

January 12, 2012
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Marlborough School Board
Marlborough School, 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: Mike Briggs, School Board Chair
Julie Farhm, School Board Member
Kristen Hill, School Board Member
Mitchell Silverman, School Board Member
Tim Ruehr, Business Administrator for Towns
Wayne Woolridge, Co-Superintendent of Schools
Reuben Duncan, Principal
Laura French, Recording Secretary

In attendance for all or a portion of the meeting: Gilda Goodrich, Ed Goodrich, Robin Fairfield, Chris LaClair, Jeannie Butler

1. Call to order: Mike Briggs called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes:
Mike Briggs made a motion to accept minutes from the December 8, 2011 (R) and December 10, 2011 (S) Meeting, as amended. Julie Farhm requested her last name in the December 8th minutes be edited to the correct spelling – Farhm, not Fahrm. Kristen Hill seconded the motion. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes.
3. Student Government Update: Due to January 12th being a snow day with the school closed, there was no update given for this meeting.
4. Public Input: There was no public input at this time.
5. Bills and Manifests: Julie Farhm made a motion to accept checks #44005204 – in the amount of \$179,864.85, checks #4005262 – in the amount of \$225,837.50, and check #4005203 – in the amount of \$47.96. Kristen Hill seconded the motion. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes.
6. Financial Report:

Approve Budget 2012-13 – tabled for later in the meeting.

Investment Policy, annual review –moved to the Board’s February meeting.

Pellet Boiler Update – Mr. Ruehr shared that the pellet boiler is running much better, although not perfect. He explained to the Board that the expansion tank appears to be too small due to a design issue, which causes the tank water to expand and dissipate faster and which needs to be monitored on a regular basis. The boiler cycles too

quickly, can't sustain water in the tank, and ash builds up on the site glasses. There are three issues that have been an issue over the past couple of weeks:

- a) Expansion tank too small,
- b) Site glasses must be kept clean of ash on a regular basis,
- c) The grate must be kept clean of ash so the ashes do not fall back onto the embers and snuff them out. A ramp was built to make access to the grate bin easier.

Mr. Ruehr responded to questions from the Board that the boiler has plenty of capacity to heat the building when it is cold and there is no need to increase the size of the buffer or expansion tank. He also said that the District has not yet incurred additional design costs to fix this issue, and he will be meeting again with the engineers to keep the boiler functioning.

In other financial updates, Mr. Ruehr shared the following:

- Met with McMillan on the building project balance and the District is \$200,000 in available balance. The District owes under \$10,000 to settle the contract. The Board requested that the Building Project Balance is added to next month's agenda. Mr. Briggs asked if a warrant article is needed to expend this surplus and Tim answered, yes indeed. If not it would be used to offset the tax rate.

7. Reports

- a. Principal Report: Reuben Duncan reported on the following:
 - Referrals for discipline were slightly up for the month of December; passed around a detailed chart.
 - Working with Emily Hartshorne, Principal of Wells Memorial School in Harrisville, and the NH Department of Education to get a 21st century grant to improve the Marl-Harris After-School Program that is currently held at the Harrisville Wells Memorial School. If we were awarded a 21st Century grant, we would be able to expand the program to two sites and offer summer programming as well.
 - Met with Tom Bassarear, KSC professor. He will be working with the Sophomore Apprentice Teachers this semester at Marlborough School. The KSC students will focus their course work this semester on community engagement and social justice in education.
 - New SAU Technology Committee has been formed with some Marlborough staff participating. The Director of Technology will be training Marlborough staff on how to take online attendance. The District is looking to purchase 15 digital cameras and four more document cameras using REAP funds.
- b. Co-Superintendent Report: Wayne Woolridge reported on the following:
 - School closed today due to bad weather.

- Explained that last week the State Legislature overrode the Governor's veto of HB 542. Spoke about the final version of the bill and other legislative committees that are preparing constitutional amendment bills in education to be debated this year.
- Mentioned that Keene, Nelson and Harrisville are courting Sullivan to attend their respective schools.

b. School Board Members:

- Julie Farhm reported that the Policy Committee will meet on January 26th at 5:30 pm.

8. Old Business

a. Disposition of Old School Building – Mr. Ruehr recommends entering into another Agreement with SouthWestern Community Services to purchase the old building, using the same language as last year's proposal, with the exception that if SouthWestern wants to purchase the building, they are responsible to manage upkeep until the final sale comes through – such as snow removal, heating, etc. A warrant article for voter approval will need to be readied for the budget hearing next week and voter approval in March. When the sale of the old building did not happen this year, the agreed upon price minus \$5,000 was returned to SouthWestern Community Services. Mr. Ruehr said \$5,000 barely covered the upkeep of the building for a year. He suggested the Board hire a realtor from Marlborough if possible who would be willing to list the building. Julie Farhm moved and Mitchell Silverman seconded a motion to authorize Mr. Ruehr to find a local realtor. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes.

9. Public Input: None given at this time.

10. New Business:

- a. Role of Guidance in Education and at Marlborough School – Christine LaClair shared with Board members an overview of what the guidance position provides for Marlborough School and insight into why she believes the guidance position should stay at the current staffing level of 100% FTE in order to foster a successful school experience for every student. She explained to Board members that this position is not just about counseling, but includes four distinct pillars to the position: a) responsive services to address all immediate individual and small group concerns; b) guidance curriculum to provide educational programs for students and parents such as bullying prevention, social skills training, student skills, acting out; c) individual planning with students, parents and teachers in development of individual academic and career plans; and d) system support to help manage programming for school-wide goals.

Mike Briggs thanked Chris LaClair for her presentation and allowed Board members to ask several questions to Chris LaClair on how her day is spent in

the guidance counselor position. Again, the Board thanked Chris LaClair for her detailed presentation.

Approve Budget 2012-13 – Tim Reuhr and Mike Briggs gave the 2012-13 budget proposal overview that includes the following:

- Explained why there is a 5.72% increase in Regular Instruction,
- Talked about the reduction of one full-time elementary school teaching position,
- Spoke on reducing the guidance counselor position from 100% to 60% FTE,
- Explained that the Board is budgeting to add a 50% Integration Specialist to the 50% current art teacher to make the position full-time,
- Explained about the large increase in technology,
- Disussed adding an additional part-time receptionist and promoting the Secretary to the Principal to a position of Ancillary Services Director,
- Total proposed 12-13 budget shows a decrease of \$469,689 (-8.33%) mostly due to \$603,416 savings under Special Instruction because of out of District special education costs.

After much discussion on the 50% Integration Specialist position (to possibly combine with the current 50% art teacher or keep as two separate part-time positions), Ms. Hill moved and Mr. Silverman seconded a motion to amend the 12-13 budget under Line 1100 to reflect a part-time, up to 60% Integration Specialist for one year only and to keep the existing art position at 50% FTE. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes.

Ms. Farhm asked to discuss the guidance position before final approval of the budget. Mr. Briggs opened up the floor for discussion and also allowed public input on this matter. After much discussion and talking about the savings in the 2012-13 budget, Mr. Silverman moved and Ms. Farhm seconded a motion to amend the proposed 12-13 budget to keep the guidance position at 100% FTE. Vote taken, 2-1-1 in favor, motion passes. (in favor, M. Silverman and J. Farhm; opposed K. Hill and abstained M. Briggs).

Ms. Hill moved and Ms. Farhm seconded a motion to accept the 2012-13 proposed budget as amended. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes.

Mr. Ruehr next spoke on the warrant articles to ready for next week's public hearing on the budget. He distributed a draft with three warrant articles and asked if the Board wanted to add any other warrant articles.

After some discussion on the warrant articles, Ms. Farhm moved and Kristen Hill seconded a motion to include a warrant article to transfer up to \$100,000 to the Capital Reserve Surplus Fund for future building maintenance and repairs. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes.

Ms. Farhm moved and Ms. Hill seconded a motion to include a warrant article to transfer up to \$100,000 to the High School Tuition/Special Education Fund for the purpose of

paying for future year unanticipated high school tuition and special education costs. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes.

- b. NHSBA Resolutions – Wayne Woolridge handed out the NH School Boards Association’s “Proposed Continuing Resolutions for 2012.” These resolutions will be considered by the NHSBA Delegate Assembly on January 14th. Because of a conflict in scheduling, Wayne will be unable to attend the January 14th meeting, but Mitch Silverman and Reuben Duncan will attend and report back to the Board.
- c. 2012-2013 School Year Calendar Draft – tabled until the Board meeting in February and after the Keene School District approves their school calendar.
- d. New Board Member – Mike Briggs asked if anyone is interested in being on the Board until the March meeting. Although the position has been advertised, no response has been received.
- e. Other

11. Future Agenda:

Preschool – tabled for a future meeting.

12. Non-Public Session – R.S.A. 91-A:3 – None.

There being no other business to discuss, Ms. Farhm moved and Ms. Hill seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vote taken, 4-0, motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Laura French
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: 2/9/12