

**KEENE BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

DATE: December 15, 2009

LOCATION: Keene High School Drew Library, 43 Arch Street, Keene, NH

CALLED TO ORDER: 8:24 p.m.

TIME ADJOURNED: 9:01 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Mrs. Carol Brown, Chair
- Mr. Donald Parker
- Mrs. Amy Speas
- Mrs. Kristin Blais

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Ms. Kathleen O'Donnell
- Mr. Neil Donegan
- Mr. Carter Chamberlin
- Mr. Carl Panza

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

- Mr. William Gurney, Co-Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Paul Cooper, Director of Human Resources
- Ms. Meredith Cargill, Director of Curriculum
- Ms. Patricia Yoerger, Jonathan Daniels School Principal
- Mrs. Gwen Mitchell, Wheelock School Principal
- Mr. Richard Cate, Symonds School Principal

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Mrs. Chris Weeks, Public Information Coordinator
- Ms. Sarah Palermo, Keene Sentinel Reporter
- Mrs. Dru Fox, Stenographer
- Members of the public (2)

Mrs. Carol Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:24 p.m.

1. Public Input

None

2. Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2009

*Mrs. Amy Speas made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2009.
Mrs. Kristin Blais seconded. Vote taken, motion passes 4-0.*

3. Gifted and Talented

Ms. Pat Yoerger spoke to a report entitled “Keene Elementary Schools Gifted and Talented Report.” She discussed Keene elementary schools’ approach to whole group, small group and individualized instruction, spoke to the varying degrees it is being implemented, gave examples of music, art, band, clubs and other areas that that might not be looked at from an academic standpoint, but which are supplementing the curriculum and fall into gifted and talented programming.

Discussion ensued over the funding of the gifted and talented program, how it came about and how it is currently used. Mr. Richard Cate provided history on the creation of the Quest program, the difficulties faced, and how it has evolved into the current program that exists for all students. This allows all children to explore in different ways and use all abilities. Further discussion ensued pertaining to the use of the funds allocated for gifted and talented, the role of the guidance counselors with enrichment activities, child study teams, parent organization funds and fundraising efforts and transportation costs.

Ms. Amy Speas inquired about what would be done with a student who entered into a Keene elementary school from another district, if the sending district had identified the student for pull-out (or specialized) gifted and talented program. Discussion ensued about differentiated instruction and the afterschool offerings.

Ms. Kathleen O'Donnell spoke about the wealth of opportunities with Keene State College to expand some of these programs, partnerships and cooperative efforts between high school and middle school students with older elementary children and parents who would like to offer their expertise and services. Ms. O'Donnell suggested looking at other districts and seeing how other programs are run.

4. Strings Music Update

Ms. Pat Yoerger passed our a report entitled "Keene Elementary Schools Strings Report" which provided a background of the program, information on where the program is now and where it will be in the future, explained that it is a great program, which was very well accepted, provided enrollment numbers and talked about plans for Dotty Frazier and Alan Chmiel to expand the program at the middle and high school levels in future years, providing program enrollment and the budget supported such expansion.

5. Other Business

Mr. Carl Panza brought up the issue of NECAP testing environments and improving test scores and brief discussion ensued.

6. Other

None

Mr. Donald Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kristin Blais seconded. Vote taken, motion unanimously passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dru Fox
Stenographer