

**Mt. Abraham Union High School Board Hosting All ANESU Districts**

June 5, 2007, 7:00 pm

Mt. Abraham Union High School Library

Members Present: **Bristol Board:** David Knight, Steve Barsalou, Susan Stewart, Meg Wendel, Elin Melchior, **Lincoln Board:** Sarah Quattrocci, Ian Martin, Donnie Sargent, Scott Bernoudy, **Monkton Board:** Nina Badger, Dawn Griswold, Bob Radler, Amy Moody, Kevin Brennan, **Mt. Abe Board:** Lanny Smith, Wendie Puls, PamJennings, Jane Low, Catherine Shahan, Bob Hall, David Thompson, Robin Herbick, Bob Donniss, Kim Farnham, Chris Brady, Robert Fuller, Joel Bouvier, **New Haven Board:** Lowell Nottingham, Marie Jewett, **Starksboro Board:** Bonita Bedard, Dennis Hysko, Wendy McArdle

Members Absent: Jeff Pratt (New Haven), David Venman (Lincoln)

Others Present: Superintendent Evelyn Howard, Business Manager Greg Burdick, Associate Superintendent Nancy Cornell, Mt. Abe Principal Paulette Bogan, Middle School Principal June Sargent, Bristol Co-Principal Anne Driscoll, Lincoln Co-Principal Tory Riley, Monkton Principal Rich Jesset, New Haven Principal Carol Barnes, Starksboro Principal Dan Noel, Special Ed Co-coordinators Diane Treadway and Susan Bruhl, Barbara Bordeaux, Julie Day, Amanda Bodell, Marty Brown, Anne Campbell, Holly Esterline, Deb Hamblin, Jamie Calzini Lundie, Joe Ekroos, Lauris Chamberlain, Theresa Payea, Rachel Ashline, David Weaver, Darrel Duffy, Matt Ford, John Johnston, Bonnie Brennan, Michael Dykstra, Richard Faesy, Karl Ritval, Mark Rickner, Denise Dalton, Bill Paine, Rae Paine, Lauren Kelley Parren, Kenneth Wheeling, Star Winegar, Zandra Cousino, Sue Foley, Sally Larsen, John Brace Sr., Renee McGuinness, Ian McMurray, Doris Brace, Dinah Short, Mary O'Brien, Barbara Bell, Frank Spina, Ruth Beecher, Valerie Mullin, Robert Mullin, Kathy Charboneau, Cyrus Levesque, David Daniels, LuAnne Christie, Karen Wheeler

1. Mt. Abe Board Chair L. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed board members from all district schools, administrators and audience members.
  - a. Proposed Technology Plans: Lauren Parren, ANESU Educational Technology Coordinator showed a short video on the future of teaching and learning called "Did You Know?". You can view it at the following address using Windows Media Player: <http://www.lps.k12.co.us/schools/arapahoe/fisch/fischbowlpresentations.htm>. She then gave a brief overview of ANESU Tech plans, before distributing specific plans to individual boards.
  - b. Future of Bus Decoupling: E. Howard distributed an outline showing a review of the forum discussions, response from communities and reflections for individual board members. Two overriding concerns were safety without the same level of service (door-to-door), and the changes in sibling childcare (older children caring for their younger siblings after school). There was theoretical support for lengthening the middle/high school day by 20 minutes. She reported that a petition was filed in Monkton on May 15 and shared the comments of Paul Giuliani, attorney

for ANESU. She then distributed copies of elementary school transportation policies as an FYI. In summary, she indicated that in talks with individual elementary boards, there is no interest in pursuing the decoupling proposal for next fall. The question tonight is whether or not boards want to continue the study of decoupling for the future. L. Smith asked board members for input. J. Bouvier suggested forming a study committee to investigate extending the Mt. Abe school day and looking at the efficiency of the current bus schedule. There was further discussion about the financing of bussing, the future of the bus contract with Betcha Transit, getting more input from community members if we proceed with decoupling, etc. D. Sargent asked for clarification about exactly what decoupling means. J. Bouvier moved to form a committee to examine the transportation issues of the ANESU district, not with decoupling in mind, but to improve efficiency and extend the Mt. Abe school day; seconded by K. Farnham. Further discussion took place and the audience was invited to comment. P. Bogan answered questions about the Advisory Program for next year. The motion was rescinded and E. Howard asked for a consensus vote from all district board members. **Consensus was to form a committee to include board members, bus drivers, parents, students, etc. to study transportation issues. The Executive Committee will define the scope and charge of the committee.**

- c. Proposal to Extend Day by Twenty Minutes: E. Howard shared that she had asked all the Principal's to look at different ways to add the 20 minutes. Their consensus was that adding time to the afternoon would work best. J. Sargent presented a sample schedule for middle school students comparing the current schedule to the proposed schedule with an additional 20 minutes. P. Bogan spoke about the benefits to high school students by adjusting lunch blocks and minimizing the disruption of instructional blocks. E. Howard asked the Principal's of each to school to speak about how the additional 20 minutes would impact their school, if their staff would support such a change, and if there was no change in the length of the day, what the next steps would be. Anne Driscoll (Bristol), Tory Riley (Lincoln), Rich Jesset (Monkton), Carol Barnes (New Haven) and Dan Noel (Starksboro) gave brief summaries of their staff's feedback. E. Howard thanked everyone for the thought and effort that has been invested in this process. N. Cornell spoke about the middle school math program evaluation, and the importance of having math every day, which was the impetus for adding the extra time for middle school. She suggested trying something next year, even on a trial basis. Discussion ensued.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by  
Karen Wheeler

Ideas – All District School Board Meeting – June 5, 2007

- ◆ Lengthen day for grades 7 – 12
- ◆ Study group
- ◆ Study who is riding the bus
- ◆ Examine stops – how many buses are needed?
- ◆ Opportunity for community input
- ◆ Examine most efficient way to transport kids w/out decoupling; examine routes
- ◆ Examine transportation system with goal of extending the Mt. Abraham school day with decoupling as one approach
- ◆ Examine ways to extend Mt. Abraham school day – with altering transportation system as one, but not the only way to achieve this goal.
- ◆ Lengthen Mt. Abe day without further study of decoupling
- ◆ Study committee to study transportation – broad based
- ◆ Study decoupling in morning only
- ◆ Focus on kids' needs first, design transportation system around the educational programs that meet those needs
- ◆ Include students and bus drivers on study committee
- ◆ Safety first, even if it costs more
- ◆ Clear charge and parameters of the committee – define scope
- ◆ Clarity about how decision will be made and how public can provide input
- ◆ Eliminate drop-off point idea completely
- ◆ Executive committee to define scope, membership