MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 2014 – 7:00 PM

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CLASSROOM 205

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 Public Hearing to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed everyone. Handouts included the Madison School District School Warrant Articles 2014, the Madison School District Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, and a worksheet showing the changes from Version 4 of the budget to Version 5.

1. Present Proposed Fiscal Year 2014-2015 School District Budget: Jim Curran presented the budget. Regular Education Programs – 1100: $3,564,231.84, an increase of $25,537.27. There was a cost increase of 4% for health insurance premiums. Jim said we reduced by 1.5 classroom teachers this year so retiring teachers went up based on that number; we have some adjustments to make at the end.

Special Education Programs – 1210: $582,588.92, a reduction of $108,692.04 from last year; a lot of this was based on out of district tuition.

Other Instructional Programs - 1400: $3,259.48, a reduction of $2,000 from last year.

Recreation Program – 1450: Jim said last year this was moved from the town to the school district: $43,060, an increase of $10,000 from last year. This is the final year of the 21C grant. Hersh Sosnoff asked what we will do next year. Superintendent Lou Goscinski said Director Mike Lane will make some adjustments to the program but will still offer the program to all students and will work with the rec programs and try to improve what we have.

Guidance Services - 2120: $37,511.68, up $168.77 from last year.

Health Services – 2130: $80,890.90, up $1,701.68 from last year.

Psychological Services – 2140: $42,805.60. Purchased from Tamworth.

Speech Pathology and Audiology – 2150: $91,702.64, up $1,329.58.

Improvement of Instruction- 2210: $31,500, level.

Educational Media - 2220: $100,340.69, an increase of $10,987.88 over last year.

Audio Visual – 2223: $2,079, level.

School Board – 2310: $2,872, level.

School Board Expenses – 2311: $16,959, level.

Moderator Services – 2312: $776.50, level.

School District Treasurer – 2313: $1,487.70, level.

General Administration – 2315: $15,720, level.

Other School Board Expenses – 2319: $7,200, level.

SAU 13 – 2321: Has been removed as its own warrant article; decrease of $8,363.

Office of Principal – 2410: $206,992.19, an increase of $8,119.44.

Operation and Maintenance of Plant – 2620: $306,654.96, an increase of $18,413.06.

Jim explained that this is because of big ticket items from last year such as classroom carpets and hallway floors on the first level tearing up.

Transportation – 2710: $113,445.15, an increase of $10,717.85. Jim said there are no changes in staff; we are down a bus driver and are contracting temporarily with First Student.

Special Education Transportation – 2722: $84,900, an increase of $64,900 based on student-specific needs. George Epstein asked how summer students and preschoolers are transported during the year. Raina Chick said we have contracted with SAU transporters as well as transporters from outside the SAU for out of district students.

Co-curricular Transportation – 2725: $2,000, an increase of $500.

Fleet Maintenance – 2741: $81,886.70, an increase of $4,505 from last year. Jim Curran said the biggest change was a new digital camera as well as added insurance coverage.

Food Service Transfer Operations – 3100: $9,500, down $3,500.

Jim Curran said a couple of things changed since our last meeting: three staff members put in necessary paperwork for a track change and one teacher has retired. He said to break it down, Early Teacher Retirement has $10,000 added to the top line on the worksheet; with that one teacher we removed the rest of the salary and insurance so the rest of that person is $40,417. He said there are increases with track changes of about $39,399.55 and the total impact to the budget is negative $1,017.73. He said one more change is that the snowblower has died and has been replaced, reducing the Equipment Replacement line by $1,300; therefore the total operating budget is down $2,317.73.

 George Epstein asked how the tuition costs to Conway are calculated. Mike O’Neill said they take the ADM (average daily membership) for the last two years and figure in inflation costs. George asked what year in the 20-year contract we are in. Jim Curran said we are close to the halfway point. Lou Goscinski said he thought 2024 was the final year.

 Jim continued with the budget. Food Service Operations – 3100: $134,736.85, an increase of $3,295.18.

 Grand total: $5,562,784. Subtract out $2,317, up $49,687 overall, exclusive of the SAU.

1. Present Warrant Articles for March 2014 School District Meeting:

Jim Curran announced that agreement has been reached regarding the CBA and has been ratified by the association and the board. The figures are:

Article III Estimated Increase

Year 2014-2015 $44,528

Year 2015-2016 $45,467

Year 2016-2017 $45,138

Jim said therefore we need to further raise $44,528 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Hersh Sosnoff asked if $45,467 is the full increase attributable to that year. Jim said it is a cumulative number. Lou Goscinski said those are the cost increases per year but over 3 years it is cumulative. On a question regarding the percentage, Wendy Grzesik said it is a $1,700 increase for the first year for each of the salaried employees and $1,600 for year 2 and 3 – minus the health contribution. She said for hourly employees there is an 85-cent hourly increase each year. She added that the health insurance will be moving from 89% to 84%, with year 1 teachers and hourly paying an additional 2% and year 2 and 3 an additional 1.5%, for a total of 5%. George Epstein asked what the average salary is, and Mike O’Neill said it is $50,091. George asked if the percentage contribution on insurance is regardless of single or family coverage, and Mike O’Neill said it was.

Article IV. The SAU budget is $770,336 for the 2014-2015 school year in which $202,338 is assigned to the school budget of this district. Ron Force asked for the percentage increase, and Mike O’Neill said it’s a decrease of about 4%.

This year’s adjusted budget of $766,567 with $201,035 assigned to the school district budget will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote.

Article V. $9,000 to be added to the previously established Bus Capital Reserve Fund. Jim Curran said this is on the CIP for $27,000.

Article VI. $10,000 to be added to the previously established Technology Capital Reserve Fund. Jim said this is also on the town CIP plan. He said the tech plan has been updated and approved by the state. He said these funds help with replacement costs.

Article VII. $12,000 to be raised and appropriated for the purpose of updating the security of the school. Jim Curran said there was a meeting with a homeland security official, the DOE, and local officials and it was determined that there are still things that need to be done. He said there is grant money available for matching grants which we are trying for.

Article VIII. $500 to be raised and appropriated for use by the Cooperative School District Planning Committee.

Article IX. $65,000 to be raised and appropriated to be placed in the capital reserve fund previously established for the purpose of building capital repairs. Jim Curran said we are coming up on some potential major needs, such as a walk-in cooler, repairs to older sections of the roof, and repairs to asphalt. Cheryl Littlefield asked how much is in that fund. Mike O’Neill said it is $30,024.52.

X, $51,101 to be raised and appropriated to implement an all-day kindergarten option. Jim Curran said with adjustments the amount has been changed to $45,181.

1. Public Comments: Hersh Sosnoff asked if the all-day kindergarten is successful what other costs might accrue to the program next year. Jim Curran said based on the enrollment figures we have, next year we’ll have one full-time class. He said the only way it would change would be if we exceed the number of students; we’re seeing a projected 12-14 students now.

 There were no further questions or comments.

1. Public Hearing Concludes: Jim Curran declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:49 PM.

Public Hearing for January 15, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patricia Ambrose**

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Recording Secretary