

# **HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL BOARD**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, December 15, 2014**

**Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Media Center**

### **In attendance:**

#### **Board Members-**

Rich Pelletier, Chair  
Steven Hahn, Vice Chair  
Paul Plater  
Nancy Egner-Denu  
Virginia Leiby (Ginks)

Members of the Press  
Community members

#### **Administration-**

Robert Hassett, Superintendent  
Patricia Parenteau, Assistant Superintendent  
Jean Mogan, Business Manager  
Carol Fogarty, Administrative Assistant  
Marc Peterson, Middle School Principal  
Jim O'Rourke, High School Principal  
Jennifer Crawford, HS Associate Principal  
Mark Campbell, Elementary School Principal  
Jeffrey Laferriere, MS Assistant Principal  
Lisa Witte, Director of C, I and A

### **A. Call to Order**

Chair Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:17pm.

### **B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Pelletier led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection.

Chair Pelletier welcomed everyone to the meeting, made the announcement that the meeting was being recorded and may appear on the internet.

### **C. Recognitions**

The new district nurse has established a positive working relationship with Convenient MD in Concord, resulting in 2 free Epi pen pacs worth over \$2,000 and free sports physicals worth over \$5,000.

### **D. Correspondence**

NHSBA Hot Topics

### **E. Presentations**

#### **a. Propane vs. Oil Presentation-James Bailey**

Doug Kenney from Rymes spoke to the Board. Oil is not clean and is high 70-low 80 percent efficient. Propane can be up to 99% efficient, cleaner and cheaper. Propane is the way to go and everything with oil will be a thing of the past soon.

Jaffrey-Rindge has added propane and has had no issues. It is very safe with multiple shut offs. There are numerous safeties on the units.

Rich asked about the price of oil going down. Oil contracts are one year and propane can be done multi-year. Propane tanks last much longer can be stored underground and tested with a meter.

- b. Catastrophic Aid and Medicaid Reimbursement to Schools-Patricia Parenteau**  
Patty presented a PowerPoint explaining Chapter 402, Catastrophic Aid and Medicaid to School Program.

Eligibility requirements

The district of liability is responsible for 3x \$13,996.64 and the DOE is responsible for the rest. Budget implications occur real time July to June).

Foster care children are entitled to receive full services. CAT is a reimbursement;

The DOE shall be liable for 80% of the cost above 3.5 times the state average.

The state is currently reimbursing at 75%. Court placed vs. District placed was discussed. The amount of catastrophic aid to be received is not available until the following September.

Medicaid falls under the Department of Health and Human Services and provides reimbursement for medical assistance provided by the school for children with disabilities and requires parental permission. Health-related services were reviewed. The staff is very diligent about billing for services provided. Medicaid reimbursement is estimated as a revenue source in the budget.

Questions:

How many out of district placements are there? 10; 1 elementary, 3 foster care, 1 middle school and 5 high school students.

How many are new to the district? 2 students have moved in.

Total projected costs for this year is \$807,283, and \$936,681 has been budgeted for next year.

How much say does the district have? Place is an IEP team process.

The state guidelines are stricter than the feds.

Hillsboro is receiving a larger number of referrals than other districts.

Paul felt the state should be responsible for an out of district placement.

Rich shared with the Board what he found out about a residential placement facility.

## **F. Public Comment**

John Segedy the proposal is a good step forward. He is concerned about 1 teacher across the board. He would like to see assessment through MAP scores compared to class sizes.

Kathy Otten said there are reasonable people in the town who will support a reasonable budget and the Board should not slash out of fear. This will not help the district move forward. Music should not be considered when looking for cuts.

Michelle Prentiss is fearful that the district may be regressing with the proposed cuts. Music and electives are not expendable. Please reconsider cutting music programs and electives.

Hannah Madison whose daughter struggles academically and she looks forward to chorus every week. Her joy Wednesday morning because of music class is very motivating. She also has an autistic son who also benefits from music class.

#### **G. School Board Response to Public Comment**

#### **H. Board Discussion Items**

##### **1. FY16 Revised Proposed Budget**

Superintendent Hassett presented a PowerPoint on the proposed budget.

Phase 1 is non-staff affecting and reduces the proposed budget by \$113,116 which makes the increase 3.0%. Teacher reductions suggests 1 teacher from each school; elementary classes are above the state average in size. Attrition may be a consideration. The middle school teacher affect ELA and the math teacher at the alternative school will be reduced. This totals \$332,166 for a 1.9% increase.

Phase 2 cuts include another teacher at each school which may affect music or math at the elementary school and results in a 1% increase.

A decision has to be made on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

A five minute break was taken at 7:39pm.

Board members:

Nancy wanted to see what could be decreased and appreciates the public's feedback. She does not want to see progress diminished.

Steve feels he could defend the budget based on the quality of information that he has. A little more deliberation is needed. He is not big on relying on test scores or rankings. Steve would rather present the budget in a positive light. He thinks the headlines in the papers should focus on the progress being made and the latest headline was premature.

Paul was hoping to bring the alt school back, and thinks that finding room inside the school should be possible because 300 students have left the district over the past 5 years. This would save money, and retirement costs are increasing as well as special ed. Paul thinks state reimbursement is going to go down too.

Ginks asked about the default budget increase; what is the difference between 2.4% and 3.5% proposed increases? Jean answered admin. Tuition reimbursement is not included in default, professional services, increase in telephone and utilities. There is a loss of e-rate funding. IT consulting, professional development.

Rich said repairs and maintenance is going up \$45,000, why not cut that instead of a teacher?

Maintenance repairs would be delayed; there are ongoing repairs for the freezer at the elementary school. The emergency generator at the high school, and the boiler repair are other examples. Ginks asked if there were any monies available for the middle and high schools because they are used as shelters. Jen said they were not able to come up with anything.

Rich: \$113,000 no brainers; if the maintenance budget were flat lined, and an elementary school teacher retires, and the alt school math teacher brings the proposed to about \$300,000 less, which is below the default. About a \$237,000 decrease.

Paul asked about the technology study of \$30k and was told that was this year and is not in next year's budget.

Rich asked the administration look at his suggestions. Steve said based on current information one position may be eliminated, which could be attrition. This will be discussed further on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ginks appreciated that the community was told that this was the first look at the administrative cuts.

There was a member of the audience who recorded the meeting with Google Glasses.

## 2. Warrant Articles

### a. Funding of HS Alternative Program Modular Classroom Building

Jean suggested looking at leasing to own as well and she will gather more information. Up-front costs would be less expensive, and a lease could be paid early. The wording of the article will be changed to read "bond or note" throughout.

Ginks suggested a service learning project. Contractors would donate their time or would be paid to work with students. Jean said there is a deadline to vote on this and once voted on it cannot be changed. The current lease is not up until June of 2016.

### b. Funding of MS Back-up Boiler

Paul is leaning toward one oil and one propane, the rest of the Board is for propane. Rich suggested dissolving the emergency fund, build the boiler and return the rest to the taxpayers. A third warrant article to seed the expendable trust with \$100,000. Superintendent Hassett suggested asking the attorney.

- c. Establish an Expendable Trust Fund for Upkeep of School Buildings
- d. Funding the Special Education Expendable Trust
- e. Establish an Expandable Trust Fund for Pay Out of Teacher Retirement Incentive  
This will be deferred.
- f. Funding to Replace Maintenance Pick-up Truck
- g. Increasing the Chair Stipend \$1,800

Superintendent Hassett feels that he can contact the Chair at any time and it is a big commitment.

**I. Superintendents Report**

1. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

**J. Minutes-December 8, 2014**

Motion to approve the minutes of November 17 made by Nancy, seconded by Ginks and approved 5-0.

**K. Public Comment**

Brianna Merrill-Thank you for hearing comments about music. This is what the people want. It is saddening to think the teachers have to justify what they do every year. The arts are a critical part of education.

John Segedy commented on the school rating. If there are fewer students then less teachers are needed. He disagreed with the statistics on class size. The middle school is not required to have an assistant principal. His suggested cut possibilities: tuition reimbursement, maintenance, retirement, non-contractual raises. The generator at the high school should be covered by warranty, the alternative school proposal is too big, and an extra meeting is needed for requesting emergency funds.

**L. School Board Representative's Response to Public Comment**

Paul was taken aback by the slash comment. HD spends more than 3 million per year the average school of the same size in NH. James said repairs were not under warranty.

**M. Action Items**

1. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations (see addendum)  
Motion to approve made by Paul, seconded by Ginks and approved 5-0.
2. FY16 Revised Proposed Budget
3. Warrant Articles
  - a. Funding of HS Alternative Program Modular Classroom Building
  - b. Funding of MS Back-up Boiler
  - c. Establish an Expendable Trust Fund for Upkeep of School Buildings
  - d. Funding the Special Education Expendable Trust
  - e. Establish an Expandable Trust Fund for Pay Out of Teacher Retirement Incentive
  - f. Funding to Replace Maintenance Pick-up Truck

Items 2 and 3 were deferred until a later date.

4. Policies requiring Board action
  - a. GBAA Sexual Harassment-Employee/Staff-Final Approval  
Motion to approve made by Ginks, seconded by Steve and approved 5-0
  - b. JBAA Sexual Harassment-Students-Final Approval  
Motion to approve made by Nancy, seconded by Steve and approved 5-0

**N. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II**

Motion to go into non-public session made by Nancy, seconded by Paul.  
Paul, yes; Rich, yes; Nancy, yes; Ginks, yes; Steve, yes.

**O. Action Following Non-Public Session**

Motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session made by Steve, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0.

**P. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Nancy, seconded by Paul and approved 5-0 at 9:20pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelly Gardner, Board Secretary*

Addendum

To: Members, Hillsboro-Deering School Board

From: Mr. Robert A. Hassett, Superintendent of Schools

Date: December 15, 2014, 2014

Re: Appointments, Leaves and Resignations – Teachers & Administrators

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The following resignations, leaves, and appointments of teachers have occurred since the November 17, 2014 School Board meeting:

**RESIGNATIONS:**

**LEAVES: None**

**TRANSFERS: None**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Veronica Hytner-HDES** In-Home Tutor, \$25/hr., 10 hrs./wk., effective 12/8/14-1/30/15