SALEM SCHOOL BOARD  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #57  
38 Geremonty Drive  
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03079  

Regular Meeting  
January 2, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
SHS Performing Arts Center  

MINUTES  

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

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

ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENT  
Mr. Campbell stated that this meeting was scheduled to review/discuss what decision the Board would make regarding the athletic field improvement. Mr. Campbell asked Dr. Delahanty to review the available information. Dr. Delahanty began by saying that it has been the Board’s goal to improve Grant Field either all at once or in a phased process. The Board included in the 2017-2018 budget funds to replace the track. The intent was to also use various funds, including monies remaining from the high school construction project, with the goal of having a new multi-sport turf field and a new track ready for the fall of 2018. Dr. Delahanty reiterated the cost of the field to be $1.4 million and the track $550,000. Unfortunately, the expected remaining funds from the high school construction project will need to be used for unforeseen problems at the high school. Dr. Delahanty expressed his concern with adding a warrant article for the field improvements after discussing it with individuals within the community, because doing so could impact the voters’ approval of the operating budget and the SEA agreement. Mr. Campbell asked Dr. Delahanty to review the financial breakdown included in the packets and the tax impacts. Mr. Campbell asked the Board whether there was any interest in moving forward with a warrant article as a single year appropriation and there was none. He explained the result would be a tax impact of approximately 6.75% which includes the operating budget and SEA article. Each Board member shared their opinion on the best way to move forward as well as their reasons for doing so. Mr. Inasinga was asked to clarify who and how often Grant Field is
used. The general consensus was that the Board does not feel it is the time to put forward a warrant article for this purpose. There was discussion about possibly reseeding the field until further decisions are made, and Dr. Delahanty shared that Mr. Messenheimer, Director of Maintenance, did obtain a quote and the cost of reseeding would be approximately $130,000.

Dr. Delahanty followed up with an explanation of why the cost of the field was not added to the high school renovation, and there are still options that can be explored to find the required funds for the field. Mr. Campbell asked what condition the field would be in come the fall and asked if restrictions on its usage would have to be put in place. Overall discussion by the Board was centered on not putting forward another warrant article and the options for dealing with the field and the track at this time. Dr. Corbett reiterated that she would not support using the funds earmarked in the current budget for the track for any other use. Dr. Delahanty will confirm that adding a turf field in two to three years within a newly constructed track would result in needing to replace the track. He will also inquire as to the cost of completing such a project.

Dr. Delahanty confirmed the decision to have two articles on this year’s ballot; the operating budget and the SEA agreement. He will confirm the required lead time required if the track were to be installed this spring. Dr. Delahanty will also seek consultant advice as to what could be done to the current field in addition to fertilizing, etc., to help maintain it, and he will continue to secure private donations until the project is complete. Mr. Campbell suggested adding to the 19-20 year’s 450 budget line item funds to address the bleachers and the press box.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS - None

Adjournment
Motion by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Dr. Corbett, to adjourn.

Motion carried 5-0.

The board adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Lucille Ramsey
Recording Secretary, Salem School Board
January 2, 2018