Regular Meeting

December 8, 2015
7:00 p.m.
SHS TV Studio

MINUTES

Present:
Mr. Michael Carney, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Peter Morgan, Secretary
Mrs. Patricia Corbett, Member
Mr. Bernard Campbell, Member

Also Present:
Dr. Michael Delahanty, Ed. D., Superintendent
Mrs. Maura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Deborah Payne, Assistant Superintendent for
Business Operations
Mrs. Diana Darnstaedt, Director of Finance

Absent:
Mrs. Pamela Berry, Vice Chairman

Mr. Carney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the November 17, 2015 Planning Session
Motion by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Campbell to adopt the minutes as circulated.
Motion carried 4-0

Approval of the minutes from the November 24, Regular Meeting
Motion by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Campbell to adopt the minutes as circulated.
Motion carried 4-0

Vendor and payroll manifests were passed for signature.

CONSENT AGENDA - None

MONTHLY PRESENTATION ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - Fisk Elementary School
The principal of Fisk School, Mr. George Murray, was introduced to the board. He stated the
presentation will be on the second domain of the district’s Frameworks for Teaching standards
which is Classroom Environment. Mr. Rose gave an overview of the importance of setting the
tone for the school year beginning on the very first day in order to create a warm, inviting,
comfortable classroom environment. A video was then shown following first grade student Madison Blanchette from the first day of school and throughout the year to date.

Mrs. Corbett thanked the Fisk School staff for the presentation and agreed that it is critical to create a warm, caring environment for students. Mr. Carney thanked Mr. Murray, Madison and her family, and staff members for being at the meeting.

Dr. Delahanty commended everyone and thanked them for attending. He also stated that you can feel the camaraderie from the moment you walk into Fisk School.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

Default Budget
Dr. Delahanty stated that the default budget is figured by using the existing budget, and then reducing it by one time expenditures. He then reviewed the default budget. Mr. Campbell suggested subtracting an amount from the 450 construction services. Dr. Delahanty stated he checked in the past with district counsel about capital projects to be addressed. The line item maintains the requested amount even though some projects will not be addressed at this time, but ones that are a high priority will be. He explained that the board still has a week to approve this budget.

Motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Corbett to table this discussion for one week.  
Motion carried 4-0

Policy ILDA/Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys and Research (1st reading)
Dr. Delahanty explained that House Bill 206 was passed and addresses Policy ILDA Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys and Research. Dr. Delahanty stated that it is not the district’s practice to give non-academic surveys, but the policy still needs to be addressed. He reviewed it with the board and the policy will return for a second reading.

Revised Revenue Estimate 2016-2017
Dr. Delahanty stated that the district received an estimated amount of adequacy aid from the New Hampshire Department of Education, which is comprised of the statewide educational property tax and the adequacy amount. Although the district’s estimates are usually close to the actual adequacy amount, the 2016-2017 amount is significantly lower than anticipated. Dr. Delahanty stated the reason is because the town’s valuation is expected to increase by approximately $400 million. This will cause the statewide locally raised property tax to increase and offset the adequacy amount. He explained that this would cause a slight drop in the tax impact of the proposed budget.

APPOINTMENT PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None
PRESENTATION OF POLICIES/REPORTS BY SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

Superintendent’s Goals
Dr. Delahanty reviewed his personal goals with the board members. He stated that improving communication to support students and their academic improvement is an important goal which includes finding ways technology can be used to aid in efficient communication. The second goal was establishing a data team to manage and monitor the district’s data infrastructure and progress the district is making toward effective data use. He stated that Mrs. Payne has been conducting meetings to determine how best to use data to advance teaching and learning.

Operating Budget Discussion
Dr. Delahanty stated there is one more school board meeting in December, the scheduled January meetings, and then the Deliberative Session in early February. He stated that usually after the Deliberative Session, the board creates the video message for the public which has proven to be effective. He noted that in the past board members have spoken at PTA meetings but that we have gotten away from that more recently. Board members thought that making offers to attend the school PTA meetings or organizing one meeting for all schools to attend could be helpful in gaining community support.

Facilities Renovation, Phase III Update
Dr. Delahanty stated the construction is moving along and there are now three walls for the four court gym and the fourth wall should be completed by the end of the week. He said there is a loading dock foundation near the gym as well as the foundation for the new auditorium, performing arts center, and locker room areas. The structural steel for the gym is expected to be delivered tomorrow in 90 foot sections which will be a big undertaking.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS
Mrs. Corbett stated the Night of Lights was a fabulous event and everyone has been raving about it and already looking forward to next year.

Dr. Delahanty stated that tomorrow is an early dismissal so schools will be released 90 minutes earlier than usual.

Future Meeting Dates
December 15, 2015, Regular Meeting/Planning Session
December 16, 2015, Preliminary Vote on Budget – MBC
December 17, 2015, Public Hearing & Final Vote on Budget

Future Agenda Items
Strategic Plan Review
Math and Literacy Instruction and Assessment
Board Self-Evaluation
Food Service
Performing Arts
Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Corbett to adjourn.
  Motion carried 4-0

The board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Lani R. Leland
Recording Secretary, Salem School Board
December 8, 2015