MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013 – 5:00 PM

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RUTH V. CHICK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

APPROVED MINUTES

Board members attending: Chairperson Jim Curran, Bruce Brooks, Wendy Grzesik, Sloane Jarell, Ray O’Brien.

Others attending: Superintendent Lou Goscinski, Special Education Administrator Raina Shearer Chick, Business Administrator Michael O’Neill, Principal Brian Ernest

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Jim Curran called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (b), (c), and RSA 91-A:2, I (b), seconded by Bruce Brooks. On a roll call vote the board entered non-public session at 5:00 PM.

Bruce Brooks - Aye

Jim Curran – Aye

Wendy Grzesik – Aye

Sloane Jarell - Aye

Ray O’Brien - Aye

The Ayes have it.

1. Personnel Matters:

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to reject a retirement proposal, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously.

Busing issues were discussed.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to go with a one-route contract with First Student, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed unanimously.

Special education and personnel issues were discussed.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to come out of non-public session, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously and the board came out of non-public session at 5:30 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION STARTS: Chair Jim Curran called the public session to order at 5:36 PM. All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

1. Announcements: Chair Jim Curran announced two actions: a motion to reject a retirement proposal which passed unanimously and a motion to go with a one-route bus contract with First Student which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve the agenda, seconded by Bruce Brooks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting: 11-4-2013: Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve the 11-4 minutes, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved and accepted.

GENERAL ITEMS

1. Digital Learning Initiative: Teacher Presentations: Presentation by fourth grade teacher Tracy Holmes on students’ use of the Kuno tablets, including an interesting project on New Hampshire state government. Ms. Holmes was thanked by the board for her presentation.
2. Mustang Academy Director Update: Director Mike Lane presented a written report to the board. He said the skating rink is progressing and a sign is being manufactured. He noted that this Saturday there will be a Santa Claus photo opportunity at the Craft Fair and that a crafting class with Ken Eckhardt will make the frames for the pictures. He added that there will be another karate presentation; he said amazing self-discipline takes place in that class. Jim Curran noted that the Mustang Academy program has been getting a lot of positive feedback from parents and community.
3. 2014-2015 Budget Discussion: Version 3: Business Administrator Michael O’Neill started with the last page: the dollar difference from last year is a $16,661.67 increase, a percent difference of 0.29. He said the actual numbers for health insurance and tuition have just been received, with a $30,176 reduction in health insurance which isn’t in the budget yet. On the other hand, he said tuition has increased by $126,032.

Jim Curran went through the budget line by line. He noted that we are down by 1.5 teaching staff. He noted an adjustment on the special program fees line. He said debt obligation will change. He noted that consumables are up by $449. Furniture and equipment are down. Principal Brian Ernest said he would like to add $2,356.20 on a replacement cycle for chairs and tables for grade 3; that is the discount price. He said tech funds are typically put in a warrant article but he would recommend putting in the regular budget 6 laptops at $800 apiece, $4,800 on a replacement cycle for upgrading laptops. Mike O’Neill said Regular Education total is $3,548,477.52, which will adjust slightly with health insurance.

Under Special Education, Jim Curran noted that Out of District Tuition will be decreased $86,000 for a new total of $176,769. The new total for Special Education is $587,823.28.

Jim said he recommended adding $10,000 to the Recreation Program line, to offset what we’re losing in grant money, to continue the before and after school program. There was a question about whether the money was coming from the town for this program. This was discussed. Jim said the school has picked up the cost from the town.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to add $10,000 to the Recreation Program line, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim continued through the budget: On page 10, he noted a slight increase in Psychological Services to $42,804.60. He said the SAU #13 Apportionment will be reduced by another $825 for a total of $202,338. He said this is a decrease of almost $10,000 from last year’s SAU Apportionment. He said Office of the Principal changes were made at the last meeting for a percent different of 4.86. Jim said $5,000 was added to Substitute Custodian Wages from the last meeting due to temporary staff over the summer. He said Building Repairs are up due to flooring replacement in two classrooms and a hallway.

Mike O’Neill said the default SAU budget is $201,860, $825 less than the budget.

Jim said $500 was added to Field Trips last month. He said $1,000 was added to Transportation Equipment for cameras for the buses. He said Food Service Transfer is $9,500, reduced from last year.

Mike O’Neill summarized the changes:

Decrease in Health Insurance $30,176

Increase in Tuition $126,032

Increase in Furniture/Equipment $18,802.80

Increase in Computer Equipment $4,800

Reduction in Out of District Tuition $86,000

Increase in Recreation Program $10,000

Increase in Psychological Services $520

Reduction in SAU #13 Allocation $825

Total net increase: $25,675.80. Total budget: $5,631,250.93. This is an increase of $38,069.47 from last year, or .68%.

Hersh Sosnoff asked if the increase of $17,153 in transportation was all due to health insurance, and Jim said it was. He said it’s what we talked about last month about what to put for a person we’re advertising for.

In Food Service, Jim said the only change last month was equipment; we added $1,610 for a new POS computer.

Mike O’Neill said the total General Fund figure is now $5,766,961.80, an increase of $42,338.67 or .74 % from last year.

Default: $5,808,820.80, $41,859 greater than the current proposed budget.

Taking the SAU #13 apportionment out, the grand total is $5,565,101.80. This is taken out because the SAU #13 apportionment is a warrant article.

Default: $5,597,295, $32,193 higher.

Mike O’Neill said we could consider adding money in from other grants that we are awarded. He said this could be discussed at the Deliberative Session.

1. Warrant Articles

MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES 2014

To the inhabitants of the School District of the Town of Madison qualified to vote in district affairs. You are hereby notified of the ANNUAL MEETING.

First Session of Annual Meeting (deliberative).

In accordance with SB2 (RSA 40:13), you are hereby notified to meet in the James Noyes Auditorium at Madison Elementary School on Route 113 in Madison. The first session for the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot shall be held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM. The first session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles II through XI. Warrant articles may be amended, subject to the following limitations:

1. Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended.
2. Warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for final vote on the main motion, as amended.

Second Session of Annual Meeting (voting by Official Ballot).

Voting on warrant articles I through X shall be conducted by official ballot and will occur in conjunction with the Town meeting to be held on Tuesday, the 11th day of March 2014 at the Madison Elementary School on Route 113 in Madison. The polls shall be open from 8:00 AM and will not close before 7:00 PM.

ARTICLE I: To choose all necessary School District Officers by ballot and majority vote, including:

One Clerk for one year

One Moderator for one year

One Treasurer for one year

Two members of the School Board for three years

ARTICLE II: Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling $**5,565,102**? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $**5,597,295** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the School District or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_). (The Budget Committee **TBD**.)

Article III. To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Madison School Board and the Madison Educational Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Estimated Increase

Year 2014-2015

Year 2015-2016

Year 2016-2017

**And further raise and appropriate the sum of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the fiscal prior year.** (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (The Budget Committee **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**).

Article IV. Shall the voters of Madison School District adopt a school administration unit budget of $**770,336** for the 2014-2015 school year in which $**202,338** is assigned to the school budget of this district? (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0). (The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0 and 1 abstention.)

This year’s adjusted budget of $**766,567** with $**201,860** assigned to the School District budget will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the district voters voting in this administrative unit. (The School Board recommends this article \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (The Budget Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

Article V: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**9,000** to be added to the previously established Bus Capital Reserve Fund. (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) (The Budget Committee **TBD**.)

Article VI. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**10,000** to be added to the previously established Technology Capital Reserve Fund. (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) (The Budget Committee **TBD**.) There was a discussion about the proposed replacement schedule and whether $10,000 was necessary. Mike O’Neill said $10,000 plus the current $8,000 in the Fund was where we need to be at the end of the first year. Hersh Sosnoff suggested incorporating in a spending plan some evaluation of whether the program is effective. The superintendent agreed with this.

Article VII: (Submitted by petition): To see if the Town of Madison will raise and appropriate the sum of $**1,250** to support the Mustang Academy enrichment programs before and after school at Madison Elementary School. (The School Board recommends this appropriation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) **(**The Budget Committee **TBD.**)

Article VIII. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**12,000** for the purpose of updating the security of the Madison Elementary School. (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) (The Budget Committee **TBD**) It was suggested that the rationale for this should be put on the website so the public can see the reasons for the cost.

Article IX: To see if the voters of the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**500** for use by the Cooperative School District Planning Committee for the purpose of investigating the creation of a Cooperative School District. (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_). The Budget Committee **TBD**). This was originally $**1,700** but Ray O’Brien expressed some concern that the voters voted to create this committee with no funds included. Cheryl Littlefield suggested changing the amount to $500 and the superintendent agreed with this and suggested leaving it on as a placeholder. The board agreed with this.

Article X: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**65,000** to be added to the previously established Building Capital Reserve Fund. (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,) (The Budget Committee **TBD**.)

Article XI: To see if the voters of the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**51,101** for the implementation of full-day kindergarten. (The School Board recommends this appropriation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) (The Budget Committee **TBD**.) Jim explained that the $51,101 is the average of all salaries for the halftime position that was cut. It was suggested that the amount should be zero, but Jim said we tried that once and it didn’t pass. It was suggested that the 1.5 reduction in staff be left in place, but the principal said resources would have to be pulled from other areas. Jim Curran suggested that if staff members have any thoughts about how this could be accomplished, to see the principal.

PUBLIC INPUT: Deb Parsons introduced herself and said she wanted to express concern that there was an impasse with respect to negotiations. She said the union desired to continue negotiations. There was a discussion of e-mails that had been sent out. Jim Curran suggested that the two parties get together for further discussions.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

1. Last Date for Petitioned Warrant Articles: 1-14-14
2. Last Date for Collective Bargaining Agreement: 1-14-14
3. Calendar: Next School Board Meeting: January 6, 2014, non-public session at 5:00 PM, Madison Elementary School, Ruth V. Chick Memorial Library. Public session begins at 5:30 PM.
4. Calendar: Public Hearing on the Madison School District Proposed 2014-2015 Budget & 2014 School District Warrant, Wednesday 1-15-14 @7:00 PM, MES, Classroom 205

Note: Snow Date is Monday, 1-20-14, Same Place & Time if Needed

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

1. Principal’s Letter: In the board packet. There were no questions.
2. Enrollment: 145

TRANSPORTATION/MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR:

1. Replacement Schedule for Buses: Ken Eckhardt gave a handout to the board with a proposed bus replacement schedule. He recommended that Bus #4 be sold now.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to advertise and sell Bus #4, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Update on Bus to Salvage: Ken said we have had an offer of $800 from Ricker Salvage and we just need a Bill of Sale.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve Ricker’s Auto Salvage to purchase Old Bus #5 that is at Frechette’s (1997 Bluebird) for $800, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Building Light Timers: There was a discussion about the outside lights being on till midnight. Superintendent Goscinski said Ken Eckhardt should determine when the lights go on and off. Ken said new light bulbs are needed for some of the lights.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

1. Replacement of Retiring Food Service Director: Lou Goscinski said Tamworth has met and decided to stick with Madison and Freedom with the food service director. He said he would like to start advertising for a new food service director and said if any board members are interested in being on the interview committee to please contact Brian Ernest.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

1. 2013-2014 Budget Expenditure & Revenue Reports: In the board packet. Mike O’Neill said there are not a lot of major changes. He said he will bring some proposed numbers to the board next month to cover some shortfalls in aides and tutors and special education transportation.
2. Potential Madison Employee Benefit: Heating Oil Purchases: Still to be determined.
3. Audit Questions from Board: A handout was passed out to the board by the superintendent with responses to questions about the audit.

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS

*Old Business*

1. Master Plan: In the board packet. Lou Goscinski said the last one was approved in 2000. He said after budget season we can start formulating the document, to be updated every six months or year or so.
2. CIP: No comments.

*New Business*

1. Energy Conservation: Contacting an Energy Consultant: Mike O’Neill said we should be able to get a comprehensive energy plan for basically no cost.
2. Motion to Move the 2014-2015 Madison School District Proposed Budget to be Posted for a Public Hearing Scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Motion by Bruce Brooks to move the 2014-2015 Madison School District Proposed Budget $5,565,102 to be posted for a public hearing on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Motion by Sloane Jarell to move the 2014 Madison School District Warrant to be Posted for a Public Hearing Scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Motion to the 2014 Madison School District Warrant to be posted for a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2014. Seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Motion by Bruce Brooks to pursue a full time Business Administrator, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed unanimously. The board thanked Mike O’Neill for all his hard work.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION Motion by Bruce Brooks to move to non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (b), (c), seconded by Wendy Grzesik. On a roll call vote the board moved to non-public session at 8:00 PM.

Bruce Brooks - Aye

Jim Curran – Aye

Wendy Grzesik - Aye

Sloane Jarell – Aye

Ray O’Brien - Aye

The Ayes have it.

There was a general discussion by the board.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to moved out of non-public session, seconded by Bruce Brooks. The motion passed unanimously and the board moved out of non-public session at 8:35 PM.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

1. Announcements: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bruce Brooks to adjourn, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed unanimously and the board adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Madison School Board Meeting

December 2, 2013

Approved Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Ambrose**

Patricia Ambrose

Recording Secretary