

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

Approved + released  
3/5/15 AH

1. Call to order: 7:06 P.M.

Present: Michael Barbaro, Susan Burdsall, Dawn Harris  
Salah Khelifaoui-Superintendent  
Mark Chapulis and Judy Houle-TMS/Business Manager Office

2. Citizen Questions and Comments: none

3. Student Recognition: none

Student Representative: Chelsea Bitter, Senior, announced upcoming events, including sports, fundraisers and Winter Vacation, 2/16-2/21. Fundraisers will benefit "Coaches vs. Cancer" and Athletic User Fee Scholarships. The Middle School has sent out the Camp Dakota permission trip forms; they are available online and additional information through the PTO.

5. Superintendent Report/Business Office Report: S. Khelifaoui noted the 5 snow day used the built in allotment; additional snow days will be made up by June 30<sup>th</sup> per state law. Alternate replacement days are being considered, including April vacation or Saturdays. The district can apply to the state to allow students to do make-up work at home. Concerns regarding the impact on the state testing schedule (PARC & MCAS) were noted. Due to contractual obligations nationwide, the only flexibility is to move the testing period to the end of the window time. The DOE Commissioner has made it clear that he will not waive the required 180 days of schools. S. Burdsall noted the instructional time requirement must be considered; the time could be made up online with the state's permission. The district has only had 2 late days; it can use half days later in the year to make up the hours. Proposals and ideas will be discussed at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

6. Old Business: none

7. New Business:

A) Field Trip-Keene State College: M. Barbaro moved to approve the student Field Trip to Keene State College. Second by Susan Burdsall. Approved 3-0-0.

B) Budget Timeline: M. Chapulis reviewed the timeline. S. Khelifaoui noted the governors' cuts will affect the grants and thus many figures are estimates in the draft budget. He first reported the Indirect Costs line item in the FY16 budget needs to be increased by \$550,000- \$400,000 for health insurance and \$150,000 for unemployment readjustment. James Kreidler, Town Manager, explained the town wide increase of 5% and the derivation of the figure. The districts' cost is \$200,000; \$400,000 had been budgeted. There is an approximately \$50,000 unemployment deficit in the FY15 budget to date; funds needs to be allocated in the district budget to cover that and any remaining claims in this fiscal year. J. Kreidler updated the Solar Power project, explaining the lack of work done and current action. The BOS and Town Accountant extended an invitation to the districts' business office to the 1st BOS meeting each month to address issues and answer questions. A meeting with the Superintendent, Town Accountant, Town Manager and representative from the DOR will be rescheduled as weather permits. He noted that communication between Town Hall and the districts' Business Office is working better. The joint meeting of the School Committee and the BOS for March 2<sup>nd</sup> was confirmed. The payroll audit regarding Workers Comp projected higher costs for school employees; the figure will be checked to

ensure it reflects the changes in the Food Services department. S. Khelfaoui suggested adjusting the FY16 Health Insurance figure to \$250,000 and maintaining Unemployment at \$150,000.

C) Proposed FY16 Budget (Draft)-S. Khelfaoui reviewed the funding source figures, noting they are based on the FY15 budget. After reviewing the Early Childhood Program (Pre-K), he explained a proposal to consolidate the two elementary school administrations; this is driven by necessity and efficiency. Pre-K would be funded from the \$300,000 override, as pledged for school use by the BOS and the FinCom. Pre-K grants for Sped students and state reimbursement would provide additional funding. He proposed expanding the program gradually, as it receives more funding from the State. M. Barbaro objected to using money that was earmarked for K-12 for Pre-K. He is uncomfortable with the idea, especially since other programs being cut. S. Burdsall noted the fund use reassignment approval at Town Meeting was not guaranteed. S. Khelfaoui will determine the reimbursement rate and if the funds can be used outside that program. S. Burdsall asked for a complete list of the other funding sources for the Pre-K program and the general operating budget. C. Landanno noted there are salary grants but nothing else is currently available. She explained the structure and goals of the program. S. Khelfaoui noted the projected net salary net cut of \$805,600 includes consolidating the 2 elementary schools, without closing any buildings. The administration is looking into restructuring the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the Middle School, creating 2 "houses" of 5&6 and 7&8 grades. He explained the restrictions, changes and benefits of the proposal. Pre-K and Kindergarten would stay at Memorial. Grades 1-4 would be housed at Toy Town Elementary. Changes to each building administration team were reviewed. The proposal also brings The Murdock Academy to the current Pre-K space. The district would likely retain ownership of the Marvin School building. The Murdock Academy program could grow due to additional space availability; school choice-in could be expanded. Grant reductions at the state level will impact the budget. M. Barbaro strongly stated 'the State's claim that it would not touch education is so full of crap'. M. Chapulis will work with the Town to determine the accurate numbers and give a general report on workers comp and unemployment. Union Teachers' contracts were generally discussed. Individual contracts do not have increases built into them. M. Barbaro questioned whether the School Department should be charged \$18,200 for water/sewage.

M. Niles had planned to be here but work commitments prevented it. A. Suchocki plans to be at the joint meeting. The district may not be part of the French River Collaborative bids due to an investigation of that group by the Inspector General. All work related to the cost of having grades/classrooms move can be done by our crews during the workday. The impact of the proposed restructuring on Food Services will be discussed.

#### 8. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released:

A) December 17, 2014-Regular Session-S. Burdsall moved to approve and release. Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 2-0-1. M. Barbaro abstained.

B) January 8, 2015-Regular Session-M. Barbaro moved to approve and release as presented. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 3-0-0.

C) January 8, 2015-Executive Session-S. Burdsall moved to approve and hold. Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 3-0-0

D) January 22, 2015-Regular Session-M. Barbaro moved to approve and release. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 3-0-0.

9. Questions and Comments by Members: The meeting minutes will be posted on the district website. S. Burdsall presented the following list of items that the committee needs to address:

\*Policy GCCD

\*The budget transfers discussed on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*Status on After School compensations

\*Toy Town Generator

\*March 2<sup>nd</sup> -Joint meeting with the BOS and the FinCom.

\*Status of legal consul services

D. Harris noted she had a good meeting with Tom Kane month. A written report on the weekly Business Office meeting with the Town Manager, Town Accountant and BOS will be sent to the school committee; this will be usual business practice and will contain any running issues, problems or anything the committee should know about.

10. Other: S. Khelfaoui reported that almost half of the W2 tax forms sent to employees were wrong; correct ones will be sent. He noted the problem originated with Harpers Payroll.

11. Future Agenda Items:

- A) Guidance Department Review
- B) Negotiation Strategy Meeting
- C) Monty Tech Representative/Superintendent-discuss the agreement re: openings above allowed number and the cost to the town
- D) Snow Day make up schedule
- E) MASC vacation dilemma-combining the 2 weeks to March
- F) Breakdown of unemployment/works comp (3/5/15)
- G) Breakdown of grants
- H) Repayment of deficit loan
- I) Reimbursements for Pre-K (3/5/15)

12. Executive Session: none

13. Adjournment: 9:45 P.M. M. Barbaro moved to adjourn. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary