

HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2015
HDES Media Center

In Attendance:

Board Members-

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

Administration-

Robert Hassett, Superintendent
Patricia Parenteau, Assistant Superintendent
Jean Mogan, Business Administrator
Jim O'Rourke, HS Principal
Jennifer Crawford, HS Associate Principal
Marc Peterson, MS Principal
Carol Fogarty, Executive Assistant
Mark Campbell, ES Principal

Meredith Denu

A. Call to Order

Chair Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pelletier led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the announcement that the meeting was being recorded and may appear on the internet.

Chair Pelletier asked that any questions about the budget be raised tonight, in preparation for voting on January 4th.

C. Recognitions

None

D. Correspondence

None

E. Presentations

None at this time.

F. Public Comment

None

G. School Board Response to Public Comment

None

H. Superintendent's Report

1. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

2. Deering Airport/HS Alt Program Building Lease Info-Jean Mogan

The lease for the airport property is up in June. Mr. Rymes will agree to a 2 year lease, with a \$300 a month decrease in rent. HD will still be responsible for the taxes, and maintenance as it arises. The bus to and from the airport is included in the transportation contract. March 2nd is

the cutoff for deciding to not renew the lease. First student was the only company that bid on transportation, and there is one year left on the contract. The current contract for Washington is \$100,000 and will go up to \$138,000 next year. Projected savings will be around \$40,000 for the Alternative program.

Paul said originally the Alternative program was meant to be a regional program.

Oil deliveries last year were compared to propane deliveries this year. Over 3,700 gallons difference, but the temperature has been unseasonably warm. Rich compared the BTUs, and less than half the BTUs were used with propane.

I. Board Discussion Items

1. Budget Discussion

Paul asked about the people who may be leaving June 30th. Is the payout amount in both the default and proposed budgets? Jean answered yes, and everyone that is on staff now is brought over in the budget. A salaries savings may be recognized if replacement staff is hired at a lower salary. The names are not the issue, but the amount is according to the NHSBA. Changing the wording in the contract to protect the Board for budgeting purposes, was discussed. Those who submitted a letter of intent have until May 15th to rescind. Another district has a maximum of three people per year.

Ginks asked if the football program was in both, and was told it is not in the default. (\$7,000).

2. Possible Warrant Articles

- Alternative Program-the estimate has been decreased to \$650,000, after James made the necessary adjustments to Vanguard's estimate. A bond includes many legal fees, and the lease-purchase is a lower cost vehicle which is included in the \$650,000 estimate. Rich asked if the savings can be worded into the payment amount. The Board would like to commit some of the savings to this project. Warrant articles have to be approved by DRA before they go to the voters. Jean will talk with Mr. Rymes about extending the lease for 6 months.

The purpose of having warrant articles for certain projects is meant to level off the expenses rather than have a huge spike all at once.

Rich thinks "the upkeep of school buildings" is too general.

There is currently \$239,000 in the Special Education Fund, and most may be used this year. Paul thinks IEPs could be written to be more fiscally conservative.

\$462,839 is the 2.5% of the net assessment for the Contingency Fund, which would apply in June of 2017. More and more districts are doing this. An application has to be made to the DRA in order to spend money out of the contingency fund.

The Performance Energy Contract will be discussed after the information is received on the 4th.

Rich has suggested returning \$100,000 to be withdrawn from the emergency trust fund and returned to the taxpayers. There is \$383,000 in this fund at this point.

- Warrant article for \$7,000 for football-Rich feels that if it is not put on a warrant article the public will be angry for not being able to vote.

Ginks did not appreciate being called a liar in the Messenger, before she even had a chance to vote.

Rich does not want to say no to the kids who play football, or to the kids in Hopkinton who are in partnership with Hillsboro. Ginks feels the voters will support the kids who are playing football, and who were not involved in other fall sports. Steve feels that football has proven itself, and the voters will approve. He does not think it should be a warrant article, and the Board should be able to make the decision. If the voters say no, football would end, and Rich is worried about that happening.

Nancy feels it is a Board decision and the program has proved to be a success. Pulling out of this partnership would be awful. No to the warrant article. Nancy does think this has become the prime focus of the budget.

Paul is for letting the people have their say and putting it as a warrant article. The Board has been voted into office to carry out the wishes of the people, not personal agendas.

Superintendent Hassett commented on the public name calling. The Board has never voted on a varsity sport, so why football?

Meredith feels that a warrant article is a serious risk, and if it didn't pass many students would be upset.

A short break was taken.

3. Presentation of HDFT Tentative Agreement at January 4th Board meeting

Rich suggested presenting this to the public at the next Board meeting, including a slide show and Q&A period. Paul asked that the contract be put on the website. The Board agreed, and Steve and Nancy will present.

4. Committee Reports

a. Policy

Tabled until a meeting in January.

J. Minutes- November 30 and December 7th, 2015

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 30th made by Ginks, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 7th meeting made by Nancy, seconded by Ginks and approved 5-0.

K. Public Comment

Leigh Bosse talked about his editorial. He urged the Board to put football on a warrant article, and explained that the town's warrant articles are for different departments. Leigh does not think the Board is ready to put the alternative program on a warrant article.

John Segedy said there is also a cost savings in fuel that the public should see. The current contracted amount for fuel is the amount that should be carried into the next budget. John said the school already has a life skills program, and another one is not necessary. He suggested removing the part about the Board being agents for the warrant articles. Kudos for the proposal for returning \$100,000.

L. School Board Response to Public Comment

Rich said that the Board should have made it clear that once football was up and running and successful it would need to be funded to carry on. It didn't and now the Board needs to move on.

N. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Steve, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0 at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Gardner, Board Secretary