

Errol School Board

Minutes

October 24, 2005

The School Board meeting of October 17, 2005 (regular night), was postponed until October 24, 2005, because of the high water on Route 16 (Berlin Road).

In attendance were: Principal Kathleen Urso, Staff Terri Cote and Carol Tremblay, School Board Members Gloria Coffin, Norman Eames and Michelle Ouellet, Janitor Barbara Lemieux, Superintendent Patrick Low and Recording Secretary Clara Grover.

Also in attendance was Rhonda Anctil.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Norman Eames at 7:05 p.m.
2. A motion to approve the minutes of August 15, 2005, was made by Gloria Coffin and seconded by Michelle Ouellet. All in favor.
3. Communications/Written: Patrick Low read a letter from the Commissioner of Education Lionel Tracy, who will come to visit the Errol School before Thanksgiving.

Patrick Low is still looking for a School Nurse, one that can be in school more than a fourth of a day in a month.

4. Public Comments/Visitors: Rhonda Anctil asked about the plowing of the sidewalks in the winter so the students can use them.

It was pointed out that the students weren't always using the sidewalks even when they were plowed.

Patrick Low suggested that the sidewalks could be plowed 30 minutes before the school starts and 30 minutes before school lets out in the afternoon.

Rhonda Anctil wanted to know if the bus could pick up any student, no matter where they lived, since the bus only carried a couple of students.

Patrick Low said that the policy was put in place by the School Board and could be changed if necessary.

Norman Eames said that it would cost less having the bus pick up the children than to plow the sidewalk that wasn't always used by the children.

Patrick Low will talk to Terri Ruel about picking the children in town.

Rhonda Anctil brought before the School Board the rumor going around town that the school is going to close. She wanted to know who decides to close the school.

Patrick Low stated that the voters decide what happens to the school at the March meeting.

Rhonda Anctil wanted to know if it was possible to have an after school program for the children?

Patrick Low said that the extra money in the budget couldn't be used for that purpose but there were grants available for such a program. He will ask NCES in Gorham if they have someone who can look for grants and apply for them.

Kathleen Urso asked about staffing for an after school program, would they need to be certified?

Patrick Low answered yes.

Rhonda Anctil stated that money wasn't always readily available for new programs. Mrs. Anctil pointed out that advertising the time and dates of the School Board Meetings was a good thing.

Terri Cote stated the teachers were doing their best to save the school money by searching for free examples of items, such as books and supplies.

Using Carol Tremblay's digital camera, pictures of the different events and activities were taken and put in portfolio for the students.

Carol Tremblay pointed out that if the school closes, the young families would probably leave the town.

Terri Cote handed out papers that tell about a Fund Raiser the Student Council is doing to raise money for Class Trips. The students are taking orders for t-shirts and sweatshirts which will have a cougar on the front and the signatures of the children and staff on the backs, made especially for them from Squeegee Printers in Canaan, Vt.

Carol Tremblay asked if she could have an official paper that states her benefits for her files?

Patrick Low said he would have one of the ladies in the SAU office type a paper outlining Carol Tremblay's benefits.

5. Approval of Vouchers: The vouchers were signed before the meeting started.
6. Principal's Report: Open House was well attended by over 40 people interested in the school and the students. Student pictures were taken, a bake sale was held by the Builders Club, raising \$350 for the American Red Cross and a trip to the Poore Farm Museum was taken and enjoyed by students and staff.

In-Service Day: The staff attended the North Country Professional Development Day sponsored by NCES in Whitefield. The individual teachers went to different courses/classes to learn about a variety of subjects that will help the staff enrich the education of the students. Carol Tremblay learned more about her digital camera. Terri Cote learned about music and exercise for the school.

A Book Fair is scheduled .

The grass on the recently leveled playground is growing well.

The Janitor, Barbara Lemieux, has done some of the outside window panel painting repairs, the rest of the repairs will wait until spring to be finished because of the weather.

The furnace needs to be cleaned and checked before the winter.

A new student will be enrolled by November 1st.

Mrs. Urso disposed of both very old VCRs. The piano is still in the school and available to a new home. Pipe has been repaired.

One day in October, there wasn't any heat in the building, but a quick call to Errol Oil, and the situation was fixed.

There was a leak in the ceiling over the copier, after investigating in the attic, it was discovered that a pipe was leaking and not the roof.

An exercise program sponsored by the Coca Cola Company will be used in the school for the better health of the students.

In the week before this meeting, an organic farmer visited the school. The students and staff enjoyed the carrot juice that was made by the students.

7. Superintendent's Report: Patrick Low handed out a DRAFT copy of the Salary Schedule for 2005-2006 school year. A discussion followed about the different steps in the pay increases. A paper about the Health Trust Rates was handed out and discussed.

Patrick Low said with fewer tuition students to High School's the budget for 2005-2006 will be lower.

8. Other: Kathleen Urso mentioned using Federal Grant Monies for workshops, conferences and trips in the summer for the teachers, these programs allow the teachers to network with other educators, learn up-to-date ideas and knowledge.

Sharon Lane arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Patrick Low encouraged video conferencing It was agreed by administration and Board that Grant dollars would not be used for lengthy airtime flights. (remain on east coast and Midwest)

9. Non-Public

Gloria Coffin made the motion to go into non-public session at 8:15 p.m. and Michelle Ouellet seconded the motion.

Gloria Coffin	Yes
Michelle Ouellet	Yes
Norman Eames	Yes

Gloria Coffin made the motion to come out of the non-public session at 8:45 p.m. and Michelle Ouellet seconded the motion.

Gloria Coffin	Yes
Michelle Ouellet	Yes
Norman Eames	Yes

Gloria Coffin made the motion to sign off on grant money payments Kathleen Urso for the meals charged to her credit card when the staff went to Las Vegas. Kathleen Urso didn't get individual receipts for the meals. (warning – one and only; in the future receipts, not bill, must be provided per grant auditing guidelines.)

Patrick Low asked Norman Eames if he knew anything about the Town's Emergency Plan?

Norman Eames replied that he didn't know if the town has such a plan but will find out.

A report from Special Services Director Rebecca Sweeney was handed out.

10. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.
13. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. after Gloria Coffin made the motion and Michelle Ouellet seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Clara Grover
Recording Secretary