistant Superintendent and follows federal guidelines relative to ESOL.

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the ESOL Compliance Guide as presented. Vote was unanimous.

*Investment Policy*

It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to accept and approve the Investment Policy as presented. Vote was unanimous.

With regard to the letter received by Mrs. Gelsi and Mrs. Dustin relative to the investment policy, it was agreed that the letter would be addressed Thursday.

*Other*

With regard to the Unauthorized Communication Devices policy, it was the consensus of the Board that the policy doesn't go far enough. Mrs. Gelsi said she would like to see things such as CD players, Ipods, etc. included.

Mrs. Sanborn commented that with regard to the use of CD's, Ipods, etc. there is a benefit to allowing their use on the busses on the way to field trips. She informed the Board that the children are not not allowed to use these devices in school or during the field trip. She said that these devices often times help keep children calm and give them something to do on the ride.

Mrs. Gelsi said that her concern is that there are children who might be seriously injured because they do not have these devices. She said she can see the potential for disagreements and problems.

Mr. Keene said that from what he has seen, the children share these devices and it has never been an issue.

Mrs. Gelsi said that there are 6 people killed in Florida due to video games. She asked what happens to those children who don't have these games and are envious of those who do.

It was the consensus of the Board to table this item and have Mrs. Gaides research what is being done in other schools with regard to electronic devices.

**RECOGNITION &  
AWARDS**

Mr. Keene congratulated Mrs. Horn and the soccer teams for posting the best record in many years.

Mr. Keene recognized Letitia Goss for becoming a published poet.

Mr. Keene recognized Mrs. Comeau and the PTO for developing the African Drumming program (The Black Bear Moon Ensemble).

Mrs. Sanborn advised that grades 1, 2 & 3 will be working with ETC (January) and there will be items on display in Silver Cultural Arts Center in mid January.

Mrs. Sanborn said that the staff would love to be able to enable the children (10) to attend the production that Saturday. She said this is being worked on.

**PRIVILEGE OF  
THE FLOOR #2**

Mrs. Sampson advised that she chaperoned her first dance here last week and enjoyed it. She said that the D.J. was excellent and the children really enjoyed it.

Mrs. Sampson said she would like to see a generic form developed for chaperones to provide positive and negative feedback on their experiences at the dances.

Mrs. Sampson said she would like the dance/school rules to be reviewed with the students prior to the dance.

Mrs. Gelsi asked if copies of the police reports relative to the dances are available through the department and Mrs. Holmes advised that they are.

Mrs. Holmes said that along with the rules being posted, the consequences for breaking those rules should be posted.

Mrs. Sampson, with regard to the field trip to the Webster Memorial Library, pointed out that the form sent home had two different dates on it. Mrs. Sampson said that she would like some parent involvement in the form of assistance with driving, chaperoning, etc.

Mrs. Gelsi said that if Mrs. Sampson would like to attend she should contact the classroom teacher.

Mrs. Comeau asked that Mrs. Young be recognized for the use of her vehicle for these trips.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

*Claims and Payroll*

The Board signed A/P manifest #11 & 12, and P/R 9 as presented.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

At 7:52 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin that the Board move into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss Kindergarten Tuition (Parent Request) and Personnel items. The Board was polled, vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

At 8:55 p.m. it was moved by Deb Gelsi seconded by Laurie Dustin that the Board return to public session. Vote was unanimous.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:

November 21, 2005	December 19, 2005
January 23, 2006	February 20, 2006

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m., it was moved by Deb Gelsi, seconded by Laurie Dustin that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Bownes  
Recording Secretary  
Board Works