

NEW BOSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
New Boston, New Hampshire 03070

NEW BOSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
Wednesday, January 11, 2017 - 6:30 PM

New Boston Central School Library
15 Central School Road, New Boston, NH 03070

PRESENT

SCHOOL BOARD

Wendy Lambert
Kary Jencks
Glen Dickey
Fred Hayes
Bill Schmidt

ADMINISTRATORS

Brian Balke, Superintendent
Tori Underwood, Principal
Tim Stokes, Assistant Principal
Jenn Gilliland, Special Education Facilitator

CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Lambert called the Public Hearing to order at 6:34 PM.

OPENING OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING ON NEW BOSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Brian distributed the Warrant. The proposed Operating Budget is \$15,324,428 and the default budget is \$15,281,115. Business Administrator Ray Labore was unable to attend tonight as he is at the Goffstown budget meeting.

New Boston has among the lowest per pupil cost in the state. NBCS uses taxpayer money very efficiently. State elementary average for per pupil expenses in 2015-2016 was \$15,033.57 plus any bond a particular town has. NBCS per pupil expense for 2015-16 was \$12,486.85 per pupil and NBSD has no bonds, the 11th lowest per pupil cost in the state. Despite the low spending, NBCS is above the state average in all areas of NECAP/SBAC testing. State middle school average for per pupil expenses in 2015-2016 was \$14,295.37. MVMS per pupil expense for 2015-16 was \$11,749.71 per pupil, the 4th lowest in the state. State high school average for per pupil expenses in 2015-2016 was \$15,068.46. GHS per pupil expense for 2015-2016 was \$12,408.24 per pupil, the 7th lowest in the state. NBSD enrollment continues to increase. A slide containing current enrollment will be added to the budget Powerpoint Presentation. Budget increases are enrollment driven. Brian reviewed population statistics: 20% of New Boston's total population is school-aged children. 13% of Goffstown's total population is school-aged children. 19-20% of Bedford's total population is school-aged children. NBCS related 2017 costs decreased \$29,930 compared to 2016.

Brian noted the Finance Committee asked about use of the Building and Renovation CRF. This information was e-mailed to Town Administrator Peter Flynn today and includes needed projects such as paving, heating system controls. Building envelope and roof. Brian will e-mail this to the Board. Kary suggested a timeline for projects be included with this information to let the public know the Board has been seriously considering this for years and is now ordering an objective audit to move forward with these projects. This will be addressed at the Deliberative Session February 7 during discussion of Warrant Article 3.

The budget comparison sheet was reviewed. It notes an amount for unreserved fund balance. Every year the District commits a certain amount to be returned to the town for tax relief. This is set at \$150,000 each year but the District usually returns more. This affects the tax rate the following October each year.

FY 17-18 anticipated revenues of \$3,111,471 were reviewed with a handout. The District receives \$3,500 per student for the state in adequacy aid. The District currently receives REAP grant funds but once the NBCS student population exceeds 600 this grant will no longer be available to NBCS.

The draft Warrant Article 3 for deposit to the Building and Renovation CRF was reviewed. The deposit amount of \$100,000 was chosen this year due to the long list of repair needs at NBCS. Brian noted he has been working with Municipal Auditor Jamie Dow from the NH DRA about the language “up to.” She said RSA33 uses the word “appropriate” meaning a certain exact sum, so if that amount is available in the unreserved fund balance, that amount must be deposited in the CRF, the Board cannot vote to deposit a lower amount. Jamie recommends the language be changed to a sum certain but the Board decided to keep the language “up to” that has been used each year. This deposit would take priority over a deposit to the 2.5% CRF as it is a Warrant Article. There is no Article for the 2.5% CRF as it is not needed to make a deposit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Wendy Lambert moved to adjourn the public hearing at 6:56pm. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0). Hearing Adjourned.

NEW BOSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Wednesday, January 11, 2017 - 6:30 PM

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Lambert called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 21, 2016 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Glen Dickey moved to approve the December 21, 2016 School Board meeting minutes as written. Kary Jencks seconded the motion. The Board then reviewed the December 21, 2016 School Board meeting minutes and made no changes. The motion carried (4-0 Bill Schmidt abstained)

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received a Christmas card from Kevin Collimore.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCIALS

MANIFEST AND VOUCHERS

The December 7, 2016 manifest was conditionally approved at that meeting. Glen reviewed the December 7, 2016 manifest and noted it contained the following:

- \$2,600 was encumbered for architects at Naturally Rooted for playground design. Tim reported a presentation is expected from them soon.
- A payment to Nature’s Classroom for the sixth grade trip to Sargent Camp. The total costs are split between the District, parents and the PTA.

Glen Dickey moved to approve the December 7, 2016 manifest in the amount of \$592,021.91. Fred Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)

Glen was unable to review the January 11, 2017 manifest before tonight's meeting but it is ready to approve. The Board reviewed the Manifest Summary sheet. ***Glen Dickey moved to conditionally approve the January 11, 2017 manifest in the amount of \$396,134.20. Fred Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)***

Fred noted the Building and Renovation CRF balance is \$234,538.10 as of January 10, 2017 and the Special Education CRF balance is approximately \$150,020.00.

REPORTS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Tori Underwood reported the following:

- The band and string concert is January 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM.
- Mid-year NWEA testing is taking place for all second graders and select students from all other grades.
- The fire extinguisher by the door at the parking side of the gym has a form showing it expired in September 2016. Tori said all fire extinguishers were inspected in September and this will be updated.
- There was a problem with the furnace Monday. There was an oil smell, it was investigated and the furnace was found to be smoking. Tori shut it down and called the Fire Department and RPF & Son. The Fire Department responded immediately, monitored for carbon monoxide as a precaution, and ventilated the building. Rudy from RPF & Son arrived soon after and repaired the furnace. Facility Director Randy Loring noted to administrators that he appreciated Rudy's work in this matter. The Board discussed parent notification in this type of situation as Goffstown parents would have been notified immediately through School Messenger. NBCS uses Code Ed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Brian Balke gave the Superintendent's report:

- The Joint AREA Agreement Subcommittee meeting is January 31 at the SAU. Glen and Wendy are on this committee and will attend.
- Information was provided to the Board as Chapters 29 and 30 of the Right To Know law have changed.
- A School Safety Meeting was held today with the Police and Fire Chiefs. An emergency drill for administrators is planned for February with Homeland Security and the Chiefs.
- High School exams are taking place next week.
- Ryan Mackey has not updated his proposed Eagle Scout project. Brian will contact him for a status.

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

C&E COMMITTEE REPORT (NEXT MEETING 1-17-17 @ 7:00 PM @ SAU)

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT (1-17-17 @ 6:00 PM @ SAU)

NEW BOSTON POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT (NEXT MEETING 1-25-17 @ 5:30 PM @ NBCS LIBRARY)

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND ARCHITECT

Tim reported he learned the slide was damaged about 1-1.5 years ago. He worked with Art Teacher Judy Keefe to try to fix it and they learned it needs repair every few years and the parts are very expensive. They also noticed issues with the hill. Since then, Tim, Judy and the PTA have been meeting with a playground architect at Naturally Rooted. The District just paid the retainer for a design to fix the washout that has been occurring since the Recreation Department installed the basketball court along with other playground issues. The architect will make a presentation to the PTA soon including a plan and the location of underground drainage. The plan will then be considered with Brian and Randy. Action is expected to be taken in the spring. The playground was built with an Artist In Residence in the past. An Artist In Residence is going to work on the playground with some students in the spring. Possible paving may be done behind the school but it is recommended paving not go all the way to the building. Parent Sam Perron donated plants and has been working on landscaping with the Garden Club. Brian will contact Property Liability Insurance Carrier Primex to do a playground evaluation in the spring.

DRAFT OF 2017-2018 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

Brian reviewed the proposed 2017-2018 school district calendar noting students will return to school September 5, 2017 and the last day of school will be June 14, 2018 if there are no snow days. The calendar was sent to the Teachers Union but there has been no official feedback. Teachers have expressed they would rather begin school prior to Labor Day. Wendy had heard through parents teachers had questions this year as January 2 was a national holiday but Goffstown and New Boston students had school. The Goffstown School Board approved the 2017-2018 calendar at their meeting Monday with two differences that do not affect busing. Brian presented several calendar options in prior years, including a traditional 180-day calendar and a 182-day calendar as allowed by the teacher contract. No previous administrators have held a 182-day school calendar. Brian is strongly in favor of longer school years as beneficial to education. There is an increased cost for this option for student transportation and paraprofessional salaries. NBCS can begin the school year whenever they want according to its teacher contract but under the Goffstown teacher contract, Goffstown schools cannot start prior to the last three business days of August. Transportation costs would be affected if New Boston started before Goffstown and the district calendars have been similar over the years. Wendy asked that teacher feedback be given as soon as possible through proper channels so it can be considered. The Board and Administration look forward to feedback on the calendar from the Teachers' Union in future years. ***Fred Hayes moved to approve the 2017-2018 School District Calendar as presented. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)***

FINALIZING 2017 WARRANT

Glen reported the Finance Committee met January 7 and asked for the balance of the Building and Renovation CRF and the amount planned for Article 3. Final School District Operating Budget and CRF deposit numbers were not provided to the Finance Committee in time for that meeting. The information has since been provided to the Committee. The Committee will hold a short meeting after the School Deliberative Session February 7, 2017 to vote on the Operating Budget and CRF deposit Warrant Articles and then attend the subsequent Board meeting to report its vote.

The Board reviewed the proposed Warrant Articles as follows:

- Article 1: There are many School District officer openings this year. Kary and Fred's School Board terms are up. The Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk terms are also up. The filing period for town and school officers is January 25 through February 3 with the Town Clerk.
- Article 2: This is the Operating Budget Article. ***Wendy Lambert read Article 2 aloud, moved to recommend Article 2 and move it onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)***
- Article 3: This is the Article for a \$100,000 deposit into the Building and Renovation CRF. ***Wendy Lambert read Article 3 aloud and moved to recommend Article 3 and move it onto the Warrant and Deliberative Session. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)***

Denise Morin will prepare the paperwork for Board signature and let them know when it is ready. The Warrant will then be posted appropriately.

UPDATE ON SPACE NEEDS COMMITTEE

Kary Jencks reported the committee needs a clearer charge. The Committee has been working for two years. Statistical information was presented at the last meeting and members took follow up tasks. The Board considered updating the charge to include exploring specifics for renovation options, refresh the addition design and construction costs with retired architect Roger Dignard's former company and other architects. There could be a charge for this service and the Board approved up to \$1,500 for this. Options discussed included the first step of taking over the white building; add portable classrooms to the property, an addition, and taking down the oldest section of the building and renovating the area with a two-story building. Brian does not recommend entering into a multi-million dollar bond at this time. Goffstown schools are installing modular classrooms due to the state building aid situation. The SAU will help the Board map out portable placement and provide any information the Board requests. There is also a mandate before the NH House for full day kindergarten. NBCS would need additional space, staff and supplies if this occurs. Wendy read aloud the Committee charge the Board approved in October as follows: To track demographic data including births, approved building lots, monitoring

Planning Board activity, tracking new subdivision, tracking trends and patterns of enrollment, etc., explore space expansion including addition, update construction costs-review architectural designs of four classroom addition to evaluate current and projected space needs, explore other building expansion opportunities including modular classrooms, white buildings, and explore options to establish full day Kindergarten at NBCS, its financial impact, space impact and community desire to establish full day Kindergarten. Bill asked for guidance on classroom sizes. Teachers serving on the Committee will provide this information. There are minimum standards but NBCS prefers a lower number due to benefits to student achievement.

NEW BUSINESS

1ST READ POLICIES

BBBD-Board Member Removal From Office: Fred reported this is an optional policy the Committee has been considering. The Board considered if this policy would be too limiting. Fred will ask School District Attorney Kevin Collimore for advice.

BEDA-Public Notification Of School Board Meetings: The Committee made one change. *Fred Hayes moved to approve Policy BEDA. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)*

DELIBERATIVE SESSION PREPARATION

Article 2: Tori will present. Glen will move, Bill will second.

Article 3: Fred will speak to, Fred will move and Kary will second.

The budget is available to the public upon request. Tim will ask the PTA to offer babysitting during the Deliberative Session February 7. After the Deliberative Session, the Administrators will prepare an informational video to be posted on the website and announced in the Thursday Notice and in correspondence with town officials and boards.

STAFFING

Special Education Facilitator Jenn Gilliland reported Julie Karagiannis was hired as the Special Education Administrative Assistant. She is working out wonderfully and helping Jenn a lot. Administrators will present this nomination to the Board at their next meeting.

It is time to do the Special Education Facilitator evaluation and this will be discussed in non-public. The Administrators noted Jenn is doing a great job in this position. Jenn noted she is enjoying the work and the people she works with. Administration and parents have noted Jenn is doing a great job.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 311(a)

Wendy Lambert made a motion to go into nonpublic session at 8:26pm under RSA 91-A:3II(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The Chair took an individual voice poll from all board members present. Vote: 5-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passes.

Wendy Lambert moved to come out of non-public session at 8:31pm, seconded by Glen Dickey. The Chair took an individual voice poll from all board members present. Vote: 5-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passes.

Glen Dickey made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for 15 years, seconded by Fred Hayes. Vote: 5-0-0 - All in favor – Motion passes.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 311(c)

Wendy Lambert made a motion to go into nonpublic session at 8:32pm under RSA 91-A:3II(c) Matters which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Glen Dickey seconded the motion. The Chair took an individual voice poll from all board members present. Vote: 5-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passes.

Wendy Lambert moved to come out of non-public session at 8:50pm, seconded by Glen Dickey. The Chair took an individual voice poll from all board members present. Vote: 5-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passes.

Glen Dickey moved to seal the non –public minutes for 15 years, seconded by Fred Hayes. Vote: 5-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Glen Dickey moved to adjourn the public meeting at 8:51pm. Bill Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0). Meeting Adjourned.

All back-up material to this meeting is held in the Principal's Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Maralyn Segien