

**DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, September 7, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.  
Danville School Library & Zoom teleconference.**

**Members present** Bruce Melendy (Chair), David Towle, Tim Sanborn\*, Clayton Cargill, Robert Edgar\*  
| \* Zoom remote

**Administration present** Mark Tucker, David Schilling, Sarah Welch

**Public present** Katie Fiegenbaum (*Caledonia Record*), Jonathan Richardson, Lindsey Wheeler-Mitchell, Kaity White

**1 Call to Order** Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. A roll call indicated all members were present; two via Zoom.

No items were added to the agenda.

**2 Approve Minutes**

**MOTION** Tim moved the minutes of the special meeting of July 27, 2021 be approved, as amended\*; Dave T seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion ADOPTED. Minutes APPROVED.

**MOTION** Dave T moved the minutes of the regular meeting of August 5, 2021 be approved, as written; Tim seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion ADOPTED. Minutes APPROVED.

**3 Administrative Reports**

- **Superintendent** [00:03:20] [Report](#) received.

There were no covid cases among students at Danville as of 9/7, but there were a few cases in other districts in the SU, and those kids have returned to school. These cases were being handled following the protocols in place from last year.

Given anticipated changes in special education funding, the Superintendent has put together a CCSU-wide team headed by Mark Clough (Peacham Board) to participate in a Vermont Superintendents Association Inclusive Education Project aimed at re-evaluating the relationship between the cost-effectiveness and equitable provision of services we offer and our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). The team's work commences at the end of the month.

Mark reviewed CCSU actions and intentions using federal ESSR (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds distributed through state educational agencies, which are intended to mitigate the effects of the covid-19 pandemic on the school district. ESSER I (\$463,9555) has gone this year to supporting summer programs. ESSER II (\$1,874,122) "has not all been spent yet" but is focused on professional development, intervention staff and covid building-relevant infrastructure. ESSER III (\$4,209,748) will be aimed at supporting afterschool and summer programs next year, these are currently in the process of being planned. The current goal is to accommodate 10 kids/day at no parental cost. Total allocated to the CCSU is \$6,547,830.

Bruce raised the issue of inter-CCSU district board communication regarding potential program cooperation as raised by Patrick Healy at a CCSU board meeting. This topic emanated from a proposal from the Cabot Board on August 23<sup>rd</sup>\* to the Superintendent, which he has not yet had to time to address. The Danville board briefly discussed the distribution of district agendas among boards, either by email or

posting on the CCSU calendar, but that attending those meetings of interest was an individual board member's decision. No motion was made regarding any action, as the proposal to the Superintendent had not yet been seen by this board. Dave S noted that the athletic directors at some of the schools had previously begun such an exploration regarding sports collaboration,

\* See [Cabot School Board Meeting August 23, 2021](#), Unapproved Minutes, page 3, "School Future Conversation."

From the minutes: *A motion that the Cabot School Board Directors direct the Administration to explore a feasibility CCSU wide sports program, explore intra SU 9-12 school community for social emotional cultural opportunities, explore cross campus enrollment for language and AP courses, changes to CBA for teachers to cross schools, explore transportation ideas, intra SU school choice in light of the current language in Act 129 by Rory Thibault and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.*

- **Principals** [00:14:55] [Report](#) received.

Dave S lamented their continuing role as pandemic managers but were buoyed by the new teaching staff members; he said we found the right people and those who wanted to teach at Danville.

Sarah indicated that the elementary students had been able to broaden their cohorts permitting a greater range of social interactions with their friends and were excited about getting back to using the art and library spaces. PreK through grade 2 continue to eat lunch in their classrooms.

Robert expressed being encouraged by the enrollment figures reported in that they represent a recovery from about 25 lost last year associated with the pandemic and a new enrollment of 29 this year which should place our enrollment on October 1st in the range of 405-410 students. He commended Sarah and Dave S for their work in facilitating this recovery and growth and suggested the board think about an even larger building than it has recently. Dave S reported that enrollment had reached capacity limited by physical space, not staffing, and that a cap on tuition student enrollment and a waiting list were needed

Danville has initiated a new ESSER-funded program for 9th & 10th grade students who do better with a more hands-on-approach to learning involving the community. This Connect program starts with a new teacher with experience in such programs and a cap of 5 students, due to a limitation imposed by a delay in acquisition of a new vehicle due to industry shortages. Initial community feedback has been positive.

The report also noted progress in refinishing the gym floor, changes in academic honors, the elimination of reporting class rank to colleges, one day flexible scheduling and other items (see [Welcome Back Guide 2021-2022.](#))

- **[Student Services]**. [Report](#) received. Robert offered that he found the report clean and informative. Dave S and Sarah expressed gratitude for the support received by Sabrina and her team.
- **Student Representatives** [00:24:40] No reports.

#### 4 Administrative Reports

- **FY20 Audit Results** [00:25:48]

Mark noted that the Danville School District got a clean audit for FY 20, that is, the auditors found that the district/SU had in place accounting procedures assuring the financial figures were free of

evidence of a deficiency or material weakness of internal controls and thus complied with accepted accounting standards.

He additionally pointed out that the audit-ending surplus at the end of FY 19-20 was \$304,589 and that Michael was currently working on the FY21 Unreserved Funding budget balance, which he estimated will show a \$799,614 (unaudited) surplus.

He and the principals proposed the following uses for these surplus monies:

- (1) \$180,00 for the Biomass Fuel Boiler and Delivery system, the schools heating system, noting this figure did not take in consideration grants pending (see agenda item below: "Wood Chip ..."),
- (2) \$90,000 for the replacement of the gym bleachers, now 40-60 years old and mechanically unsound; the replacement will have a handicapped/wheelchair cutout, and
- (3) \$62,000-\$90,000 for temporary repairs to the roof air handlers pending complete replacement/reduction in the number of units under the TruexCullins renovation/expansion proposal. Dave S indicated the ductwork was in good repair and that it had been inspected and cleaned last year.

The board expressed its intent to approve these 3 proposals, but proposals (2) and (3) were not on the agenda for this meeting and could not be added; they would be placed on the agenda for the board's next regular meeting on 5 October 2021. The delay in approval of these expenditures was not expected to prevent moving ahead with each of the items.

- **Architect Update** [00:38:12] No report this month.

Dave S indicated we were looking toward a Spring 2022 bond vote of the proposal being developed. Mark suggested that after the expenditure of the funds for the 3 proposed projects that the remaining funds (c. \$500K-600K?) be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund to support the school renovation project.

- **Wood Chip Boiler Update** [00:41:02]

Dave S shared with the board the financing of the boiler renovation through Efficiency Vermont: (1) boiler renovation (Messersmith, \$180K, (2) cement work (\$30K, probably a high estimate). (3) Forests Grant (\$25K), (4) EVT Incentive (\$40K and assuming Fuel oil @\$2.71/gal and wood chips @\$65/ton. The Total Project Cost would be \$179,000 reduced by \$40,00 with the incentives, but because they are not yet in hand the board decided to seek the full cost.

**MOTION** Dave T moved that we approve up to \$180,000 for the wood chip boiler renovation; Clayton & Tim seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion ADOPTED,

- **New Hires** [00:44:15] None
- **Policy C28 - Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students.** [00:47:25]

Dave T asked how this policy would be enforced with respect to sports teams visiting schools which had no corresponding policy. Mark, Bruce and Clayton offered either it could not or was not clear that it could be. Clayton viewed that such issues should not be solved at a policy level, but by the respective schools' athletic directors or coaches at a more procedural level on a case-by-case basis. There was a general sense that adoption of this policy by the board would both make clear the

districts' interests in its transgender/gender nonconforming students' rights and support the director/coach in advocating for those interests. Bruce indicated the policy would be placed on the October 5<sup>th</sup> agenda with the intent to adopt.

- **Policy C35 - Covid-19 Mitigation** [00:58:05]

This policy was initiated by a recommendation from the [Agency of Education](#). It was drafted by the CCSU board, primarily by Rory Thibault (Cabot Board) and the Superintendent, to make explicit the responsibilities and authority of the Superintendent to respond to safety issues in the SU related to the covid pandemic, especially with respect to masking. Mark solicited input from the board on the proposed policy.

Robert suggested that (1) the phrase regarding the domain of universal masking be extended beyond just students and staff to include "all other persons" (Mark indicated the omission of the phrase was an oversight.), (2) the amplification of the domain of Mark's responsibilities with regard to this policy be expanded from just "among schools" to "with and among schools", and (3) the date for a potential decision of using the 80% vaccination threshold for a decision on "unmasking" be removed as it was not likely to be met and it would potentially leave our masking-required students and those released from that requirement in the same building. Mark indicated that he did not see the masking requirement being removed by/on October 4<sup>th</sup> and that mixed-masking in the building was neither desirable as to messaging nor public health interests nor realistically manageable, and he did not see the need for the date in the policy. Bruce indicated the policy would be placed on the October 5<sup>th</sup> agenda with the intent to adopt.

## 5 Other Business - None

## 6 Public Input - None

## 7 Future Agenda Items - bleachers, air handlers, policies C28 and C35, architect update, third student board representative

Dave T suggested that we add to the board's agenda template an item immediately after the Call to Order asking for additions to the agenda. Bruce supported the idea and would see it made.

## 8 Adjourn

**MOTION** Clayton moved to adjourn the meeting; Dave T seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion; ADOPTED. Bruce adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Edgar (Clerk), 12 September 2021.

The next Regular Meeting will occur on Tuesday, October 5 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting video file: [2021-09-07 DSB Reg TRIM2.mp4](#); 265 MB, 01:12:52.

\* Danville School Board - Amendments/Corrections for minutes scheduled for approval on 7 September 2021

Regular Meeting of August 5, 2021 -

*Substantive:* p. 8, last line: "Meeting adjourned at ~~8:32~~ 7:32 pm."

*Editorial:* Spelling of "TruexCullins" corrected throughout the document.

p. 3, paragr. 1-2, insert line space between paragraphs

p. 3, paragr. 2, line 1, "The 1957 building was cost prohibitive to renovate\_ and any renovation would be cost prohibitive."

p. 3, paragr. 5, line 2, "...ballfields that sits ...."

p. 3, paragr. 8, line 1, "... multi-use..."

p. 5, paragr. 7, line 4, "...the ~~inside~~ concrete inside ,,""  
p. 6, paragr. 4, line 4, "... 15% biodiesel, is less ..."