# MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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, Finance Manager Charles (Chuck) Bates, Principal Heather Woodward

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Jim Curran called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM with 3 board members present. Wendy Grzesik arrived at 5:08 PM.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Motion by Ray O’Brien to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a), (b), (c), & (i), seconded by Sloane Jarell. On a roll call vote the board entered non-public session at 5:05 PM:

Jim Curran – Aye

Sloane Jarell – Aye

Ray O’Brien – Aye

The Ayes have it.

1. Personnel Matters:
2. Motion by Sloane Jarell to accept with regret the resignation of Stephanie Stepanauskas, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 3-0.
3. School Security Assessment: discussed. The superintendent said this will be discussed again next time in non-public session.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to leave non-public session, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0 and the board left non-public session at 5:25 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENES: Jim Curran called the public meeting to order at 5:30 PM. All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

1. The board accepted with regret the resignation of Stephanie Stepanauskas.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve the agenda, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting: 11-3-14: Motion by Sloane Jarell to approve the minutes of 11-3-14, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. There was a correction in a name. With that correction the amended minutes were approved 4-0.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Motion by Sloane Jarell to accept the Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Finance Manager’s Expense Report
2. Second Reading of Policy BGA as Amended by Board Motion
3. KHS Principal’s Report – November 2014
4. Special Education Enrollment by Grade

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

1. Calendar:
2. Next School Board Meeting: 1-5-15 @ 6:30 PM, Room 201.
3. Public Hearing on FY 16 Budget & 2015 Warrant Articles: 1-5-15 @ 7:00 PM. (Note: Snow Date is 1-12-15). Room 201.
4. Annual Report of the School District: Jim Curran said school artwork will be included and there will be a dedication page as well in this Annual Report.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to include a dedication to Bruce Brooks in the Annual Report, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT: Christina Edwards spoke regarding the elimination of her position. There was a brief discussion and Jim Curran suggested that if she wanted to have a more in-depth discussion she could ask to be on the non-public agenda for a future meeting. Nicole Nordlund also asked why this position was eliminated and asked what the projected enrollment is for next year. Principal Heather Woodward said she projected an enrollment of about 120 for 2015. Jim Curran said because we are an SBII school we have to be making decisions now for next year. Nicole asked for a note to be put on the door giving the location of the next meeting because the meeting room had changed. Jim said there will be a note on the door and in Monday’s newsletter regarding the location of the meeting. Wendy Grzesik requested that it be in the newsletter the Monday before the meeting as well.

RECREATION/ENRICHMENT DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Mike Lane supplemented his written report to the board:

* Lip Sync is now open to 3rd graders.
* Pictures with Santa went very well.
* The rink is up and flooded.
* The Mustang now has a garland scarf, hat and bow.
* The store opened two weeks ago and will be mentioned in next month’s newsletter.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

1. Principal’s Letter:

* An update on the SWIFT program. Principal Heather Woodward said she went to a quarterly meeting on Tuesday and met with representatives from other schools with similar enrollment, resulting in good connections and problem-solving.
* The school play is coming up. Seniors’ day is Thursday the 18th. Lunch starts at 11:30 AM and then the play is held. Friday the19th is the nighttime performance at 7:00 PM.

1. Heating Oil Supply Pipe Replacement: Ken Eckhardt said there is a requirement deadline of 12/2/2015 for all fuel tanks and piping to meet a double-walled standard. He said our tank is double-walled but our piping is not, so this work needs to be done. He said a few repairs have been done to meet our inspection deadline and we have received one price quote on what it would take to get us into compliance. Chuck Bates noted that the recommendation is to solicit two additional bids. Ray O’Brien asked whether in the future we are looking at getting the boiler replaced with wood or pellets, would we still need this work to be done. Ken said we would.
2. Cost of New Bus: Ken Eckhardt said we have asked for a price quote. Jim Curran said we are in the replacement schedule and this is bus #2. Ken noted that he might want to keep this one as a spare because it’s an automatic transmission.

STUDENT SERVICES DIRECTOR’S REPORT: None.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: None.

FY 16 BUDGET DISCUSSION: Superintendent Lou Goscinski introduced the new Finance Manager Charles (Chuck) Bates.

1. Reserve Fund Balances: Referring to the material handed out, Jim Curran said trust fund balances are on the first page, baselines are on the second page, and the default numbers are in the back. Lou Goscinski handed out enrollment figures listing staff and students going back to 2008.
2. Review Version #2 of FY 16 Budget

Jim Curran said some changes have been made since the last meeting: one staff member retired, adding to the retirement line; the SAU budget was moved by the joint board; and we received the health insurance numbers. Chuck Bates noted that three possibilities were listed for a rate of increase: 10%, 3.5%, and 1.7%.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to revise the health insurance budget line items from a 10% increase to a 3.5% increase. Seconded by Wendy Grzesik, who noted that this gives us a small buffer, not a huge buffer. The motion passed 4-0. Lou Goscinski said we’ll make that adjustment for the public hearing.

Jim reviewed the budget, looking particularly at changes made since the last meeting. He said debt obligation (tuition) has decreased by $12,000. It was determined that the middle school and high school tuition number should be swapped. Middle school tuition has increased $91,608 and high school has increased by $72,624. Lou Goscinski said this will be corrected for the public hearing. Ron Force asked how many more years of debt obligation we have and Jim said another 7-8 years roughly. Lou said we’ll check that. There was a discussion about the formula used to determine the tuition rate. Lou said it is a formula is based on ADM and assessments and total sending populations. Ron Force said this is the number one budget buster. Lou Goscinski said last year Freedom voted for a Tuition Stabilization Expendable Trust Fund to hedge against major increases in tuition. Lou said he and Chuck Bates are going to meet with SAU #9 officials this week to discuss the subject of tuition. Ron asked if we could get some feedback from that meeting and Lou said we will.

Jim said changes in special education are mainly due to out of district tuition and health insurance; this has not changed since the last meeting but is one of the major factors in the overall budget for this year. He said it’s up $250,000 but is out of our control.

Educational media is down 23.15% due to changes from last month.

Jim said SAU #13 will be removed for the final budget because the SAU budget was moved by the joint board and this will go as a warrant article. Madison’s portion is $220,269, which Ron Force noted is an almost 9% increase. Lou said this is because we now have a full time business administrator where previously we were at three days a week for contracted services.

Ron Force said the staffing worksheet by Heather and the budget worksheet were very helpful.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to move the proposed 2015-2016 Madison budget of $5,861,092 for posting for the public hearing. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

1. FY 16 Default Budget: The default budget was set at $5,985,284.
2. Review Draft of 2015 Warrant Articles

MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES 2015

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 2, 2015 at 7:00 PM. The first session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles II through IX. 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 IX shall be conducted by official ballot and will occur in conjunction with the Town meeting to be held on Tuesday, the 10th day of March 2015 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

One member of the School Board for three years

One member of the School Board for two 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 $5,861,092? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $5,985,284 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 4-0). (The Budget Committee TBD).

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve Article II for posting for the public hearing, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

Article III: Shall the voters of Madison School District adopt a school administration unit budget of $837,080 for the 2015-2016 school year in which $220,269 is assigned to the school budget of this district? (The School Board recommends this appropriation 4-0). (The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation TBD).

This year’s adjusted budget of $835,337with $219,657 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 4-0). (The Budget Committee vote TBD).

Motion was made by Ray O’Brien that was rescinded.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve Article III for posting for the public hearing. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

Article IV: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $27,000 to be added to the previously established Bus Capital Reserve Fund. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 4-0). (The Budget Committee vote TBD).

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve Article IV for posting for the public hearing. Seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 4-0.

Article V: To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to withdraw up to $86,325 from the previously established Bus Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a new school bus. (The School board recommends this appropriation 4-0). (The Budget Committee vote TBD).

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve Article V for posting for the public hearing. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

Article VI. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $8,000 to be added to the previously established Technology Capital Reserve Fund. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 4-0). (The Budget Committee TBD.) Ron Force said his personal opinion was that this should be part of the budget, not a warrant article. Hersh Sosnoff said he would rather see this in a warrant article where the school board has to go back to the voters for some sort of accountability. This was discussed. Lou Goscinski noted that if it’s in the budget you can’t carry it to the next year. Jim said having it in the capital reserve keeps the budget from going up one year and down the next. He said if it’s in the budget you could do a warrant article based on a surplus in that line.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve a warrant article for $8,000 for technology. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve Article VI for posting for the public hearing, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

Article VII: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $55,500 to be placed in the capital reserve fund previously established for the purpose of capital repairs. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 4-0). (The Budget Committee vote TBD).

Motion by Sloane Jarell to approve Article VII for posting for the public hearing. Seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0.

Article VIII: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 to be place in the capital reserve fund previously established for the purpose of educating educationally disabled children. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 4-0). (The Budget Committee vote TBD).

Jim Curran said we have $60,000 in the fund now and we also have the 2.5%. He asked if we should continue to add to this reserve fund and if so what the goal would be. Lou Goscinski said he would recommend a goal of around $200,000 and would recommend $20,000 to build towards that.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to approve the sum of $20,000 in the warrant article for the purpose of educating educationally disabled children. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to approve Article VIII for posting for the public hearing. Seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0.

Article IX: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $30,000 to replace the Madison Elementary School heating oil supply line pursuant to applicable state laws and regulations.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to approve Article IX for posting for the public hearing. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

Ted asked if there would be the possibility of a grant for this. Chuck Bates said this is not for saving energy, just trying to prevent leakage, but a grant would be worth looking into.

Jim Curran said we do not have a petition warrant article this year, but the last day for submission of a petition warrant article would be January 13, 2015.

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS

*Old Business*

1. Master Plan for Building: On as a placeholder.

*New Business*

PUBLIC INPUT: Christine Zimmer asked about funding programs that are on a cycle that require a 5-year license at a cost of $5,000. Jim Curran said this can be worked out with the principal and the finance manager if you make sure we know about these things when they are coming up.

BOARD COMMENTS: Wendy Grzesik said she wanted to thank members of the budget committee for attending the meetings. Sloane Jarell said she also wanted to thank the administration. Jim Curran said he wanted to thank the school, staff, custodial staff, and everyone involved in making Thanksgiving a great success. He said Ken Eckhardt showed up and blew the snow out of the walkways. Thanks to everybody.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Wendy Grzesik to adjourn, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Madison School Board Meeting

December 8, 2014

Approved Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Ambrose**

Patricia Ambrose

Recording Secretary