

# MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT No. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

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Minutes of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2014-2015

March 26, 2015 6:00 P.M. Leeds Central School

Members present: Elizabeth Bullard; Diana Morgan; Jon Woodard; Robert Allen; Yuri Kowalski; Richard Gross; Peter Ricker; JoAnn Nickerson

Members absent: John Soucy

Others Present: Henry Aliberti, Superintendent of School; Becky Foley, Assistant Superintendent; Deborah Alden, Special Education Director; Del Peavey, Assistant Special Education Director; Deborah Roberts, Business Manager; Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Ryan Holmes, Leavitt Area High School Athletic Director; Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School Principal; Cynthia Alexander, Turner Elementary School Principal; Theresa Gillis, Turner Primary School Principal; Pam Doyen, Greene Central School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal; Razell Ward, Adult Education Director; Kim Long, Facilities/Transportation Director; Karen Potvin, Technology Education Coordinator; District Citizens; District Employees

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Yuri Kowalski.
2. The Minutes of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting, March 11, 2015, were approved under general consent with revisions.
3. Communications – None.
4. Budget Work Session
  - 4.1 Chairperson Bullard reviewed the procedures for individuals wanting to speak during the budget review. Superintendent Aliberti reviewed the budget process that is utilized yearly, which began in December. The initial budget submitted was an 8.72% increase. The Board directed the administrators to reduce the budget to a 4-5% increase. The current budget is at a 6.8% increase; however, 2% or \$500,000 is due to the energy performance contract that will improve the facilities efficiencies. The net tax impact to the communities for this project (2%) will be zero. The overall tax impact to the communities is 4.37%. This means that for a \$200,000 house, the tax increase would be approximately \$90 yearly or \$7.50 monthly in Greene and \$94 in Leeds and Turner yearly or \$7.83 monthly.

Another handout was distributed showing new positions and eliminated positions. Another handout was distributed showing the potential learning outcomes and the primary budget drivers of the budget. Potential savings that still could occur- initially budgeted for 10% increase in health insurance costs. The maximum increase will be 5%. The medical/cost ratio is lower than last year, which increases the chance that we will have a lower increase. Last year we had a zero percent increase, and we are hopeful to have a similar increase; therefore, the District may have some more savings.

Another potential impact is the charter legislation that is being considered at the State level. There is a bill that would place that expense at the State level, which could save the District an additional \$64,000. Lastly, there is also a proposal for additional funding for education: Democrats are proposing a \$51 million increase, and the Republicans are proposing a \$25 million increase. This could help to reduce the mil rate. The current proposed State budget reflects an 8.48 mil rate expectation. There has been some discussion to have the teacher retirement costs go back to the State, which could save the District some additional money also.

The Board continued to review the following warrant articles:

#### **Warrant Article 7 – Student & Staff Support Services**

Leavitt Area High School Guidance: increase in supplies is due to toner needs for the guidance program not being charged to the correct line last year. The student/guidance recommended ratio by NEASC and the American Association of School Counselors is 250 students to one counselor. Our current ratio is 270:1 due to the Guidance Director having a reduced caseload due to her other responsibilities.

#### **Warrant Article 8 – Systems Administration**

Increase in School Board training: this is based on historical spending of more Board members going to the fall conference.

#### **Warrant Article 9 – School Administration**

The In house Suspension Monitor is being cut at the high school. It has been its own position, but was assigned to the Athletic Director four years ago. The combined position has been disruptive for students and the Athletic Director.

#### **Warrant Article 10 - Transportation**

The current position of Transportation Secretary will be upgraded to make it a year round position. This will require an increase in funding of approximately \$7,000. In this year's budget, there is a request for two full size buses and one mini bus. This will rotate the replacement of buses at a level that will keep the fleet in good operating condition.

#### **Warrant Article 11 - Facilities Maintenance**

A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted unanimously by those present to cut \$4,800 to renovate the Turner Elementary School principal's office.

A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Diana Morgan and voted 7 Yes (Woodard, Allen, Kowalski, Bullard, Ricker, Morgan, Nickerson) and 1 No (Gross) to install tile instead of carpet in the music room at Turner Primary School. The motion carried.

The price of wood chips has increased.

There is an increase in the facilities line at Leavitt Area High School in order to remove the dead trees and shrubs & replant new ones.

There were questions about the purchase of the keyless entry at Leavitt Area High School. Peter Ricker commented this item is to address a safety issue. At any moment in time, the District is unsure to who can get into the school. Facilities Director Kim Long reiterated the safety concerns and said the alarm has been triggered numerous times. The keyless entry allows us to track who is and has been in the building. This keeps the building much safer for students and staff. If this passes, it would go out to bid to ensure it is a competitive price.

A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by JoAnn Nickerson to place the keyless entry system on the revisit list. The motion was withdrawn. A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by JoAnn Nickerson and voted 1 Yes (Gross) and 7 No (Woodard, Allen, Kowalski, Bullard, Ricker, Morgan, Nickerson) to cut the keyless entry system at a cost of \$13,644. The motion failed.

The replacement equipment that is needed is for a tractor that would help with plowing. There is also some additional equipment needed for the Gator – plow, heater, and a wiper kit so the District can do snow blowing with this in the winter. The Gator upgrades are approximately \$8,100 to make it a four season piece of machinery. The cost is approximately \$32,000 for the John Deere tractor. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted 7 Yes (Gross, Allen, Kowalski, Bullard, Ricker, Morgan, Nickerson) and 1 Abstain (Woodard) to reduce the budget line by \$10,000. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to add the remainder balance on the Revisit List.

### **Warrant Article 12 - Debt Services**

No discussion.

### **Warrant Article 13 - All Other Expenditures (includes Food Service)**

Elizabeth Bullard shared with Board members she had an opportunity to spend lunch at Turner Primary School and the operation is very efficient. She encouraged others to visit the school lunch program.

### **Warrant Article 20 – Adult Education**

Advertising line is up due to increase in cost of printing and mailing. The printing is at the same level, but it costs more. The District has contacted multiple vendors to see who can do the printing and at what costs.

### **Revisit List**

- Alpine Skiing

A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Yuri Kowalski to add back into the budget Leavitt Area High School alpine skiing and all of its costs (coach stipends, transportation, supplies, etc.) in the amount of \$16,962.00. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted 7 Yes (Gross, Allen, Kowalski, Bullard, Ricker, Morgan, Woodard) and 1 Abstain (Nickerson) to amend the original motion to put \$12,666 back in the budget for the alpine skiing program. The motion carried. The Board would like the Assistant Coach cut and the rest of the allocation would be up to administration. The Board voted unanimously to approve the original motion as amended. Motion carried.

- Enrollment Discussion

Superintendent Aliberti reported that the recommended cut would come from the Greene Central School. Principal Pam Doyen spoke to this cut and would like to see the Kindergarten position remain. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and to reduce a teacher at Greene Central School. There was discussion about the pros and cons of this reduction. Principal Doyen distributed a handout and spoke to what she sees are the pros and cons of the reduction. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted 3 Yes (Kowalski, Allen, Ricker) and 5 No (Bullard, Woodard, Gross, Nickerson, Morgan) to cut a teacher position at Greene Central School. The motion failed.

The Board placed on the Revisit List maintenance equipment which will be discussed at the next Board meeting. The Plant/Transportation/Building committee will meet to discuss the request for a tractor and then will discuss with full Board.

5. Adjustment to Agenda:

5.1 Agenda Item 10.1 was removed.

6. Committee Reports:

6.1 Finance Committee: Jon Woodard reported the committee had not met. There was discussion about a need for a meeting to discuss the auditor's recommendations related to fund balance and fully funding summer salaries.

6.2 Plant/Transportation/Building Committee: Peter Ricker reported the committee has not met.

6.3 Curriculum/Policy Committee: JoAnn Nickerson reported the committee has met and reviewed policies. The committee looked at the concussion policy and alternate pathways to receive a diploma or a certificate of completion.

6.4 Student Representative's Report: Nate Allen reported the Arts Gala was held at the high school. Project Graduation fundraiser was a success, and made over \$11,000. Students are busy taking the MEA test. Students of the quarter are Freshman Aurora Creasey, Sophomore Brandi Birney, Junior Maxwell Green, and Senior Sara Roy.

6.5 Tri-Town Support Staff Negotiations (ESP): Peter Ricker reported that the committee has met and negotiations are progressing. There will be an executive session later in the evening to discuss more fully.

6.6 Non-Teaching Negotiations (AFSCME): Peter Ricker reported that the committee will meet sometime in April.

6.7 Administrator's Report: Technology Education Coordinator Karen Potvin reported out on what is going on in technology. Some of the supports provided through the department include: instruction, providing professional development, assisting with online testing, trouble shooting, supporting software. Some of the technology being utilized in the classrooms include: document cameras, interactive white boards, Apple TVs, and projectors. Two of our schools (Leeds Central & Turner Elementary) are administering the MEA online testing. Of 290 students tested, six have opted out. Ms. Potvin showed a sample of released MEA questions for the Board to see. To learn more, go to [Me.portal.airast.org](http://Me.portal.airast.org).

6.8 Superintendent's Report: None.

7. Public Comment – None.

8. Old Business: - None.

9. Consent Agenda:

9.1 Non-Instructional Appointments: A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the following Non-Instructional appointments.

- 9.1.1 Angela Courchesney, Tripp Middle School Assistant Track Coach.
- 9.1.2 Laura Reny, Leavitt Area High School Softball Assistant Volunteer
- 9.1.3 Alanna Leonard, Leavitt Area High School Softball Assistant Volunteer
- 9.1.4 Tom Mendez, Leavitt Area High School Track Assistant Volunteer
- 9.1.5 Jason Breton, Leavitt Area High School Baseball Volunteer

10. New Business:

- 10.1 Agenda Item was removed.
- 10.2 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted unanimously by those present to approve a field trip to Boston for Leavitt Area High School's Latin and French classes.
- 10.3 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve First Reading and Acceptance of revised Policy IHBB: Gifted and Talented Education and Regulations IHBB-R.
- 10.4 The Board reviewed the Regulations JKF-R: Administrative Procedures for Removal of MSAD 52 Students with Disabilities.
- 10.5 A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss information related to negotiations with Tri-Town Education Association Support Staff (ESP) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D).  
  
The Board entered Executive Session at 8:44 P.M.  
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:49 P.M.
- 10.6 No action was taken.
- 10.7 Board discussed agenda item was not needed.
- 10.8 No action taken.

11. Other Business – None.

12. A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry Aliberti, Secretary