

HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 8, 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)

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

Members of the Press
Community members

A. Call to Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Until

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

Chair Pelletier announced that the Alternative Program may be voted on tonight.

C. Recess Meeting to Public Hearing

The purpose of the public hearing is to expend School Building Maintenance Expendable Trust funds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the repair of the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School boiler.

D. Call Meeting Back to Order

The meeting was called back to order at 6:22pm.

E. Recognitions

None

F. Correspondence

None

G. Presentations

- a. Propane vs. Oil Presentation-James Bailey

Postponed until next meeting.

H. Public Comment

David Fullerton talked about the crossing guard booth. He talked with the town administrator and this could be done on his own property. David would like the Board to reconsider this.

John Segedy offered his opinion on tuition reimbursement, no obvious areas to offset increase. There are 25 less students in the elementary school. Special ed will be increased this year, and some of this will be returned in catastrophic aid next year, which should be calculated in. There is payment for an athletic director at the middle school and only one coach. The population at the middle school is low enough to cut to a half time assistant principal. This is not a fiscally responsible budget.

I. School Board Response to Public Comment

Rich said the Board had turned the crossing guard booth decision over to the administration. Superintendent Hassett said he talked to the crossing guard who did not want the booth and does not like being in the limelight.

This is a draft of the budget, and judgment should not be passed on it.

Paul thinks the booth is the right thing to do and it would get used. It could be done at no cost to the district.

Superintendent Hassett thinks “hidden in the budget” is inflammatory and the cost of the truck is \$30,000 not \$50,000 which is clearly shown in the budget.

The boiler has been repaired at \$7,539.

J. Board Discussion Items

Steve asked if there is money in the budget to pay for this cost. Jean said it is too early to predict if there would be a surplus. Paul thinks the maintenance fund should be used. The emergency fund should be for big items, not little items. Unexpected does not mean emergency. Nancy said this is a required structural element and should come out of the emergency fund.

1. FY16 Budget Discussion

Paul asked what is lacking at HD that there are so many court placed students. He would like more information. Superintendent Hassett said that some are residential, which are 24 hour situations. Patty can offer the Board a presentation of how out-of-district costs are incurred.

Steve thinks there are some things that need to be considered such as the negotiation of the contract, and the possibility of moving the alternative program. Jean said catastrophic aid can be estimated based on this years. Level staffing; why is there a decrease in elementary salaries? Separation pay, retirement incentives, longevity costs

are projected to go down. The substitute budget comes from the projections of the principals.

Paul said the formula is projected on a high return on investments. There is a need for a nurse to ride the bus at the middle school. Steve said the vehicle was not hidden in the budget. Rich said vehicles have been purchased through warrant articles in the past. The alternative programs are handled in the school buildings except for the high school which is housed at the Deering airport. Professional services; there are some programs that students attend such as Project Lift and Kearsarge programs. This is level funded from last year. Most of the students who have gone to Project Lift have obtained their GED. 30 were budgeted for this year, and there are currently 17. The programs are currently being revamped and hopefully will spark more interest. There are maybe 12 in the middle school alternative program; autism and EH are combined at the middle school. Professional development salaries is for stipends. Oil is being budgeted at a 3% increase. Steve is comfortable budgeting conservatively which protects against unanticipated expenses.

Rich asked if the Board was happy with the total amount of money being asked for. Nancy said no; the alternative school price tag, boilers, and a 3.52 increase. Ginks is also concerned about the increase. Special ed gives it a triple whammy. Steve thinks the alternative school is a good idea financially. Retirement and special ed are the big drivers that the Board does not have control over.

Paul would not support a large increase. Over \$2,000 more than the state average is being spent per student.

Rich is very concerned with the number. He would rather control the cuts internally than have the cuts forced by the taxpayers. The vehicle should be a warrant article, and the reimbursement for health care is offsetting health care costs. This makes the health care costs lower than they really are. When there is no rebate there will be an increase well over \$400k.

Superintendent Hassett said that cutting programs or staff is the alternative if the administration has to come in lower than .9%. The average cost per student was explained. The retirement incentive was created many years ago in order to keep teachers in the district. Two intents to retire have been received this year. There are a lot of things to be considered when budgeting. This increase is half of the cost of living increase.

Steve said the district is in a much better place than where it was 3-4 years ago and how do we maintain that momentum. A positive picture is more realistic, and looking at what the money is actually doing. What is being accomplished in the schools in an improving economy? Class size is a key factor, and our attitude is a major driver.

Paul does not think there is a good chance of the alternative school plan passing, and an alternative plan needs to be considered. Rich said the alternative plan is to stay in Deering.

Paul, Nancy, Rich and Ginks would like the administration to work towards a smaller number.

Nancy- 1.5-2% increase instead of 3.52.

Superintendent Hassett said only .9% of the increase is within administrative control, the other increase amount is not.

The proposed budget is .9% increase = \$193,000.

Ginks would like to see an increase under 3%.

Steve would like to go page by page, and find where cuts may be possible. Staffing is the only area that would make a significant impact. He is comfortable with the budget.

Rich said they used to go line by line, and spent hours changing numbers. He does not think that is the right way to go about it. The Board has to feel comfortable with the bottom line that is presented to the taxpayers.

Paul thinks federal and state funding will be cut. There used to be a 12 students per class policy, or the class wouldn't run. Smaller classes should be combined. \$300,000 or less for an increase. Rich agreed and asked the administration to come up with a 1.5-2% increase.

Superintendent Hassett agreed with Paul on funding, which has been factored in. Cutting programs and staff will cause HD to take a step backwards.

Alec said cutting staff and programs is cheating the students of their education. High school is where students should be given these opportunities. These decisions also cause stress for the students.

Rich said 80% of the Board was not comfortable with this budget, so how will the taxpayers feel?

Steve said this is not an irresponsible budget. He is not comfortable mandating a number.

Paul talked about pay to play, and trips. Superintendent Hassett said pay to play decreases participation.

Alec said you can learn more on some trips than you do in a day in the classroom. He is also a three season athlete, and pay to play would not work because you wouldn't have anyone playing.

Nancy would like to see what the options are, while maintaining the growth and improvement of the school.

Ginks would like to see the administration take a second cut for a better understanding.

2. Continued Discussion re: Warrant Articles, Back-up Boiler, Trust Funds for Capital Improvement and Retirement

A new vehicle was added to the warrant articles and these will be addressed at a later meeting.

Paul asked how many vehicles the district currently had and was told 2.

A short break was taken at 8pm.

Ginks added that Rich is up for reelection next year and she would like to see a larger spread between Board members and the Chair for stipends. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

K. Superintendents Report

1. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
2. Unanticipated Out of District Costs

Students requiring residential placement have moved into the district resulting in a shortage of \$408,978.25 in the out-of-district tuition account. This will come out of the trust fund, and the other funds will be transferred from areas of savings. There should not be much of a surplus anticipated this year. The Special Ed trust fund will be depleted.

Steve asked what happens if the district gets hit with an amount that exceeds expectations. Jean said the district has to apply to the state, and it happens in Windsor frequently. It has not happened in Hillsboro.

3. MS Overnight Field Trip Request-Washington, D.C., April 13-17, 2015

Paul said that at one time this trip was taken during spring break, but it was hard to find adequate supervision. This trip, spring break and then smarter balance is concerning; it takes class time away from students. The testing window will be looked at closely.

4. Concord Regional Career and Technology Education Center Contract Renewal

This comes up once every fifteen years and it is the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve this. The decrease in enrollment is being looked at. Students from Concord are participating in HD DECA. The kids go every day. There is a cost review every three years. It is just under \$1,700 dollars per student paid in two increments. Concord is the hub for the adult programming also.

L. Minutes-November 17 and December 1, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes of November 17 made by Nancy, seconded by Ginks.

Rich amended to remove Steve's name as present. Approved as amended 4-0-1; Steve abstained.

Motion to approve the minutes of December 1 made by Ginks, seconded by Nancy. Rich amended to remove Steve as present, seconded by Paul and approved 5-0. Approved as amended 4-0-1 with Steve abstaining.

M. Public Comment

Leigh Bosse said DAR told the Board there were two ways to use the money. One was that the trustees could approve to use the money. Go to the trustees and ask them. Getting more information about special education is a good idea. Hillsboro has always been known for the special ed program. Why does HD have a larger special education population? 46% of our kids are on free/reduced meals as a result of their parents' income. Keep that in mind when budgeting.

John Segedy said he referred to a \$30,000 truck in a \$50,000 increase. The boiler does not have to be decided tonight. He agreed with encouraging staff to use professional development money. Suggestions for budget cuts:

\$70,000 surplus could be returned

Two elementary school teachers

Middle school athletic director

Middle school field trips (twice as much as the other two schools)

NEASC should be taken out of the default budget

Truant officer/homeless coordinator

\$200,000 is sufficient for maintenance

Special ed also does not have to be decided right away

N. School Board Representative's Response to Public Comment

Rich said the boiler question has been presented to the attorney many ways and many times and the answer is always no, it can't be done.

Steve said the transfer for special ed is to pay bills.

O. Action Items

1. Vote to Expend \$10,000 from the School Building Maintenance Expendable Trust for Repair of MS boiler

No motion.

2. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations (see addendum)

Motion to approve made by Nancy, seconded by Steve and approved 5-0.

3. Budget Transfer (see addendum 2)

Motion to approve as printed made by Paul, seconded by Steve and approved 5-0.

4. MS Overnight Field Trip Request-Washington, D.C., April 13-17, 2015

Motion to approve made by Nancy, seconded by Ginks and approved 5-0.

5. Concord Regional Career and Technology Education Center contract renewal

Motion to approve made by Ginks, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0.

6. Policies requiring Board action

- a. GBAA Sexual Harassment-Employee/Staff-second reading

Motion to approve for second reading made by Ginks, seconded by Steve and approved 5-0.

- b. JBAA Sexual Harassment-Students-second reading

Motion to approve made by Steve, seconded by Ginks and approved 5-0.

P. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

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

Q. Action Following Non-Public Session

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

R. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Steve, seconded by Nancy and approved 5-0.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Gardner, Board Secretary*

Addendum

To: Members, Hillsboro-Deering School Board

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

Date: December 8, 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:

Melanie McCoy-HDES Year Book Advisor, \$400 stipend, effective 2014-15 School Year

Amy Highstrom-HDES Lead Speech Language Pathologist, \$1,800 stipend, effective 2014-15 school year

Andrea Jurewich-HDSD Substitute Teacher, K-12, 485/day as needed, effective 12/1/14, holds NH Certification in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, General Special Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages.