MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014 – 5:00 PM

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JAMES NOYES AUDITORIUM

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, 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: Personnel matters were discussed.

Motion by Bruce Brooks to approve Karen Coyle’s request for early retirement, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Bruce Brooks 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 5:25 PM. The board then reconvened in the James Noyes Auditorium for the public session.

PUBLIC SESSION STARTS: Chair Jim Curran called the public session to order at 5:37 PM. All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

1. Announcements: The board approved an early retirement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve the agenda, seconded by Sloane Jarell. Added to the agenda under General Items is E. Madison teachers’ union presentation by Deb Parsons, and F. Board presentation by Wendy Grzesik. With these changes the motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting: 12-2-2013: Motion to approve the 12-2- minutes by Bruce Brooks, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. Corrections were made to some school budget figures. With these corrections the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

GENERAL ITEMS

1. Mustang Academy Director Update: Director Mike Lane reported that he had requested and received funding from the Gibson Woodbury Charitable Foundation in the amount of $500 and the North Conway Rotary Club for $200. He asked the board to please pay particular attention to the last part of his written report with his thoughts on funding and moving forward.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to accept the Gibson Woodbury donation of $500 and the North Conway Rotary Fund donation of $200, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Transportation Coordinator Update: Principal Brian Ernest said there will be an ad to run bus #4 and there will be training over the vacation period for two candidates for substitute bus driver. He said approvals should be back from the DOE in one to two weeks. He added that we are still evaluating the late bus.
2. Review 2014-2015 Final Budget for Public Hearing: Jim Curran said the budget has been moved for the Public Hearing, although some things will change because of a teacher taking early retirement, resulting in about $10,000-12,000 savings. In addition, he said a couple of things have added into the budget; these are minor changes. Superintendent Lou Goscinski said the bottom line is $5,766,961.80, a dollar difference of $42,338.67 and a percent difference of 0.74%, and after tonight it will be down about $11,000-$12,000.
3. Review School District Warrant for Public Hearing: In the board packet. The superintendent said the school district attorney sees no problems with the articles the way they are written.
4. Presentation by Deb Parsons for the union: Deb Parsons thanked the board for granting her the opportunity to speak. She said both sides came together on December 16 and found that they remain at an impasse. She said all we want is a fair contract settlement to present to the voters. She said these have been difficult negotiations and we have been unable to reach an agreement since August 2012; therefore we are now working under an expired contract which may now extend another year. She said the union feels that frozen wages are unacceptable and they hope they are unacceptable to the school board and community as well. She said we feel we deserve a fair contract settlement and that is what we are asking for. She said the issues are mainly finances, wages and medical insurance, and we have been willing to make concessions; the amounts we are asking in raises are reasonable. She said we feel we have the support of the community.

At 6:00 PM the board took a short recess; the meeting resumed at 6:04 PM.

1. Presentation by Wendy Grzesik for the board: Wendy Grzesik said she and fellow negotiator Bruce Brooks have felt that we have worked hard on this and we feel we have offered a fair and equitable contract. She handed out a written document showing a comparison of offers. Wendy said under our proposal the teachers coming in will start at a higher rate and we have made sure our hourly staff will get a fair raise also. She said our offer provides an increase in salary to all our employees

PUBLIC INPUT: Deb Parsons said the information in the board’s presentation is what we’ve been requesting all along, but we just saw this last night. She said this kind of presentation makes things adversarial. She added that we just want to be appreciated and fairly compensated. Hersh Sosnoff said he had spent some time with the board’s financial consultant going through the budget and the default budget. He said he would recommend a default of $5,529,105. He said having a default budget less than the proposed budget would give the taxpayers a real choice. Jim Curran said the RSAs are very specific on default budgets. He said if the town does not agree to reduce 1.5 teaching staff and they vote for the default it sends us a message. He said we listen to comments we’ve heard from the floor during budget season. Superintendent Lou Goscinski said the DRA approves articles that are related to money and they are approved by the attorney first. He said if we are going to get into a debate over the RSA we probably should get the opinion of the attorney so the public has a sense of how it stands legally. Hersh said he was attentive to the RSA; you take last year’s budget and take known contractual changes. He said the last few words are “as determined by the local subdivision” and that is you.

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: 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.

1. Calendar: Special School Board Meeting: 1-15-14. Immediately Following the Public Hearing. MES, Ruth V. Chick Memorial Library.

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

1. Calendar: Next Regular School Board Meeting 2-3-14 @ 5:00 PM, MES, Ruth V. Chick Memorial Library
2. Calendar: School District Deliberative Session 2-3-14 @7:00 PM, James Noyes Auditorium of MES.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

1. Principal’s Letter: In the board packet and available on the web page. There were no questions.
2. Enrollment: 146
3. Digital Initiative Learning Update: Brian Ernest said we are solving some internal problems with our USBs and power strips and we have had 9 Kunos returned. He said we are doing a survey on the effectiveness of the Kunos and will have this information at the next meeting. He said overall he felt we are in a good place; the staff are utilizing the tablets and we look forward to a tech night on February 27. Superintendent Goscinski said in regard to blizzard bags, we decided not to go with them this year; he said needs to speak with the union president on how this would work out logistically. Also he said he felt it was too soon, since the rollout was October 15 and it is a large learning curve. He said we will have an update on this in the spring. Ray O’Brien noted that we appreciate the efforts of the staff in tech and the SWIFT program. Lou added that there are schools looking at what we’re doing; Berlin is coming into Tamworth on 1/14 and we will be contacted by more and more schools. Lou said he also wants to have the commissioner come in and tour the three schools.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: No report.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

1. 2013-2014 Budget Expenditure & Revenue Reports: In the board packet.
2. Potential Madison Employee Benefit: Heating Oil: Still waiting to hear.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

1. Replacement of Retiring Food Service Director: Lou Goscinski said we will be placing an ad this week. He said we will have a parent serve on the interview committee.

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS: None

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Ray O’Brien said he’s been in touch with someone regarding energy consumption and will start some calculations.

PUBLIC INPUT: Sloane Jarell said the PTO will be offering baby sitting and refreshments for the deliberative session.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION: 6:30 PM. The board moved back to the Ruth V. Chick Memorial library for non-public session.

NON PUBLIC SESSION: Motion by Ray O’Brien to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (e), seconded by Wendy Grzesik. On a roll call vote the board entered non-public session at 6:36 PM.

Bruce Brooks - Aye

Jim Curran – Aye

Wendy Grzesik - Aye

Sloane Jarell – Aye

Ray O’Brien - Aye

The Ayes have it.

Personnel Matters: A grievance matter was discussed.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to deny the grievance, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

1. Announcements: A grievance was denied.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to come out of non-public session, seconded by Bruce Brooks. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of non-public session at 8:25 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to adjourn, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Madison School Board Meeting

January 7, 2014

Approved Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Ambrose**

Patricia Ambrose

Recording Secretary