

**Merrimack School Board Meeting
December 20, 2010
Merrimack High School – Cafeteria**

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Vaillancourt, Vice Chairman Thornton, Board Members Barnes, Ortega, and Swonger. Also present were Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, and Business Administrator Shevenell.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Vaillancourt led the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Approval of December 6, 2010 Minutes

Board Member Barnes moved (seconded by Vice Chair Thornton) to approve the December 6, 2010 minutes.

Board Member Ortega requested the following corrections.

- Page 3 of 13, paragraph six add the phrase “a communication plan is being developed and” after the words “asked if”
- Page 7 of 13, paragraph two, sentence two, change the words “if the high school knew” to “if Principal Johnson knew in advance”
- Page 10 of 13, paragraph one, first line, change the words “has an ongoing” to “is in negotiations for”

Board Member Swonger requested the following corrections.

- Page 2 of 10, last paragraph, fourth line from the bottom of the page, replace the words “no longer need” with “be a decreased need”.
- Page 6 of 13, second paragraph, third line, replace the word “revise” with “revision”
- Page 6 of 13, second paragraph, fifth line, change the word “innumeracy” to “numeracy”
- Page 11 of 13, paragraph twelve, change the sentence to read “Business Administrator Shevenell stated that the School District would receive approximately \$100,000 less in Ed Job Funding in 2011-2012.”

Board Member Barnes requested the following corrections.

- Page 10 of 13, paragraph five, add the words “relationship to the budget plan” to the end of the sentence.

Chair Vaillancourt requested the following corrections.

- Page 6 of 13, section 3, fourth line, change the word “updated” to “outdated”
- Page 8 of 13, fifth paragraph, add the phrase “pertaining to curriculum initiatives” after the words “minor review”.
- Page 8 of 13, fifth paragraph, change the word “is” to “it”.
- Page 8 of 13, seventh paragraph, second line, change the word “innumeracy” to “numeracy”
- Page 9 of 13, ninth paragraph, correct the spelling of “Vaillancourt” and review the tape for clarification of the sentence.

The motion passed as amended 5-0-0.

Approval of December 9, 2010 Minutes

Board Member Ortega moved (seconded by Board Member Barnes) to approve the December 9, 2010 minutes.

Board Member Ortega requested the following corrections.

- Page 3 of 6, ninth paragraph, change the words “equipment that” to “equipment for labs that”

Board Member Swonger requested the following corrections.

- Page 1 of 6, last paragraph, change the words “higher than it was two” to “was lower than actual expenditures”
- Page 4 of 6, check for missing content between paragraphs thirteen and fourteen.
- Page 5 of 6, ninth paragraph, change the word “please” to “pleased”.

Chair Vaillancourt requested the following corrections.

- Page 2 of 6, first paragraph, change the words “some building” to “the upper elementary school”
- Page 2 of 6, sixth paragraph, the sentence should read “Chair Vaillancourt asked Business Administrator Shevenell to explain how the food service budget was self funding and how that worked.”

The motion passed as amended 5-0-0.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Response to Ed Jobs Funding

Business Administrator Shevenell explained that the Board can apply the Ed Jobs funding to the current fiscal year budget or to the 2011-2012 fiscal budget.

Board Member Swonger moved (seconded by Board member Ortega) to defer the usage of the Ed Jobs funding to the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

5. Adjustments to Proposed 2011-2012 School District Budget

Superintendent Chiafery presented the Board with her recommendations to remove \$501,040.21 from the 2011-2012 budget.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that her proposal included budget reductions to instructional support/contracted services, maintenance, texts, furniture, computer education equipment at the high school, equipment replacement, and the library. Her proposal included the removal of the Lyons Road paving project, the upper elementary school office relocation and entrance project, two middle school teachers, new equipment, and one kindergarten instructional assistant at Reeds Ferry Elementary School to parallel the previous removal of a kindergarten teaching position at Reeds Ferry Elementary School.

Chairman Vaillancourt presented her proposed adjustments to the Superintendent's recommendations, which were to remove \$388,047.21 from the 2011-2012 budget.

Chairman Vaillancourt's adjustments included reductions to the school board advertisement and high school athletic supply accounts. Items added back into the budget by Chairman Vaillancourt included the Lyons Road paving project, the high school Spanish II textbooks, student chairs and desks at the four elementary schools, the high school computers, and a printing press at the middle school.

Board member Swonger expressed his support for Chairman Vaillancourt's proposed adjustments to the 2011-2012 budget.

Vice Chairman Thornton expressed her support for Chairman Vaillancourt's proposed adjustments to the 2011-2012 budget.

Board member Ortega asked Superintendent Chiafery to explain why she removed the Spanish II text and the printing press from the budget.

Superintendent Chiafery responded that the most valuable resource for students is the teaching staff. She stated that her recommendations to reduce the budget by another \$500,000 reflected that priority. She agreed that the removal of high school Spanish II texts and a printing press at the middle school was not ideal, but felt those items could be deferred for one more year.

Vice Chairman Thornton noted that the advertisement account also included the publication of legal notices that are required by law.

Board member Barnes moved (seconded by Board member Swonger) to accept Chairman Vaillancourt's proposed adjustments to the 2011-2012 budget in the amount of \$388,047.21.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Superintendent Chiafery stated that she would present the Board with the Warrant Articles on January 3, 2011.

6. Response to Proposed New Hampshire School Boards Resolutions

Superintendent Chiafery introduced the discussion of the first half of the New Hampshire School Boards Resolutions. She explained that the second half of the resolutions would be discussed on January 3, 2011. She explained that this would provide an opportunity for Board member Barnes to understand the Board's position on each of the resolutions in preparation for attending the Delegate Assembly.

- *New Hampshire School Boards Association Resolution #11, School Building Aid Funding Formula:* Board member Swonger moved (seconded by Board member Ortega) to vote in favor of Resolution #11. The motion passed in favor 5-0-0.
- *New Hampshire School Boards Association Resolution #12, Penalties against Employees who Breach Contracts:* Board member Ortega moved (seconded by Vice Chair Thornton) not to support resolution #12. The motion passed 5-0-0.
- *New Hampshire School Boards Association Resolution #18, Retention of Year-end Unreserved Funded Balance:* Board member Ortega moved (seconded by Vice Chair Thornton) to support resolution #18. The motion passed 4-1-0 with Chair Vaillancourt voting in opposition.
- *New Hampshire School Boards Association Resolution #19, Diversion of State Costs to Local School Districts:* Board member Swonger moved (seconded by Board member Ortega) not to support resolution #19. The motion passed 5-0-0.
- *New Hampshire School Boards Association Resolution #20, Continuance of NH Retirement System:* Board member Swonger moved (seconded by Board member Ortega) to support resolution #20. The motion passed 5-0-0.

7. First Reading of New or Updated Policies

a) Administering Medication to Students Policy

Superintendent Chiafery read aloud the three page Administering Medication to Students Policy.

Board members provided Superintendent Chiafery with their questions and recommended changes to the policy.

b) Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention

Superintendent Chiafery stated that each board member had received a copy of the booklet entitled Understanding Bullying by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. She explained that the booklet had been distributed to approximately seventy to ninety parents district wide.

Business Administrator Shevenell, Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin, and Superintendent Chiafery took turns reading aloud the ten-page Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention policy.

Superintendent Chiafery noted that the Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention policy was very complex and will take time to complete.

8. Other

a) Correspondence

Chairman Vaillancourt highlighted email correspondence from Rosemarie Rung regarding the middle school's field trip to Washington DC. She noted that Superintendent Chiafery, Principal Woelflein and Rosemarie Rung were scheduled to meet to discuss Mrs. Rung's concerns.

b) Comments

Chairman Vaillancourt stated that the Board would address warrant articles and hand over the 2011-2012 budget to the School Budget Committee on January 3, 2011.

Chairman Vaillancourt reported a potential reduction to the Merrimack Police Department staff. She expressed a desire to attend the Town Council budget hearing on January 3rd at 6:00 p.m. to speak in support of keeping the school resource officer position at the high school and the community outreach officer at the upper elementary school. The Board members agreed to allow Chairman Vaillancourt to speak on behalf of the entire School Board at the upcoming Town Council meeting on January 3, 2011.

Chairman Vaillancourt encouraged members of the public to attend the meeting and show their support for the school resource officer position at the high school.

11. New Business

There was no new business to report.

12. Committee Reports

Board member Barnes reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee met. She reported that the Town of Merrimack is discussing opting not to maintain the O'Gara Drive tennis courts through the budget. She will report options investigated by Parks and Recreation Director Kalish.

Board member Barnes reported that she and Business Administrator Shevenell were unable to attend the December 9th Grater Woods meeting due to a conflict with a School Board Budget Workshop.

Board member Barnes reported that the Program and Evaluation Review Committee (PERC) met last week. Southern New Hampshire University business courses for college credit, a theater reading course and an art technology course were discussed.

Board member Ortega reported that the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee had been awarded a \$4,000 WELLDollar Grant from the Local Government Center. He explained that the grant would be used to build a fitness trail at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School.

13. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Andy Schneider of 34 Woodward Road spoke as chair of the Budget Committee. He noted that several Budget Committee members attended the School Board Budget Workshops. He announced the first Budget Committee meeting on January 11, 2011 at James Masticola Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m. and encouraged the public to attend.

14. Manifest

The Board signed the manifest.

At 10:20 p.m. Vice Chairman Thornton moved (seconded by Board member Swonger) to enter a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a)(b)(c).

The motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

At 11:06 p.m. Board member Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Swonger) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 5-0-0.