

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 4, 2018

Approved

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

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

CALL TO ORDER

P. Denbow called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

ATTENDANCE

Phil Denbow, Chairman, Adam Gianunzio, Greg Martakos, Lindsey Laliberte, Kara Salvas, Mike Somers and James Sullivan.

Dr. Phil Littlefield, Superintendent, and Marge Polak, Assistant Superintendent, and Karen Lessard, Business Administrator

PROOF OF POSTING

Proof of posting was provided by Dr. Charles P. Littlefield.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of November 20, 2018 Minutes

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes of November 20, 2018 as amended. Seconded by K. Salvas.

Vote unanimously in favor. 1 abstained

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No comments

UPDATES FROM DR. CHARLES P. LITTLEFIELD, Superintendent of Schools

No updates

REPORTS

Administrator Reports

Reports of Standing Committees

G Martakos: We have the official offer letter from Mr. Rearick for the Superintendent.

L. Laliberte: The committee will be developing a Facebook page as well as a website for the Underhill School renovations.

A. Gianunzio, Budget Committee: I would like to discuss forming a subcommittee to look at how we present the budget to the committee. The subcommittee could be a way to continue the work that Greg started a few years ago. We can discuss this further under new business.

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FINANCE

Review of Manifest and Action Relating Thereto

L. Laliberte motioned to approve the December 4, 2018 manifest in the amount of \$913,570.09. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

PERSONNEL

Co-Curricular Nomination*

Corri Wilson- Volleyball Coach

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the co-curricular assignment for Volleyball coach.

Seconded by K. Salvas

Vote unanimously in favor

OLD BUSINESS

Goals

The Superintendent reviewed the progress on the goals.

J. Sullivan: I would like to suggest we as a School Board recognize students who have specific accomplishments like Spelling Bee or Robotics competitions. Possibly a letter or certificate can be sent.

L. Laliberte, Becki McCarthy, and Dr. Littlefield will get together to develop some type of certification or recognition for student achievement.

NEW BUSINESS

Warrant Articles*

2. Shall the Hooksett School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,806,455 for the purpose of financing the addition/renovation at the Fred C. Underhill School to address security, safety and accessibility deficiencies *Capacity to offer full day kindergarten*, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$4,806,455 of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33 et.seq.,as amended) to authorize the Hooksett School Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Hooksett School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bond or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Hooksett School Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto; and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$ _____ for the first year's interest payment on the bond?

Dr. Littlefield: Article 2 for a bond has been reviewed by the attorney. This article is for renovation/addition and safety. We can add all day kindergarten if the board wishes. We left off Kindergarten but could still use the funds for Kindergarten.

G. Martakos: If we put safety first, people don't always read the whole article. I suggest we put safety first and Kindergarten second. I don't think we should be deceptive and leave anything off.

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Dr. Littlefield suggested adding *Capacity to offer full day kindergarten.*

K. Lessard: The Underhill roof was not put on last year; do we want to put it on this year?

K. Salvas: Can we have a warrant article which states if Article 2 fails, Article 3 (roof) could be passed.

Dr. Littlefield suggested a warrant article to put money in to the Capital Reserve Fund for the roof from fund balance.

The Board put a warrant article on the ballot for the Underhill roof.

Field Trip Request (Minuteman National Park)

K. Salvas motioned to approve the field trip request for Minuteman National Park.

Seconded by G. Martakos

Vote unanimously in favor

Field Trip Request (Washington, DC)

K. Salvas motioned to approve the field trip request for Washington DC. Seconded by G.

Martakos

Vote unanimously in favor

Budget-Discussion

Dr. Littlefield: In developing a budget it can be frustrating.

We have been working on this budget for 3 months. We do 4 budgets and if we had to do 4 different formats... I'm reluctant to tinker with this at this point and we've been doing this for 13 years, why are we changing it.

The second issue is a Budget Committee action which cut \$80,000 the SAU assessment. That is unsettling on two fronts. First how can you responsibly make an adjustment to an appropriation when you don't know the appropriation? It is also illegal. One would expect the legislative body to know what is legal. We came in with a bare bones budget and level funding everything we could level fund. We lucked out with a zero increase to the insurance which was offset by Pinkerton 6% increase rather than 4%.

We need to talk about format and what the Hooksett budget does with it should not be influenced by what Candia or Auburn do. We did go over the budget in Auburn last Wednesday and it was a 2 hour meeting. Everyone sitting there had done their homework. In Auburn we go line item by line item and vote and in the end they approved the budget submitted. Candia is tomorrow night and there are some of the same issues with insurance and tuition. They have sent us about a dozen questions. I think we have to agree to disagree but how dare anyone question my integrity and say that I am hiding something. We may want an initiative to mend these fences.

A. Gianunzio: I think the books are the books and we have used them for 13 years. This year there are new members in Hooksett and Auburn has consistent members. The last meeting was concerning because integrity was questioned. There have not been any questions this year. They spent an hour and half discussing how our budget is presented. The grandstanding by some people could have been done in a few minutes. The Budget Committee actually made a

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motion to have us redo our books. The Town Councilor referenced the document that is presented to the State. It has categories like 1100. It is a less detailed way of looking at the budget. We present this in this format to make it easier for the State. Karen was able to put our book in a document similar to that and it was a great effort on her part. This will make a step in the right direction. If we can help to make it easier to understand, it will help. We have never had a clear request of what they want. It's time to form a committee with members of the Budget committee and the School Board, not to dictate what we do, but come up with a format.

K. Lessard: We gave them electronic files and 5 copies of the budget books.

A. Gianunzio: If I come to the Budget Committee meeting Thursday with the MS27 and the proposal for a subcommittee, it should be a good step forward. Mr. Martakos started a good process and even the Budget Chair recognized that they had all the information in the Excel format. I think having this in conjunction with the subcommittee is a step forward.

J. Sullivan: I don't think the budget presentation has changed in 28 years. In the past, only the Board Rep went to the Budget Committee. If they want more information, let's meet in the spring to look at a compromise but to ask for something 3 weeks before the deadline is unrealistic. If the action of the Budget Committee with removing the \$80,000 is illegal, then they need to fix it. I don't know if we need something from the lawyer saying why we need to put it back. No side is hiding information; it is just a different way of presenting.

A. Gianunzio: I would like to offer up the committee for next spring.

A. Gianunzio motion to form a subcommittee with 3 members of the School Board and 3 members of Budget which will include both chairs to work collaboratively to discuss future formats and future processes. Seconded by M. Somers.

K. Lessard: Regarding the Manchester tuition, this is the one year agreement of the rate plus 10% and next year it is the Pinkerton rate.

POLICIES

Second Reading/Adoption* KFA, ADC/GBED/JICG, KH, JJE GBG, BEDG-R

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the second reading and adoption of the policies above as written. Seconded by G. Martakos.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No comments

UPCOMING PRESENTATION: ALPS Update

ADJOURNMENT

**G. Martakos motioned to adjourn. Seconded by K. Salvas.
Vote unanimously in favor.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hooksett School Board is Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.