

BETHLEHEM SCHOOL BOARD
BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2297 MAIN STREET
BETHLEHEM, NH 03574

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2016
TIME: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Board Chairman Carol Kerivan; Board Members Steve Gorman, Amy Lane Tuohy, Robert Weir; Superintendent Pierre Couture; Business Manager Tina Peabody; Principal Shelli Roberts; Community Members Chris Jensen, Cheryl Jensen (arrived at 6:23 PM).

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chairman Kerivan.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY AMY LANE-TUOHY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Manifests were circulated for Board review and approval.

Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed copies of the Financial Reports for Board information and review noting that the current projected yearend balance is \$143,486.00. This includes monies for anticipated substitute expenditures not yet encumbered. Ms. Peabody advised that the District is currently in excellent financial shape.

Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed copies of the School Lunch Report for Board information and review advising that participation continues to improve. The expenses are currently higher than the revenue and Ms. Peabody is suggesting that the Board consider increasing the meal prices for the 2016-2017 school year by ten cents (\$.10) per meal.

Student Breakfast is now \$1.50 and would increase to \$1.60

Student Lunch is now \$2.25 and would increase to \$2.35

Adult Breakfast is now \$2.00 and would increase to \$2.10

Adult Lunch is now \$3.50 and would increase to \$3.60

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY STEVE GORMAN TO INCREASE THE COST OF MEALS FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR BY TEN CENTS (\$.10) AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Business Manager Tina Peabody advised the Board that she has received copies of the audit for the 2014-2015 school year from Ron Beaulieu & Co. They are available for Board members to review should they so desire.

Business Manager Tina Peabody distributed proposed budget packets for the 2016-2017 school year including the Proposed Budget Summary and Budget Report for Board information and review. The current proposed gross budget is \$3,294,804.93 which includes the Federal and Food Service Funds. The proposed budget is up 2.41% which includes the wood pellet system. The operating budget itself is up 1.72%. Principal Roberts briefed the Board on changes made since the Budget Workshop in December.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that the Basketball Hoops in the Gym are “antiques” and are in need of repair. The contractor doing the repairs had extreme difficulty in finding bolts for the needed repair. He has advised Principal Roberts that they need to consider replacing the baskets and the cost will be between \$5,000.00 and \$10,000.00 depending on the type selected. Following a brief discussion the Board requested Principal Roberts to obtain quotes for the replacement of the baskets and report back to the Board.

The budget was fully reviewed with questions raised as to various increases/decreases addressed by Business Manager Peabody. Staffing for next year along with projected enrollment was also discussed. The Board requested a decrease in the 1200-310 account, Spec. Ed. Consult by \$3,000.00. They also asked Business Manager Peabody to advise what the decreases in 1200-110 Special Ed Salaries and 1200-114 Special Ed Support Staff Salaries represented. Following a discussion, MOTION BY AMY LANE-TUOHY, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOLYEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,291,805.00. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. This will appear on the March Annual Meeting Warrant as Article 4.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that they need to vote to accept the tentative negotiated agreement with the BESP (Bethlehem Elementary Support Personnel). Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY STEVE GORMAN, SECONDED BY AMY LANE-TUOHY TO ACCEPT THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH THE BESP (BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SUPPORT PERSONNEL) FOR THE 2016-2017 AND 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEARS AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The Board reviewed the remainder of the warrant articles for inclusion on the March Annual meeting warrant.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Article 3 | BESP Negotiations |
| Article 5 | Discontinue the School District Wood Pellet Heating System Capital Reserve Fund |
| Article 6 | Establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Parking Lot and add \$25,000.00 from surplus |
| Article 7 | Raise and Appropriate \$10,000.00 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund to meet the expenses of educating educationally disabled children |
| Article 8 | To allow the Trustees of the Trust Funds to change institutions and charge expenses incurred to the Capital Reserve Funds |

Following a brief discussion, MOTION BY ROBERT WEIR, SECONDED BY AMY LANE-TUOHY TO APPROVE THE AFOREMENT MENTIONED WARRANT ARTICLES AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Roberts called the Board’s attention to her written report included in their agenda packets and the related data attached, briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary.

Principal Roberts advised the Board that many of the recommendations in the Primex Report resulting from their walk through in June have been addressed or are in the process of being addressed. Copies of this report were included in their agenda packets.

Principal Roberts distributed an updated Playground Audit for Board information and review. Principal Roberts advised the Board that she will be forming a Playground Committee to begin the process of replacing the existing playground equipment. It is anticipated that this will be done through grant funding and letter writing campaigns. A brief discussion ensued.

Principal Roberts distributed the 2015-2016 BES Fall to Spring Benchmark Data Comparison for Board information and review briefing them on the contents and fielding questions as necessary. Principal Roberts noted that the new math program has assisted students in achieving better scores in math and is moving toward 100% proficiency. Amy Lane-Tuohy commented on the Sum Dog program which allows students to compete with each other while honing their math skills. A brief discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the inception of the Cadillac tax on Health Insurance has been moved back to 2020.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that NCLB (No Child Left Behind) has been replaced by ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Superintendent Couture commented that a positive result from NCLB was that it brought forth teacher accountability. A brief discussion ensued.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that Mike Davey of EEI has informed him that he would like to hold the possible lighting changes resulting from the recent energy audit until next year.

Superintendent Couture advised the Board that the Board meetings on Monday, February 15 and Monday, March 14 will begin at 5:00 PM. The Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting will follow these at 7:00 PM.

BOARD REPORTS

The Executive Board did not meet in January. There are no policies for presentation this evening.

NEGOTIATIONS – PROFESSIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF

The contact with the BESP was ratified earlier this evening. There is nothing additional to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION BY AMY LANE TUOHY, SECONDED BY ROBERT WEIR TO ADJOURN AT 7:50 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Brown
Board Clerk