

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VERMONT
STATE EDUCATION BOARD
MINUTES
Wednesday, November 1, 2006
Brattleboro Probation & Parole Campus**

Members Present: Dwight Davis, Richard Fraser, Blanche Kelley, Wilma Paronto and Chuck Pearce.

Members Absent: David Luce, Don Messier and John Stewart.

CHSVT Administration Present: Bob Lucenti, Director - Stephan LaTulippe, Principal - Mary Koen, Special Education Chief - Sheila Commo, Program Services Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. Review of Meeting Minutes

Mary Koen noted that VPR reporter, Steve Zind's name was spelled incorrectly. This was noted and will be corrected in the minutes.

Dwight Davis made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of October 4, 2006, with the correction made. Richard Fraser seconded it. The motion was called and it passed unanimously.

2. Presentation from Brattleboro - Anne Emerson

Anne Emerson, Vocational Coordinator for the Brattleboro Probation & Parole campus gave a brief overview of a day at BRPP. Classes begin at 9:30 a.m. with Science, Art and English for an hour. Second period begins with Biology, English and Geography. Breakfast and lunch are provided for the students from the local high school each day. Math and English are offered right after lunch with U.S. History, English and a vocational class at the local radio station after that. There are presently nineteen students enrolled with sixteen coming on a regular basis. The students who attend class typically attend all day unless they have a job to go to. Anne briefly explained about the Tapestry program. The Brattleboro retreat is for women with substance abuse problems. The retreat has been in existence for five or six years and provides a home for women offenders who have been released from prison. This is a therapeutic community for the women. They attend classes at BRPP and receive needed therapy as well. It is the only place of its kind in Vermont and is a very positive place for the women to be. Anne keeps in touch with all the graduates from Brattleboro as much as possible. She knows that of the eight latest graduates, one is enrolled at AIC in Springfield, Ma, one is at CCV and one is working two jobs in the area. Past graduates normally attend graduations, which are held at the gazebo on the common.

3. Report on the NEASC Visit - Steve LaTulippe

The visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges was a huge success. The team voted to recommend CHSVT for a ten year accreditation to their Board of Directors. Community High School was not expecting a recommendation for a ten year accreditation. We need to have an eighteen month plan to introduce continuity throughout the seventeen campuses, with emphasis on curriculum and transition between campuses. The steering committee felt that the visiting team was very non-judgmental and collegiate and took the self-study seriously. Steve received an email from Rick Hilton who said that the visiting team is not easily impressed but that the CHSVT staff was very impressive and very professional. The NEASC team even upgraded two of the standards. The staff had given Standard 5, Experience of the Students, a rating of satisfactory and the visiting team recommended the rating be changed to exemplary. The staff had given Standard 6, Resources to Support the Program, a rating of needs attention and the visiting team recommended the rating be changed to satisfactory. The final vote for recommendation for approval was a 10-0 vote, which is rare for the NEASC team to all be in agreement. The Department of Corrections, Agency of Human Services, is not ready to send a press release until the official word comes from NEASC Board of Directors, in March.

There was discussion about the local boards and the inconsistent mission statements and purposes of each board. The state board needs to help define and increase continuity as most of the local boards don't feel that they have any direction. It was suggested that on a future state board agenda, a discussion about defining the local board by-laws and suggestions for local parameters was needed. There are four new members on the local board in Newport.

At this time, Peter VanWageningen, Correctional Instructor, and Tod Lessard, Special Educator, were introduced, as well as, Jen, Kylee and Derek, students at the Brattleboro campus. The three students were asked what they like about CHSVT. They all agreed that the smaller class sizes, individualized attention and hands-on learning were the best reasons to be at CHSVT. They also said that there was less stress than a larger high school and better relationships with the teachers. When asked about their future plans, college, community college and culinary interests were on the list. When asked what their "wish list" would be for school, they said better lunches and that transportation is difficult at times. The students explained the vocational class involving the local radio station. Brattleboro Community Radio at 107.7, WVEW is a new, independent radio station. The students are learning about broadcasting and putting their knowledge to the test by airing their own shows on the radio station. It is a great experience for them and a lot of fun. Information about the radio station can be found at yourfriends@wvew.org. Blanche told them about the Beryle Gardner award and encouraged them to apply when they graduated.

4. Special Education/Title I

There was discussion concerning attendance, MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and Work Force Development.

5. Old Business

There was discussion about an additional administrator to assist Steve in some of the duties with the staff. Bob explained that John Gorczyk has been involved with the career resource center and increasing involvement with the vocational coordinators. John has begun the process of approving vocational credits for students and training the vocational instructors. John will eventually be evaluating the vocational instructors and coordinators which will alleviate some of the work for Steve.

Blanche had several newspaper articles to share. She also thanked the board for the letter to the Vermont Retired Teacher's Association for their donation to the Beryle Gardner Award, but was disappointed with the letter that was sent to the Knights of Columbus as it referred to the VRTA and not the fact that they assisted with a graduation. A new letter will be sent.

The three drafts of the policy between the Department of Corrections and Community High School of Vermont were handed out for discussion. Draft number three will be posted with DOC. There needs to be a correction on draft three under "Local Education Advisory Board" The word "boars" needs to be changed to "boards".

Dwight Davis made a motion to accept the final draft of the policy as amended. Richard seconded it. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

6. New Business

Agenda items for December's meeting:

Local board by-laws

Discussion of Annual Meeting

"Common Ends" - school monthly report (copy in advance)

Presentation by Steve

Presentation by BAPP

Richard Fraser moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Dwight Davis seconded it. The motion was called and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Commo