

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD HIGH SCHOOL NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING – October 8, 2014

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD HIGH SCHOOL TUITION NEGOTIATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

**With MANCHESTER BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE HIGH SCHOOL TUITION
NEGOTIATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 – 6:00pm

LOCATION OF MEETING: David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center

CALL TO ORDER – Joanne McHugh, Chair

J. McHugh called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

ATTENDANCE

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

Hooksett: Dr. Littlefield, J. McHugh, A. Boilard, M. Berry

PROOF OF POSTING - Dr. Charles P. Littlefield

Proof of posting provided by Dr. Littlefield

NEW BUSINESS –

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

J. McHugh asked Dr. Livingston if she had more information regarding the calculations presented at the last meeting.

Manchester Business Administrator: The calculation shows how much revenue was lost by Manchester with the old agreement. There were 436 students for 4.1 and special Ed 1.1 million. To compare to what actually happened, 2013-2014 there were 373 at \$9600 for 2.5 million and no change for special ed. and capital improvement. There is a \$400,000 difference.

J. McHugh asked for clarification for 2014-15 \$10,200 tuition, what does that represent?

Business Administrator: That represents the tuition negotiated in the agreement.

J. McHugh: What does it represent?

Mayor: It is a negotiated number.

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J. McHugh: I don't think you are truly reflecting the number because in 2014-15 you got the additional \$600 for each student.

Mayor: Where in the agreement it says the \$100,000 is a penalty?

J. McHugh: It is a penalty.

I understand that you feel there is a loss of revenue and that is the only purpose of the calculation sheet. When talking about the 10,200, although it is in the contract, we don't know how it is derived, there is an additional \$600 and in the following year it is up to \$10,600 and then it will go up the following year.

Hooksett's proposal by the School Board:

Hooksett would like to propose a 5 year contract ending in 2023.

Pay actual tuition costs, based on your expenditures

No minimum or maximum amount of students

No capital costs

Dr. Livingston: The other contracts with the other school districts, are there any minimum or maximums?

J. McHugh: The districts which we have MOU's we have a number of spots that we are given. Londonderry -40; Bow – 8; Pembroke- 20. All those 3 schools' tuition are calculated based on actual with no minimum.

What is the difference between MOU's and Pinkerton?

J. McHugh: There is no restriction on the number of students with Pinkerton.

Manchester: Are you looking for Manchester to be an MOU school or a contract school and why?

J. McHugh: We are looking for a contract. We are looking for 5 years and Hooksett has a long history with Manchester. A contract district is a district that can take all our students.

Manchester: What about students who start in Manchester and leave halfway through the year?

Dr. Littlefield: If a student seeks a transfer during the school year, there are 4 components to fulfill:

1. The student demonstrates that whatever school they attend, they have tried to address that issue at the school
2. They have to spend a minimum of one year at that school

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3. If they transfer, they have to transfer to a school that we have a State approved contract.
4. They would have to go through a residency verification.

J. McHugh: When we began our negotiations, we had short and long term goals; short term being assured that students that start in 2015 will be allowed to complete their four (4) years. It would behoove Manchester to settle the short term issues, because anyone making their High School decision this fall would like to know if they will complete four (4) years.

Mayor: We already approve all students could complete their four (4) years and we took that vote at our meeting.

J. McHugh: We don't know at what costs. It doesn't have to be an actual cost but we need to know if it will be actual costs.

Dr. Littlefield: It doesn't do any good to debate the details of July 2013. Manchester made a commitment that students graduating in 2018 will be allowed to graduate. That is half of the issue. The other is the tuition? I heard \$11,012 for tuition. Those current 8th graders would be allowed to finish their senior year at a cost of \$11,012?

Mayor: That offer of \$11,012 is no longer on the table.

Dr. Littlefield: I said we will present a verbal offer.

J. McHugh: When we got Manchester's offer we received it by email which was \$12,000 plus the capital costs. But let's go forward and determine what the tuition will be for the one year.

Manchester: We have a 5 year agreement. You are looking for a contract to go forward, but you are really looking for us to fall in line with the other schools so we would become another choice school.

J. McHugh: The Board voted on negotiating a 5 year agreement with Manchester due to the history with Manchester.

Manchester: You want us to become another school of choice for you?

Dr. Livingston: How many 8th grade students do you have this year?

J. McHugh: We have 151 this year with 180 next year

The Manchester Board requested a recess.

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Dr. Livingston: You have our assurance that students starting next year will finish. We feel we need to take you're verbal offer back to our Board and we don't have the authority to make a decision and we will move forward from there. Our next meeting is Tuesday.

J. McHugh: When you say you are giving us assurance, will you also give us what the costs will be or do you remain at \$12,000.

Manchester: No we need to take back the offer and discuss it with the Board.

J. McHugh: It would benefit Manchester if we had that information for the 8th graders. If we could get an answer for at least the one year tuition; the 16th is next week and students will be filling out their high school selection forms.

Dr. Littlefield: The question of our current 8th graders finishing and the terms by which they finish could stand on its own as an agreement.

Dr. Livingston: You would be looking for a one year agreement?

Manchester: Would you be looking to extend the current agreement one year?

M. Berry: No we don't know under what conditions we can extend that settlement agreement.

J. McHugh: We went to negotiating the five year agreement because we didn't see any movement on the one year agreement. When we began negotiating with Manchester we were clear that we wanted the one year guarantee for students to finish and at what cost. Given the Tuesday timeline, it would be a good thing to get done.

Manchester: What if we come back with a number you don't agreement with, what is the next step then?

J. McHugh: Then we would continue to talk.

Manchester: Then you still don't have information for your students.

J. McHugh: We have a long history. I don't see why Manchester, having a long history with Hooksett and the revenue they brought and capital costs; I don't know why you would discount that. When we signed the Maintenance Agreement, Manchester had Candia, Auburn, Bedford and Hooksett and now it is just Candia and Hooksett. I think it would behoove you to work with Hooksett.

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Manchester: It seems that it is Hooksett driving the agreement. I am comfortable with the agreement we have and don't want to set tuition five (5) years out. Manchester taxpayers have been subsidizing Hooksett students.

J. McHugh: Then why not base the tuition on actual costs?

Manchester: Hooksett brought us here because you wanted out. That is why we are here now.

J. McHugh: It is about to expire. Will you guarantee that students can complete their four (4) years and at what cost?

Manchester: You want us to go back and talk and come up with a magical number and see if you guys will bite on it.

J. McHugh: Not magical, just actual costs. If in the next couple of years, due to new programs, it will be more, you add it to the total and that will give you actual costs.

Manchester: Why don't we just add on another year and use the formula in the current agreement?

J. McHugh: I asked about the \$10,200 tuition figure in the agreement and the Mayor said it was not based on anything.

Manchester: We have never been a school of choice district. That would be different than anything we have ever done.

J. McHugh: Both Manchester and Hooksett agreed that Hooksett would have options and Hooksett would have options.

Manchester: That was part of the settlement and this would be something totally new.

Dr. Littlefield: We should leave the 20 year agreement and the 5 year agreement in the closet and look to the relationship in the future.

J. McHugh: I don't have a recent history with the School Board and I don't necessarily like the settlement agreement but it is water over the dam.

Summary of Expectations

Manchester will discuss the 5 years proposal with their entire Board.

Hooksett will come back with a one year agreement.

Dr. Littlefield: Hooksett is proposing 2 things. A long term agreement, the major components being 5 years, rate based on actual costs, no minimum or maximum students,

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and no capital costs. Hooksett is also looking for a resolution for the current 8th graders and they are proposing that when they are seniors the tuition will be based on actual costs.

Hooksett has put on the table the elements of the one year agreement and the elements of the 5 year agreement.

Manchester: What happens if our Board rejects that proposal?

J. McHugh: We assume there will be a counter proposal for Hooksett to consider. We are at a juncture for our 8th graders and to give them the assurance makes it easier when they are making choices.

Manchester: We, as a Board, have said that we will accept Hooksett's numbers and we brought a number that was rejected. I think we make suggestions and you reject them and you don't move off of your position.

J. McHugh: From where we sit, it is the same feeling that we have; granted we don't agree with the \$12,000, and I didn't hear another number or actual costs. I brought up other communities that are based on actual costs. There was no discussion about capital costs from Manchester.

M. Berry: You are trying to recoup what you lost from the settlement.

Mayor: There was a settlement agreement for a reason. Hooksett wanted to go their own way. Based on that agreement, what the capital costs should have been, it was a five (5) year, the capital costs were ramped up but it didn't cover the total amount due to Manchester. So now you are looking for another 5 year agreement, after short changing the last 5 year agreement and don't want to talk about capital costs.

J. McHugh: I haven't heard the capital costs can be divided over 5 years, I haven't heard anything.

Manchester: We need to take your proposal back to our Board.

The Manchester Board members requested a recess.

Mayor: A proposal that must be approved by our Board:
A 5 year agreement with capital costs of \$171,786 not based on students
Actual costs plus 2% or \$11,200 plus 2% whichever is higher

J. McHugh: How was the \$11,200 calculated?

Mayor: It was taken from the 5th year of the settlement agreement.

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The next meeting is scheduled for October 29th at 6:00 pm at Manchester Central High School.

ADJOURNMENT

J. McHugh declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan