

Unapproved Draft

Concord School Board Special Meeting
Minutes
February 1, 2012

Members Present: Karl Goulding, Chairman; Kathy Gordon, Sten Lium, Jaye Young, and Karen Call.
Student Representative: Kelsi Despins.

Administration Present: Patrick Ely and Steve Sanborn.

Law Enforcement: Deputy Sheriff William O'Hare.

Others Present: Brandon Call, Dan Austin, Charity Austin, Mike McCullough, Amy Bacon, Rubin Call, Ken Copp, David Isles, Timothy Berry, Robert Paquette, Karin Isles, Jim Hayes, Kristina Hayes, Constance Katuzny, John Katuzny, Lisa Dufour, Bill Humphrey, Cynthia Stuart, Harold Lunnie, James Jardine, Trevor Szymanowski, Stephanie Sterling, Gail Copp, Shannon Chapman, Buddy Chapman, Anna Degreenia, Denny Degreenia, Haylee Bunnell, Kasey Degreenia, Ashley Young, Sarafina Chamul, Mark Austin, Callie Austin.

Karl called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

School Board Warning to be Signed:

Karl introduced the purpose of the meeting; that being, faced with another article to close the high school, the Board has a legal obligation to place the article on the ballot. He indicated he would only sign the warning as presented, citing instruction by authority from the Vermont Secretary of State's Office and the Commissioner for the Department of Education. The article reads: "Shall the voters of the Concord Town School district vote to maintain the Concord Elementary School, Preschool through 8th grade program and hereby close the Concord High School grades 9-12 to tuition its high school students out beginning in the 2012-2013 School year as required by Vermont Statute 16 V.S.A.*822." **Kathy made a motion to sign the warning as written, seconded by Jaye.**

Sten made a presentation regarding the wording of the article: it has a dual proposition, and case law in seven different states shows the courts ruling in favor of the board's discretion and the inappropriateness of an article that includes two separate questions. He stated that boards are "guardians of integrity of any election" and that voting should be free and fair/voluntary, explaining that the article as presented could contain two different answers. He recommended splitting the article into two separate articles.

Kathy explained how the article confuses the reader, questioning that a "no" vote could mean not maintaining the preschool-8th grade, that it contains two questions. She explained that she is on the school board because she supports the school, including the high school, and wants her children to attend Concord.

Karen also indicated she supports the high school. She went on to say that it disgusts her that the only time there is a full house at the board meetings is when there is a sports discussion or a petition to close the high school. She asked that, if people are for full choice, what about our kids' choice if our children want to continue here. She also stated she didn't realize until recently the great extent options available to Concord students.

Jaye agreed with Karen and Kathy, adding that her children, all different types of learners, had gone on to college and careers, and had competed very well as leaders as a result of attending Concord's small community high school.

Sten asked for a roll-call vote. Mr. Sanborn explained that he had forwarded to the board the information he had received from the Secretary of State and Dept. of Education relating to our obligation to add the article to the warning as petitioned because it is a legal petition and penalties involved if that didn't happen. Sten responded that they had not cited any law, that the lawyer for the State had indicated that, if it's otherwise valid, you have to put it on; he made no comment whatsoever on whether it's valid or not. He further stated that we have an obligation to review and determine whether it is valid and, if it is invalid, we are forbidden from putting it on the ballot.

The motion carried. Vote: 4-1-0: Aye – Jaye, Karl, Karen, Kathy; Nay – Sten.

Kathy made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, seconded by Karen. Vote 5-0-0.

The board entered executive session at 4:48 p.m.

The board came out of executive session at 6:00 p.m.

Jaye made a motion to allow the boys' varsity basketball coach to resume his responsibilities starting Feb. 2, 2012. Kathy seconded the motion. The motion carried. Vote 5-0-0.

Jaye made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Karen. The motion carried. Vote 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at at 6:01 p.m.

Signed,

Karl Goulding, Chairman

M. Jaye Young, Clerk on the Board

Kathy Gordon

Sten Lium

Karen Call