

NEGOTIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING-OCTOBER 29, 2014

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD TUITION NEGOTIATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING With MANCHESTER BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE HIGH SCHOOL TUITION NEGOTIATION SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 – 6:00 pm

Location of Meeting: Manchester Central High School Library

CALL TO ORDER

J. McHugh called the Sub-committee Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Manchester: Mayor Gatsas, Dr. Livingston, Kathy Staub, Sarah Ambrogi, Chris Stewart and Erika Connors

Hooksett: Dr. Littlefield, Joanne McHugh, Amy Boilard, and Mike Berry

PROOF OF POSTING

Dr. Littlefield provided proof of posting.

NEW BUSINESS

On-going Long-term and Short-term High School Tuition Agreement Negotiations

J. McHugh: The last time we met, Manchester gave us a proposal but things changed at your full Board meeting. I believe you have a new proposal.

Superintendent Livingston distributed the new proposal from the Manchester Board of School Committee.

Manchester Proposal to Hooksett

- **5 year agreement (2018-2023)**
- **Capital costs of \$171,786 per year**
- **Tuition**
 - **Actual costs plus 10% OR**
 - **\$12,000 plus 12% (\$12,240)****WHICHEVER IS HIGHER**
- **No minimum or maximum number of students**
- **Other terms of the agreement such as notification dates, etc. would still apply**

Dr. Livingston: We discussed Hooksett's proposal and the Manchester Board of School Committee developed the new proposal.

J. McHugh: Was the reason for the plus %10? Why did the Board choose that number?

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Kathy Staub: We were advised by our attorney that the 10% was the number because we don't know how many students we will get. It was suggested by our attorney a long time ago.

J. McHugh: What does \$12,000 plus 2% represent?

Sarah Ambrogio: It is where we end with the existing agreement.

J. McHugh: When we get to the last year of the agreement, it will be 11,200 + 2%; not \$12,000.

Manchester Business Administrator: This number covers costs because it is out so far.

J. McHugh: If you talk about actuals and you had to hire teachers due to extra students, that cost would be added to the actual cost.

Erika Connors: You won't give us a set number of students but you want us to give you a set cost.

Chris Stewart: Do you have a counter offer?

J. McHugh: The Board discussed your proposal from the last meeting but heard that it was not approved by the Manchester Board. The Hooksett Board is still firm with regard to actual costs. With regard to Capital Costs, Hooksett has paid those costs in the settlement. They shouldn't be added. They would consider a % of Capital Costs as a per student formula. Prior to the 2003 agreement, Hooksett had a maintenance agreement with Manchester which had 2% for maintenance and up-keep of the buildings. The Board does understand Manchester's concern with capital costs. That is all I'm authorized to offer.

Erika Connors: What is the benefit to Manchester to take Hooksett students for actual costs?

Joanne McHugh: I don't think the 40 freshmen students that we send you will impact your cost and require you to hire more teachers. The tuition we pay is excess revenue for Manchester..

Chris Stewart: So what; you wanted out of the contract. You can say how many students will attend and we can set the price.

J. McHugh: At the settlement, both parties agreed to a certain amount for tuition and Hooksett has the option to go anywhere. Both parties signed off and both parties should get together and negotiate a subsequent agreement.

M. Berry: If you say you are giving in the negotiations, why have the capital costs and the tuition gone up since we started talking?

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Kathy Straub: Are we still going to be the school of record?

J. McHugh: The Board did this year and it was a good faith effort but it doesn't seem to mean much to Manchester.

Dr. Littlefield: We must have a school maintained by the district but it doesn't require a district to have only one school maintained by the district. This year, the Hooksett Board designated Manchester as the default school.

J. McHugh: We would like a 5 year contract. We have a number of families that have a long history with Manchester. As a School Board, we have a duty to provide for our students.

Erika Connors: Where are you with Pinkerton?

J. McHugh: We are in discussions with Pinkerton. We have a one year enrollment agreement for our 8th grade students with a guarantee that they can finish in 4 years for actual costs.

Chris Stewart: 2% added to the tuition is nowhere near \$171,000.

Mayor Gatsas: \$171,000 is the balance of the old contract.

J. McHugh: When they did the settlement, the capital costs in that agreement was a full settlement of the capital costs. If the district gave notice before 2016, they would only pay until 2018. I don't see any willingness other than this. We are willing to discuss percentage based on value of buildings toward capital costs. There is a sense that Manchester feels Hooksett didn't pay their share and Manchester taxpayers are paying their way.

Chris Stewart: There are people that believe they are carrying Hooksett. The per pupil cost at West High School is higher for Manchester than Hooksett. I am disappointed and frustrated and feel we are negotiating against ourselves. I don't know what you're looking for.

Erika Connors: We have a product and we set the price and you can purchase that product or not. If you want the flexibility the cost increases.

Dr. Livingston: You say it is a money maker to take Hooksett students; it is also a money maker for Bow, Londonderry and Trinity. We are offering no minimum or maximum.

Mayor Gatsas: What is the tuition at Londonderry?

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Dr. Littlefield: \$10,700.

Sarah Ambrogi: With no authority, the negotiation committee is ineffective.

Erika Connors: The attitude is there is a cost for flexibility.

J. McHugh: We need to at least define the cost for the 8th grade students going to high school next year and possibly not negotiate long term until later.

Sarah Ambrogi: We could extend the settlement agreement 1 year. It is a contract.

J. McHugh: We are not sure we can amend that contract.

Sarah Ambrogi: It was a mediated settlement which was court ordered however it is still a legal contract.

J. McHugh: 1. Hooksett and Manchester should inquire if the settlement agreement can be extended. 2. As the Negotiation Team, Hooksett and Manchester should bring the proposals back to their respective Boards.

Sarah Ambrogi: We need to talk about the 1 year.

Mayor Gatsas: The extension of the agreement would be \$791,000 in capital costs.

J. McHugh: Our immediate concern is the 40 students that will be in Manchester after the agreement expires and at what costs. Then the long term will take more time and possibly a different forum. What will it take to let those students complete their senior year? This is an immediate concern.

Mayor Gatsas urged Hooksett to consider the offer made by the Manchester Negotiating Team at higher; capital costs - \$171,786.

Hooksett will take both proposals back to the full Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Lee Ann Moynihan