# MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 – 5:00 PM

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ROOM 201

APPROVED MINUTES

Board members attending: Jim Curran, Wendy Grzesik, Sloane Jarell, Ray O’Brien

Others attending: Superintendent Lou Goscinski, Student Services Director Raina Shearer Chick, Lead Accountant Susan Wheeler, Principal Heather Woodward

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Jim Curran called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM with 3 board members present. All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Motion by Ray O’Brien to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (b), & (c). Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 3-0. On a roll call vote the board entered non-public session at 5:00 PM.

Jim Curran – Aye

Sloane Jarell - Aye

Ray O’Brien – Aye

The Ayes have it.

Wendy Grzesik arrived at the meeting at 5:15 PM.

1. Student Matters: Parental request for a bus route change. Discussed.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to eliminate the Brandywine stop, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Personnel Matters: A request by a staff member to receive longevity pay in one lump sum was discussed.

PUBLIC SESSION: Motion by Wendy Gresik to come out of non-public session, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 4-0 and the board came out of non-public session at 5:35 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENES: Chair Jim Curran called the public session to order at 5:35 PM.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

1. Announcements: The board voted to eliminate the Brandywine bus stop.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve the agenda, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 4-0. One addition under the second non-public session, “B. Student Matters,” and one addition under the Superintendent’s Report, “C. Non-Content Changes to School Board Policies.” With these changes the amended agenda was approved 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting: 9-8-14: Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve the minutes, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. There were two corrections: “B. Personnel Matters,” #2, the word “previously” was struck; under “Board Comments,” “school letter” was changed to “e-mail.” With these changes the motion to approve the minutes of 9-8-14 passed 4-0.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Finance Manager’s Expense Report
2. First Reading of Policies to be Updated as Recommended by the NSBA & Madison Policy Committee: AC, EBC, EBCA, GBA, GBEBD, IL, JICJ, JKAA, & JLCJ
3. KHS Correspondence
4. Special Education Enrollment by Grade

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

1. Calendar:
2. SAU #13 SB Meeting: Tuesday, 10-14-14 (Freedom) @ 6:00 PM.
3. Next School Board Meeting 11-3-14 @ 5:00 PM, Room 201.
4. FY 13 Audit: Actual Versus Projected Costs: Jim Curran noted that we’re about $2,000 over projected costs.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

RECREATION/ENRICHMENT DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Director Mike Lane asked the board to consider adding a $5.00 registration fee for recreational sports to cover administrative costs.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to add a $5.00 fee to all sports programs, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0.

Mike reminded everyone about the Harvest Festival “Be Our Guest” event on October 24.

FY 16 BUDGET DISCUSSION: Chair Jim Curran handed out copies of the Adjusted 2014-2015 Budget and noted that current adjustments have been added which indicate the cost of doing business now as opposed to the budget that was passed in March and includes things that we didn’t anticipate when we did the budget. He said there is a large increase in special education due to new students moving into the district and we need to find more than $200,000. He said Student Services Director Raina Chick will speak to that.

Raina explained that the large increase of $208,238 in special education costs is due to two new students who became residents of Madison prior to the school year, both with severe disabilities which require the students to be placed outside of local schools. She said these students need much more intensive programming and require highly qualified staff, and there are also related safety concerns. She said the projected cost for these students for next year is $119,000 per student because they require year-round programming and were not here for July and August this year. Lou Goscinski explained that in New Hampshire some of these expenditures can be recaptured under catastrophic aid. but this becomes more and more limited as the years go by. He said he would anticipate that in a year we would recapture a little more than $30,000 for each one of these placements which would become revenue for Madison. Raina said NH rules and regulations require us to develop an IEP and we decided to adopt the IEP already in place. She said there are periodic reviews and she has visited the facility twice since September 2. She said that as a total population K-6 has declined while special education has increased and the severity has increased.

Jim Curran went through the budget function by function with several members of the Town’s Budget Advisory Committee in attendance. He noted coding changes. He pointed out that the General Fund is up $268,776 or 4.77% based on changes we’ve had to make for the current year, with $44,000 of the increase due to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) which was voted and approved by the Town and is now in this format instead of a warrant article. He said when the new SAU #13 budget has been approved by the joint board it will be added in here.

He said we have a lot of work ahead of us to try to get the number down: we also have options such as the 2.5 reserve fund; the special education capital reserve fund; and possibly a deficit appropriation which would require a special warrant article. He said the two new students will move the goalposts but we will look at everything. He said most staff is under contract.

Hersh Sosnoff noted that a special appropriation would not be well received, but he said there is enough time to tighten other things. He said $200,000 is 5% of this school’s budget and with months to plan he thought it would be achievable. Jim said our biggest single expense is personnel; we cut back from last year and we are looking at everything we can do. Ray O’Brien noted that we should keep in mind that we eventually get $30,000 per student back in catastrophic aid.

There was a discussion about federal mandates and their effect on the budget.

RECESS: At 6:40 PM Jim Curran declared a short recess. The meeting resumed at 6:45.

Ron Force noted that from 2010-2013 we had a 17% reduction in K-6 student population while we had an 11% increase in our local school tax rate. He requested that information be provided at the next board meeting on staffing levels in 2010 vs. what they are today. Ron asked about the 15-16 budget and Jim said that will be discussed next month but he could give broad numbers if everything stays the same staffing-wise: an increase of about $70,000 due to salaries and related costs such as FICA, unemployment and retirement costs. He said the proposed changes to special education are in the range of 7% of the total budget for this building.

Continuing with the budget, Raina said there was a personnel change in OT, with an assistant being replaced, and we now have two OT personnel. She said for the current year we will compensate for that staffing change with special education federal dollars and she proposed that we increase that line for the next year. She said even though we pay tuition to Conway, in the event of an expensive additional service we are billed separately by Conway. She said we will be expecting some catastrophic aid for one student who was in a 12-month program, but now we have 3 more to budget for. She said preschool tuition is difficult to estimate in advance because it is a function of dividing the special education preschool tuition among Madison, Tamworth, and Freedom depending on the percentage of students in the program.

Raina said there are contracted services for the hearing impaired, visually impaired, and autism. She said the autism rate here is remarkably high and we need to increase those services and we are required to provide them. She said contracted service for speech is new to the program; speech has been adjusted to $5,000 and next year will be closer to $15,000. She said special education transportation includes transporting the 2 new students, both within Madison and up to Conway for summer programming, and occasionally there are additional costs. There are contracted transportation services with Eldridge for one student.

Continuing with the budget, Principal Heather Woodward noted that we are budgeting for 140 students, which is an estimate since we don’t know the number of incoming kindergarten students. She said Miscellaneous Supplies is a new item, $100 for each classroom, to give teachers the ability to purchase, with the approval of the principal, unanticipated items. She said we are piloting Everyday Math this year and it will be available to grades 3-6 next year. She said we have a new food service director and we have a professional development line for her staff to increase knowledge of food safety and related items.

Ron Force asked about Membership Dues, and Jim Curran said this will be included in next month’s packet.

Hersh Sosnoff said at the next meeting he would like to see some evaluation of the Kuno program including a correlation with achievement scores. Lou Goscinski said we may not see a direct correlation but he will bring in some information next month. He said we are going to roll out a remote instruction school day also known as “blizzard bag” day for up to 5 school days where kids can work at home with their Kuno tablets. He said he recently proposed such a plan with the Commissioner of Education which was approved with certain conditions such as 80% teacher and student participation. He said the Commissioner’s letter will be posted on the school website.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

1. Principal’s Letter: In the board packet.

Principal Heather Woodward said the students have earned a County Fair Day on October 16, with food and games. The Open House in September was well attended.

1. Mentors: The principal said we have funding from a Title II grant to offer a mentoring program for new hires paying a stipend of $600 a year, and we are looking for two positions.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve the principal’s proposal to hire two mentors under the Title II grant program, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0.

STUDENT SERVICES DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Raina Chick said there was an error in printing her report and there are three Madison preschoolers, not one.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. School Security Site Assessment: School security was discussed.
2. RISD/Blizzard Bags: Already discussed.
3. Non-Content Changes to School Board Policies: The superintendent said there are changes in policy coding and legal references; he was looking for the board to allow him to make changes to policy that don’t affect content as long as the board has had an opportunity to see it.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to authorize the superintendent to make policy coding changes, legal reference changes, and clerical corrections to policy as long as: the content and premise of policy is not changed; the board is notified of such changes in the Consent Agenda; and this motion is incorporated into policy BGA-“Policy Development System.” Seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0.

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS

*Old Business*

1. Memory Garden/Ground Beautification: Update: Jim Curran thanked Mike Lane for the Mustang Mascot. He said Mike worked with local vendors and businesses to make it happen.
2. Revisit CIP: Sloane Jarell said this is a work in progress. She said she will attend the ground beautification meeting as a PTO rep. She said Ray O’Brien is putting together a plan. This is on as a placeholder.

*New Business*

1. Master Plan for Building: Sloane Jarell said she was contacted by the Planning Board regarding a timeline. She said in talking with others she found that we have a building capital reserve fund whereas other entities have a separate fund for each item such as roof fund, boiler fund, etc.; another issue is that the actual proposal is different from proposed costs. She said we haven’t submitted any forms this year and we need to revamp this; we’ve gone away from the way the town does it. Lou Goscinski suggested having a workshop to include himself, Heather Woodward, Sue Wheeler, Sloane Jarell, Jim Curran, Ken Eckhardt, and Mike O’Neill, and Sloane said she will e-mail possible times to Lou. Jim Curran noted that we need a master plan for the facility. It was requested that all the reserve fund balances be available for the next board meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT: Christine Zimmer said she would like to have more signs for dismissal, traffic cones, etc.

BOARD COMMENTS: Sloane Jarell said the PTO is having a “Trunk or Treat” event for Halloween on October 31 from 5:00-6:30 PM at Burke Field and the public is invited. She said the PTO is accepting donations for candy for the event.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Motion by Ray O’Brien to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a), (b), (c). Seconded by Sloane Jarell. On a roll call vote the board went into non-public session at 8:10 PM.

Jim Curran – Aye

Wendy Grzesik – Aye

Sloane Jarell – Aye

Ray O’Brien – Aye

The Ayes have it.

1. Personnel Matters:
2. Superintendent’s nominations

Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve the superintendent’s nominations of Linda Haver and Nancy Boyer as teacher tutors in the before-school program at $25 an hour, one hour a day, contingent upon grant approval. Seconded by Wendy Grzesik.

1. Request of a Staff Member for Longevity Pay in One Lump Sum

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to deny the request of a staff member for longevity pay in one lump sum, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Student Matters:

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to deny a parent’s request to change a bus stop, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 4-0.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

1. Announcements:

* The board approved the superintendent’s nominations of Linda Haver and Nancy Boyer as teacher tutors in the before school program.
* The board denied a staff member’s request for longevity pay in one lump sum.
* The board denied a parent’s request to change a bus stop.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to come out of non-public session, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0 and the board came out of non-public session at 8:15 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to adjourn, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Madison School Board Meeting

October 6, 2014

Approved Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Ambrose**

Patricia Ambrose

Recording Secretary