

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting  
Merrimack High School Cafeteria  
Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Ortega, Vice Chairman Powell, Board Members Barnes and Board Member Markwell, Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, Business Administrator Shevenell. Student Representative Crowley and Board Member Schneider were excused from the meeting.

**1. Call To Order**

Chairman Ortega called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Reconsideration of Warrant Article III Based on a Proposed Modification to the Gas Conversion Project Cost**

Business Administrator Shevenell read correspondence from Mr. Ryan Lagasse of Liberty Utilities regarding the gas conversion project. The correspondence stated that “Liberty Utilities will be able to provide service to Merrimack High School, the Maintenance Building and the Mastricola complex at no cost.” This will result in a savings of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000). He added that this project will result in an annual savings of One Hundred Eighty Six Thousand six hundred thirty-nine Dollars (\$186,639). Per the amortization schedule, the district will be paying One Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$187,000).

Board Member Markwell asked if the contingency amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000), which is included in the project cost, is not all used, will there be an increase in the estimated savings.

Business Administrator Shevenell responded that it will increase the estimated savings.

Board Member Barnes asked if the agreement will still have a contingency clause.

Business Administrator Shevenell explained that the lease is based on the new figures. If the expenses come in lower in the contingency clause, the last three payments will be lowered.

Chairman Ortega moved (seconded by Board Member Barnes) to change the language of Warrant Article III. He read the Warrant Article with the change:

*(Special Warrant Article) Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a four year lease agreement for the purpose of converting Merrimack High School, James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, and James Mastricola Elementary School from #2 fuel oil to natural gas; and in addition, to convert the Maintenance Building from propane to natural gas and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars (\$187,639) for the first year’s payment for that purpose? This lease agreement contains and “escape clause”. (Majority vote required)*

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Powell moved (seconded by Board Member Markwell) to recommend Warrant Article III as amended.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

#### **4. Reconsideration of Warrant Article IV Based on a Proposed Modification to the Operating Budget Due to a Lower Roofing Bid**

Business Administrator Shevenell explained that after receiving bid documents for the Merrimack High School Roof project, reviewing each in depth with Facilities Director Tom Touseau, they both felt comfortable with the School Board proposing a Forty Five Thousand Dollar (\$45,000) reduction to the Operating Budget due to accepting a lower bid for the project. Four bids were received, two of which were in range of the previous estimates, one of which was very high and one of which was lower. The lowest bid was accepted.

Board Member Barnes asked if the warranty would still be the same with the lower estimate.

Business Administrator Shevenell responded that the project with this vendor has the same warranty as the previous year's estimate, which is a thirty-five year warranty with a life expectation of the roof of fifty years. The contractor will use the same materials which were contained in the bid for last year.

Chairman Ortega moved (seconded by Vice Chairman Powell) to change the language in Warrant Article IV. He read the Warrant Article with the changes:

*Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Sixty Eight Million Six Hundred Eighty Two Thousand, Two Hundred Forty One Dollars (\$68,682,241)? (Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be Sixty Eight Million Eight Hundred Fifteen Thousand, Six Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$68,815,621) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the District or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XIV, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? (Majority vote required)*

Chairman Ortega moved (seconded by Vice Chairman Powell) to change line item 100-4600-62-8451-08 from One Million One Hundred Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars (\$1,151,668) to One Million One Hundred Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars (\$1,106,668) which is savings of Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000).

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Board Member Markwell moved (seconded by Board Member Barnes) to recommend Warrant Article IV.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

#### **5. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Markwell) to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The motion passed 4-0-0.