

The MSAD #7 Board of Directors met in Regular Session on
February, 6, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. in the Library at NHCS

Present Were: Doreen Cabot, David Cooper, Nancy Hopkins-Davisson, Cindy Page and Nan-Lee Stone.

Also Present: Patsy Lannon, Lisa Shields, Janis Hopkins, Louis Carrier, Barney Hallowell, Principal, Tom Marx, Superintendent

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

The minutes of the January 15, 2008 meeting were accepted unanimously

The Board voted to take up item 5a at this time. Barney Hallowell reported on what happened when one student harassed another online he then presented an 8 minute video entitled "Shift Happens". He followed this with an introductory 7 minutes to the Frontline program in January 2008 entitled "Growing up online"

The Board then discussed this incident and computer use with the Principal, Superintendent, and the four people attending the Board meeting.

The first topic discussed was: is there any way to limit student access to sites like My Space & Facebook and chat rooms? The answer is we can do this at school but once the computer leaves school we can not (all 7-12 graders have laptops and are allowed to take them home).

The second question was: can we review every site a student has visited on his or her computer? The answer is it can be done, but it is viewed by students as a very serious breach of trust and we can only do it effectively when the student uses the computer at school.

The third question was: can we teach responsibility? This is a fundamental and important question that we strongly believe the school and home need to work on jointly.

The fourth question was: how is our Acceptable Use Policy presented to students. The answer is it is presented to students word for word yearly separately to 7th and 8th graders and to 9th - 12th graders.

Another question was: can we engage students in a continuing dialogue around appropriate computer usage? This is an important issue for the child, his/her parents and our school personnel. Barney Hallowell feels we can do more to help students address this issue than outside experts can do.

Another question was: have we done what we need to do legally with the specific case at hand. Tom Marx answered yes, we have handled this, in conjunction with the police, appropriately. The question is how do we continue to improve communication.

This item will appear on the next agenda for Board suggestions and directions.

There were no questions on the Financial Statement.

The Board was informed the fund-raising effort still needs \$194,000. They are working hard on it.

The Superintendent updated the Board on the progress on constructing the new school. Minutes of the last three Executive Committee Meetings are included with these minutes.

The Principal reported on several items: touring the new school, the ethics seminar Bob Bach is presenting with Keith Eaton, Avery Waterman has won the Geography Bee, the Bowdoin Women's Basketball team has been here, only one snow day has miraculously been used so far, Katherine Mannik has worked with our students on fashion design, a special student council election was held and Ashley Hodder was elected president (because Amilia Campbell is away until May), student report cards are being developed a "Fox Island Arts Festival" for a day in May here on North Haven with the entire Vinalhaven School coming here for the day, Stephanie Brown has been selected for the Atlantic Challenge Team and compete in Finland, Peter Ralston was here yesterday working on an article on Terry Goodhue's Cytology Class, the Knowledge Fair will be March 4, we now have 60 students, we're in rehearsal for the one act play competition on March 8, and our girls basketball team is now in eighth place.

There was no executive session on negotiations since we do not have a proposal from the teachers, yet.

The Superintendent's goal is to have a first draft of the budget to the Board for its second meeting in March (March 19, 2008).

The Board's March 5, 2008 regular meeting has been rescheduled for March 3, 2008 same time, same place.

Nancy Hopkins-Davisson will serve on the towns "Search Committee"

In the absence of any other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Marx

Superintendent of Schools

