

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VT
STATE EDUCATION BOARD
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Members Present: Albert Pearce, Dwight Davis, Richard Fraser, Blanche Kelley, Dave Muholland, Donald Messier & Wilma Paronto

CHSVT Administration Present: Bob Lucenti, Director
Stephan LaTulippe, Principal
Maureen McIntyre, Business Manager
Sheila Commo, Program Services Clerk

Southern State Correctional Facility Employees Present:

Keith Tallon, Superintendent
Ellen McWard, Assistant Superintendent
Jane Peterson, Correctional Instructor
Katherine Miller, Special Education Instructor
Mary McCallum, Correctional Instructor/Librarian
Dianne Lawrence, Correctional Instructor
Bob Walsh, Title 1 Instructor
Bob Salzman, Correctional Instructor

Guest Present: Caitlin Bisson-Hoyt, Joan Kersey, Pete Kelley

The meeting was held at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. We all initially met in the visitor's room and Keith Tallon, Superintendent of the SSCF, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He spoke of the opening of SSCF in October of 2003. He also shared some information about the programs and services that are offered at this facility. He gave everyone in attendance a "Southern State Correctional Facility Guide to Programs & Services."

Bob Lucenti continued by sharing the sad news that our former Chair, Kathy O'Dell, had passed away on February 1st. There was a moment of silence for Kathy.

The meeting then moved to the education wing of the facility.

Dwight Davis announced that he had visited the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport. His mission was to visit with staff to see if anyone knew of some community members that would be interested in serving on a local advisory board for Newport. He did receive some names, and we will be inviting them to the March 2, 2005 annual State Education Board meeting.

Dwight also said that he spoke with Bill Bennett, President of the New England Association of Independent Schools. Mr. Bennett will be in Woodstock in April for the VT Independent School Conference. Dwight had asked if he, Bob and Stephen could meet with him while he was here in Vermont. He has agreed. Dwight will follow through on setting up a meeting.

- 1. Dwight Davis made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 5, 2005. Richard Fraser seconded the motion.** Discussion followed. Stephan Latulippe needed to make a change in the minutes. Number seven, Program & Staff Evaluation Presentation, he would like to change “He used the accu-placer to help...” to “He was looking to use the accu-placer to help...” Discussion concluded. The change has been made in the January 5, 2005 minutes. **The motion was called and it passed unanimously, as amended.**

Dave Muholland made a motion to accept the agenda. Richard Fraser seconded the motion. The motion was called and it passed unanimously.

2. Springfield Presentation of Education Program:

The education faculty gave the board a tour of the school. A hand out for Black History Month was given to everyone by a student of CHSVT. Bob Salzman did a presentation of the computer lab and had the students show some of their work to the board. Jane Peterson did a science presentation with her students participating. Bob Walsh was teaching a math class and invited us in to observe briefly. He explained how they would earn their math credits. Dianne Lawrence talked about the Citizenship & Community Participation (CCP) course that she teaches. The CCP is a restorative justice skill building curriculum. She also shared some information about her art class and had many masks on display that were made in the art class. Mary McCallum was teaching a Spanish class in the library. Katherine Miller, Special Education Instructor, spoke of the written language program that she focuses on and that all special education students are mainstreamed in the regular classes.

3. Liaison & Advocacy Local Boards/Annual Meeting:

Discussion took place regarding the upcoming State Education Board’s annual meeting. The meeting will be held on March 2, 2005 at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, Vermont. Bob Lucenti shared a letter that he had drafted with the board. With some tweaking, we could send this letter out inviting all CHSVT board members to this meeting. It was agreed that CHSVT central office would send a letter out to each local advisory board member and to those who have an interest in serving on one of our local boards. Directions to the Three Stallion Inn and a luncheon RSVP will be enclosed with the letter.

Blanche Kelley, Sheila Commo and Maureen McIntyre will do the meeting registrations. Registration will be from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. There will be coffee and danish available.

The agenda was set for the March 2, 2005 meeting. It is as follows:

- Bob Lucenti, Welcome & History of Corrections Education/CHSVT
- Stephan LaTulippe, PowerPoint Presentation
- Mary Koen, Special Ed/Title 1 Presentation
- DOC Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner Comments
- Blanche Kelly, Overview of the History of CHSVT Local Boards
- Packet of Minutes
- Beryle Gardner Award
- Closing Statements – have Local Board Members with more knowledge regarding their purpose/mission, energized and clear about public relations.

Dwight Davis made a motion to invite special guests. For example, Commissioners from Department of Corrections and from the Department of Education. Dave Muholland seconded the motion. Discussion continued regarding whether other guests should be invited. It was determined that if the Commissioners for Education and Corrections are unable to attend, they could their designee. It was also mentioned that it may be nice to send a note to the House & Senate Education Committees letting them know. **The motion was called and it passed unanimously.**

4. Bylaws Review:

This item was put on the agenda to continue discussion, from January's meeting, regarding board members who miss three consecutive board meetings. Dave Muholland spoke of why he has been unable to attend the past three meetings. He has a medical condition, which has prevented his attendance at these meetings. He apologized for his absence.

It was determined that the board chairperson will contact a member after missing three consecutive meetings, or the member who can't attend, contact the chairperson.

5. Stephan LaTulippe – Retired Teacher's Association:

Stephan LaTulippe attended a recent meeting of the Chittenden County Retired Teacher's Association. He had approximately five minutes to share some information about our school and State Education Board. He told them of the upcoming annual State Education Board Meeting. This association is aware of us, and their message was to keep up the good work!

6. Bob Lucenti, - Updates & News:

Bob shared copies of letters that were sent to Kathy O'Dell from the Governor and the Corrections Commissioner, thanking her for her guidance and leadership.

Bob informed the board that he recently testified at the Senate Education Committee. Wendy Welton, a newly elected Senator from Rutland, knew about us and invited Bob to

discuss CHSVT. They all knew of CHSVT, some knew some of our faculty or a board member. They really support our school and its mission

There is going to be a meeting with Commissioners Cate and Gold. Bob is requesting that our legal team attend this meeting also. This meeting is to discuss making changes to Title 28, section 120 (b). The current language states that “we shall be approved by the state board of education as an independent school under 16 V.S.A. subsection 166, shall comply with the school quality standards provided by 16...” This meeting is to not remove the school quality standards, but to identify which standards we are to meet. Bob has requested a draft of this legislation before it is finalized. Bob hopes that he can share the language changes of the Title 28 legislation at our next meeting.

Commissioner Cate was not fully informed of our December 3, 2004 letter to Pat Pallas-Gray regarding qualifications of our faculty to provide direct instruction in specific subject areas within the Independent school.

Bob also updated the board regarding the Special Education funding. We have been leveled funded since 1988 of \$164,000 to \$170,000 and this funding is not adequate to cover the special education cost. The Governor’s Office has included \$776,280 in the education budget to cover costs for the CHSVT special education program. This money would come from Act 68 and go to the Department of Education, which they then would transfer to us. However, Department of Education thinks this looks as though the Department of Corrections is dipping into the education fund and is not supportive of this funding plan.

The League of Cities & Towns is also concerned over our school dipping in the education funds. This was even mentioned in the VT Principals/Superintendents Newsletter. Dave Muholland said he has a copy of legislation from 1778 where public funds were approved for private schools. He will send Bob a copy of this legislation.

Dwight mentioned that we should also start the process to receive accreditation from the New England Schools. Once we obtain this accreditation, we would only need reapproval every ten years. If we receive the New England School accreditation, then the State Education Board rules do not apply.

It was determined that we would wait to apply for New England School accreditation until we see what the legislation language change is.

7. *Blanche Kelley – Beryle Gardner Award:*

Blanche wanted a report on how the ad hoc committee was doing setting criteria for the Beryle Gardner Award. Bob said they had completed a first draft for the criteria. There would be one award each year. Students who have earned a high school diploma, are 18 years old or older and have some community service experience can write an essay telling why they want the award, a biographical section, what they plan on doing with the award, and their academic background. Then the education team at each site will

nominate one student and the “Beryle Gardner Award Committee” will select the recipient of the award. The 17 nominations from each of the sites will be submitted to the committee each year at the end of May. The selection of the recipient will be completed by July 1st.

8. New Business:

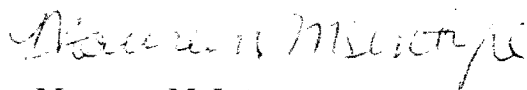
Blanche shared some newspaper articles with the board. She gave them to Stephan as he is maintaining a scrap book for the CHSVT.

Blanche also shared that she may have a potential candidate to serve on the State Education Board. The candidate is Betty White from Bennington. She serves on the retired teacher’s board.

Dwight mentioned that there is a meeting scheduled for ACT and SAT assessments on February 15, 2005 in the Pavilion Building on the fourth floor. A small discussion regarding assessments took place.

Richard Fraser moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 a.m. It was seconded by Dwight Davis. The motion was called, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen McIntyre