

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

Minutes of the Fourth Special Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2015-2016

May 10, 2016 6:00 P.M. Tripp Middle School

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

Members absent: Carlos Gnipp

Others Present: Henry Aliberti, Jr. Superintendent; Thomas Ambrose, Assistant Superintendent; Deborah Roberts, Business Manager

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:00P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard Gross.
2. Old Business:
 - 2.1 Superintendent Aliberti updated the status of the sale of the land to the town of Greene. He reminded the Board that the District is in the midst of a legal suit and that some aspects of the sale cannot be discussed at this time.

Chairperson Bullard talked about the process for selling the land prior to the contract with Greene. She asked Turner Town Manager Kurt Schaub to share the perspective of the Turner selectmen. Mr. Schaub distributed an informational sheet prepared by the Turner Board of Selectmen.

Chairperson Bullard opened conversation up to school board members for discussion regarding the proposal set for by the Turner Board of Selectmen. The Board had no comment. Chairperson Bullard asked if there were any further comments from the communities. Leeds selectman Dwight Buckley said that he did not want to get in the middle of this but that he could see viewpoint of the selectmen of Turner. Turner selectman and Chair Kurt Youland said that he felt the price was far too low and that he personally would pay more than \$100K for the property. Turner selectman Angelo Terreri said that the town was not notified of the sale until the day before the sale was final. He feels it is fine to sell it to Greene but for a fair market value to protect the interests of the taxpayers.

Chairperson Bullard noted that at some point the Board would have to respond to the request by the board of selectmen.

Turner selectman Ralph Caldwell stated that he was not comfortable when he attended the District's Finance Committee meeting to discuss the use of the money from the sale of the land to Greene.

Chairperson explained her perspective on the sale and the price.

Ralph Caldwell said that he knew for a number of years that the town of Greene has been interested in the piece of land and that the town of Turner has no problem with selling the land to Greene but the price is an issue.

Board member Peter Ricker said that typically he would like the District to get every penny for anything they sell. If the land was sold to someone outside of the District he would want fair market value but he feels that the relationship with Greene is one of support for their plans for the land. Mr. Ricker noted that it is not possible for the issue to be resolved this evening due to the legal process that has been started.

Mr. Schaub thanked Superintendent Aliberti for complying with his Freedom of Access request. Mr. Schaub noted that the Board of Selectmen was not aware of the sale until the end of March and there was a sense of urgency that the Town of Turner had move quickly due to the 30 day rule. Mr. Schaub noted that the intention was not to “muzzle” anyone in a public setting. He recognized that the Board would receive legal counsel on Thursday.

Board member Peter Ricker noted that the idea that this sale was done in private is not accurate because there were votes, agendas and minutes associated with the sale of the land. There was no attempt on the part of the MSAD 52 Board of Directors’ to “slide it under the table”.

Chairperson Bullard stated that the finalized notes from the February 4, 2016 meeting were not available until later.

Town of Turner selectman Ralph Caldwell said that he was pleased that everyone was in the same room for this discussion. He was aware of the town of Greene’s interest in purchasing the land from tri-town meetings.

Chairperson Bullard said that the agendas were posted and that the public is welcome to attend the meetings of the MSAD 52 Board of Directors.

Angelo Terreri said that he did not intend to say that anyone was trying to sell the land. He meant to say that the Turner selectman did not find out about it before they could act.

Turner selectman Kurt Youland said that he hoped that this could be resolved for an amount of money that would be fair for everyone. Chairperson Bullard commented she appreciated his point of view but the Board of Directors feels that the price was fair and they will have to discuss it at their next Board of Directors meeting on May 12, 2016.

Turner selectman Ralph Caldwell asked where the location of the meeting was going to be held; Chairperson Bullard stated it would be held in Greene.

3. New Business:

- 3.1 A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present that the warrant and notice of election of Maine School Administrative District 52 presented to the meeting be approved and that a referendum election for the District be called for June 14, 2016, for the purpose of approving the issuance of bonds or notes of the District for minor capital project purposes as described therein.
 - 3.2 A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present that the Notice of Public Hearing presented to the meeting be approved and that a public hearing on the issuance of bonds or notes for minor capital project purposes be held on May 26, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. as provided therein.
 - 3.3 The Board signed warrants and public hearing notices for distribution by MSAD 52 resident.
4. A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Diana Morgan and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Aliberti, Secretary