

**School Administrative Unit #75
Grantham School District
Grantham School Board and Grantham Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - **APPROVED**
May 6, 2014
GVS Music Room
Grantham, New Hampshire**

The meeting was called to order by Grantham School Board Chair Bob McCarthy and Selectmen Chair Warren Kimball at 6:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Bob McCarthy, Carolyn Simon, Janet Correia, John Eylander, Warren Kimball, Connie Jones, Ken Story. Also present were Superintendent Jacqueline Guillette, Principal Heather Cantagallo, Town Administrator Melissa White and Administrative Assistant Brenda Molloy. Karen Eylander, Laurie Hanks and Nora Tilton and Dwight Wilder were present from the public.

Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comment. None was heard.

Board Chair Bob McCarthy began with introductions of the Grantham School Board (Board) and the Grantham Selectmen (Selectmen). The Board Chair asked if the board and selectmen ever combined meetings in the past. Connie Jones commented the two boards use to meet quarterly several years ago.

The Board Chair updated the boards on the Gale Schmidt Outdoor Classroom. He described the Outdoor Classroom project initiative and how it began with Gale Schmidt's love of the outdoors and science. Conversations with Principal Cantagallo and a parent to develop a classroom for students to experience the outdoors began in the fall of 2013. The response to the project has been overwhelming and a committee is looking at a site plan and various designs to make the most of the space. The project will be completed in phases as funds will allow. The hope is to build a space that can be enjoyed by students, staff and community. Fundraising initiatives have begun with approximately \$4,000 raised to date.

The Selectmen Chair reported on the status of the Olde Farms Bridge work to be completed in July. The bridge will not be closed until after the last day of school and the busses have completed their runs. The hope is to have the bridge open again by the end of August 2014. Town Administrator Melissa White noted the project is expected to take 4 weeks to complete. John Eylander asked if the residents will be notified of the expectations of closing the bridge. Melissa White stated that notices will be posted on the website, post office, and CATV. She also noted that she will work on signage at the entrance to Olde Farms. Heather Cantagallo offered to post a notice on the Grantham Village School (GVS) website to notify parents of the progress. Melissa White thanked the board for their cooperation.

The Board Chair commented that he would like to keep communication between the town departments and selectmen open with the board. He asked for comments on how to keep the communication flowing between the two boards. The Selectmen Chair reported that the Recreation Director often schedules gym time for town sports programs and occasionally is informed that the Children's Center of the Upper Valley After School Program (ASP) needs the space and has to move. The Selectmen Chair commented that the ASP has financial gain but is not a community effort like the recreation sports programs. He stated he would like to be sure the gym space is available when it's scheduled in advance for recreation programs. The Superintendent mentioned a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th at 4:00 pm to discuss the space issue at GVS. She also noted that 2 part time custodial positions were added to the staff as extra cleaning support due to the overwhelming use of GVS after school hours. Melissa White asked if the extra cleaning support included nights and weekends. The Superintendent noted yes but not on Sundays. Melissa White asked if GVS charged a fee to the ASP. The Superintendent answered that the space is offered in kind as students go between the ASP and other school activities such as band and destination imagination as well as soccer and basketball practices. She noted this is the 3rd year with the program and the attendance has increased anywhere between 40 to 50 students a day. Heather

Cantagallo noted that it is difficult to juggle all the activities going on after school especially in the winter months when inclement weather prevents students from going outside. Connie Jones asked if the ASP is the same group working with the Grantham Indoor. The Superintendent said the move has many pros and cons and has not been decided yet. The Superintendent responded that school based activities take over at times when there are scheduling issues. The Board Chair reminded the group that keeping communication open between the school and town is important in solving these issues.

Melissa White asked about combining propane accounts for better rates for the school and town much like the collaboration worked with combining electric accounts in the fall. Janet Correia suggested contacting Eastman to see if we could join their buying group. Melissa White noted she has spoken to Ken Ryder already and has been able to secure a better rate than Eastman. The Superintendent agreed to work with Melissa White on the joint effort of savings for both GVS and the town on propane.

Melissa White informed the boards that paving will soon begin around the police department area to add an additional 8 spaces parking.

The Selectmen Chair welcomed suggestions on getting the community to attend more meetings to increase the audience.

The Board Chair asked for any further comments. Heather Cantagallo thanked Grantham Road Agent Jeff Hastings for all his help and input in determining snow days for GVS.

Adjournment

Warren Kimball motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Connie Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa White
Town Administrator