# MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

AND SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015 – 6:30PM

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ROOM 151

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Others attending: Superintendent Lou Goscinski, Special Services Administrator Raina Shearer Chick, Business Administrator Chuck Bates, Principal Heather Woodward

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Jim Curran called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Motion by Wendy Grzesik 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 6:30 PM.

Jim Curran – Aye

Wendy Grzesik - Aye

Sloane Jarell – Aye

Ray O’Brien – Aye

The Ayes have it.

1. Personnel Matters: Including Waiver of Policy IMAB: Discussion.

Motion by Ray O’Brien to make an exception to Policy IMAB, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 3-0 with one opposed.

1. School Security Assessment: School security will stay on the agenda as a placeholder.
2. Student Matters: A student matter was discussed by Raina Chick.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to leave non-public session, seconded by Ray O’Brien. The motion passed 4-0 and the board left non-public session at 6:47 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENES: Jim Curran called the public meeting to order at 6:53 PM. All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

1. Announcements: The board voted to make an exception to Policy IMAB.

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: 12-8-14: Motion by Sloane Jarell to approve the minutes of 12-8-14, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. There was a change in the wording of a motion and a change in the wording of a paragraph regarding debt obligation (tuition). With these corrections the motion to approve the minutes of 12-8-14 passed 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. Expense Report
2. KHS Principal’s Report – December 2014
3. Special Education Enrollment by Grade

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

1. Calendar:
2. Next School Board Meeting: Monday, 2-2-15 @ 5:30 PM, Room 151.
3. School District Deliberative Session: Monday, 2-2-15 @ 7:00 PM, James Noyes Auditorium, Madison Elementary School. Snow date: February 4, 2015 same place & same time.

RECREATION/ENRICHMENT DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Director Mike Lane said Session III starts January 28; packets went out today.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

**RECESS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**7:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING BEGINS**

1. Present Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 School District Budget:

Jim Curran went through the budget function by function. He said increases were mostly due to:

Health insurance, up 3.5% over last year;

Retirement, up 1.5%;

Tuition to Conway, both middle and high school, up $152,000;

Out of district tuition, up $247,423;

Cost of the CBA for the second year, $45,567, which was approved last year.

Jim noted that Regular Education is down $10,240 due to decreases in staffing.

Special Education: increase of $246,591, including out of district tuition.

Other Special Programs: level.

Recreation Program: down 3.29%.

Guidance Services: down 7.38% due to change in staff.

Health Services: up 4.65%.

Psychological Services: up 3.47%. Jim said this is a position we share with Tamworth and we purchase through Tamworth.

Speech Pathology & Audiology: up 20.16%.

Improvement of Instruction: down 9.00%

Educational Media: down 24.11% due to reduction of a .5 media aide.

Audio Visual: level.

School Board functions: level.

General Administration: down 7.25%.

Other School Board Expenses: up by $700 for printing of annual reports.

Office of the Principal: decrease of 2.49% due to change in staff.

Operation of Plant: decrease of 6.12%. The previous year’s warrant article for security upgrade has been removed.

Transportation: down 1.43% due to change in staff.

Special Education Transportation: up 11.13% due to out of district placements.

Co-curricular Transportation: up 7.65%.

Fleet Maintenance: down 22.25%. The bus lease has been paid off.

Food Service Operation: level.

Transfer to Food Service: level.

Total General Funds: up 3.7%.

Grand Total: $5,861,091.79 rounds off to $5,861,092, a 3.46% increase.

There was a discussion of the default budget, which numbers were adjusted from $5,985,284 to $5,864,937.72 after a meeting with the budget committee, which recommended removing positions that had been eliminated but had been carried over into the default budget, as well as to reduce the insurance increase to 3.5% and to remove the SAU budget. Hersh Sosnoff said he recognized that adjustments had been made, but it was not clear to him that the overhead on the personnel, such as salary-related benefits, had been changed. Chuck noted that health insurance had been reduced, but not FICA, and Jim Curran said the positions which were reduced did not qualify for retirement anyway. Lou Goscinski said the default budget will be reposted for the Deliberative Session. He added that if you want the default to be lower than proposed we need to work on that. Hersh said his goal was to make it accurate. There was a discussion of the purpose of a default budget. Jim Curran said the default is to make sure the voters have a choice. He said sometimes positions have been left in as a choice to the voters if they don’t want them removed. George Epstein said that is the perversion of SB II. He said this will be another year in which the overall budget will be a meaningless vote because no one has ever modified the budget on the floor. He asked if the school board had ever considered placing a warrant article to reverse SB II so it won’t be a meaningless vote on Election Day. Ron Force also suggested that the board might consider the idea of repealing the SB II format in favor of a town meeting format. There was a discussion of the pros and cons of SB II. Lou Goscinski said this would need to go before the town and a 60% majority would be needed to overturn SB II. Jim Curran said since there is no motion from the board we are going to move on. Jim said this will go back on the agenda for the public meeting. Lou said if we can agree tonight on the default figure we have before you, we can then amend the default at the deliberative meeting.

Lou noted that the last day for a petition warrant article is January 13 and that would also be the last day for a public hearing.

Jim Curran distributed a handout showing that the elementary school in and of itself is down 18.83% over the last 6 years and staff-wise down as well. He said this was to show where changes were happening. Ron Force said this chart was very helpful.

1. Present Warrant Articles for March 2015 School District Meeting

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 $5,864,937.72 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 recommend Article II, 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.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to recommend Article III, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. 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 recommend Article IV, seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

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

Lou Goscinski noted that the wording had changed as recommended by the DRA but not the intent.

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to recommend Article V, 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.)

Motion by Sloane Jarell to recommend Article VI, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed unanimously.

Article VII: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $55,500 to be placed in the building 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 recommend Article VII, 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 noted that this fund, currently at $60,082.52, will help us this year from having a deficit appropriation.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to recommend Article VIII, 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 and/or repair the Madison Elementary School fuel oil supply lines and associated equipment for the heating system pursuant to applicable state laws and regulations.

Motion by Sloane Jarell to recommend Article IX, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Public Comments: None.
2. Public Hearing Concludes: Jim Curran declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:53 PM.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RESUMES UPON THE CONCLUSION**

**OF THE PUBLIC HEARING**

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS

*New Business*

1. Vote to Approve the 2015-2016 Budget for the First Session of the Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session) and Public Posting

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to recommend the 2015-2016 budget of $5,861,092 for the first session of the Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session) and public posting. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Vote to Approve the 2015 School District Warrant for the Second Session of the Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session) and Public Posting

Motion by Ray O’Brien to recommend the 2015 School District Warrant for the second session of the Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session) and public posting. Seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed unanimously.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

1. Principal’s Letter: In the board packet. There were no questions.
2. Principal’s Recommendation for the Reallocation of a Teacher to Grade 6:

Motion by Wendy Grzesik to authorize the principal to reallocate a teacher from the second grade to sixth grade due to enrollment changes. Seconded by Sloane Jarell. The motion passed 4-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: No report.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Kennett High School Tuition Discussion and Handout: Business Administrator Chuck Bates discussed a meeting that was held in Conway on December 11 with representatives of SAU #9 to learn about the process of calculating the Conway tuition rate. He said the current model is based upon a 20-year contract signed in 2003. He said to exit this agreement notice must be given by June 30, 2024; otherwise, the contract runs through June 30, 2028. In the meeting issues were discussed such as enrollment numbers, the ADM (average daily membership) rate, proving residency, and other issues. It was noted that this same session is offered to school board members and other interested personnel sometime prior to the next SAU #13-SAU #9 joint board meeting which is to be held on January 22, 2015 at 6:00 PM. Hersh Sosnoff asked if the SAU #9 calculations could be audited. Lou said he would have to look into that process. Ron Force asked if there is a way to validate that we are being treated fairly among the other towns. Lou said we have the breakouts and we will get copies to you.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: No report.

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS

Old Business

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

PUBLIC INPUT: Donna Villieux asked at what time the board makes decisions about withdrawing funds from capital reserve. Lou said this is typically done at the May or June school board meeting which is open to the public.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ray O’Brien said at the budget committee meeting tomorrow night there will be a discussion about energy and how much we spend on the town level. Jim Curran noted that if we could buy with the town in more bulk we would do better and he would encourage that. Superintendent Goscinski said he wanted to thank each and every school board member, Raina Chick, Heather Woodward, and Chuck Bates for all their work and said he was grateful for their support and efforts on behalf of the administration. Jim Curran said he wanted to thank the administration as well.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Sloane Jarell to adjourn, seconded by Wendy Grzesik. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Madison School Board Meeting and Madison School District Budget Hearing

January 5, 2015

Draft Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ambrose

Recording Secretary