

Merrimack School District Budget Committee
February 13, 2018
Minutes

Present: K. Bobbitt, H. Gage, J. Guagliumi, J. Hanson, S. Heinrich, D. Illg, C. Mower, B. Nunez
and School Board Liaison N. Schoenfeld

Excused: A. Hyde-Berger, S. Jacoby and C. Lang

Also present: Superintendent M. Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent Dr. M. McLaughlin, and
School Business Administrator M. Shevenell

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Warrant Article Update

S. Heinrich told the Committee that Administration provided several handouts: a list of kindergarten programs offered by other towns in New Hampshire, pictures of the traffic circle at Thorntons Ferry School and a revised warrant. He said that only change on the warrant was that Article 9. The amount of the proposed budget was increased since the Committee had voted to add \$6,000 and the School Board recommendation was removed since the Board has not voted on the new amount.

Approval of Prior Minutes

K. Bobbitt made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 23, 2018. Second: J. Hanson. J. Hanson requested a clarification to the section regarding the electric piano at Reeds Ferry School. MOTION PASSED: 8 – 0 – 1. (C. Mower abstained.)

J. Hanson made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 30, 2018. Second: H. Gage. MOTION PASSED: 7 – 0 – 2. (C. Mower and B. Nunez abstained.)

K. Bobbitt made a MOTION to approve the minutes of February 6, 2018. Second: D. Illg. A correction was made to reflect that Keno funds provide \$1,100 per student. MOTION PASSED: 8 – 0 – 1. (C. Mower abstained.)

S. Heinrich recessed the meeting until after the Public Hearing at 7: 13 P.M.

S. Heinrich reconvened the meeting at 8: 35 P.M.

Work Session

Article 3

J. Guagliumi made a MOTION to recommend Article 3. Second: J. Hanson.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 8 – 0 – 1. (K. Bobbitt abstained.)

Article 5

D. Illg made a MOTION to recommend Article 5. Second: J. Hanson.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was held.
MOTION PASSED: 9 – 0 -0.

Article 6

C. Mower made a MOTION to recommend Article 6. Second: J. Hanson.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was held.
MOTION PASSED: 9 – 0 – 0

Article 7

H. Gage made a MOTION to recommend Article 7. Second: J. Hanson.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion.

H. Gage said that it was important to hear the comments and concerns of the people who spoke during the Public Hearing. She said she wanted the District to own the property as well as be involved with what happens to the land

S. Heinrich said that he felt the District should purchase the land and demolish or gut the current building.

A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 7 – 2 – 0 (K. Bobbitt and C. Mower opposed.)

Article 8

H. Gage made a MOTION to recommend Article 8. Second: J. Hanson

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion.

H. Gage said that a lot of hard work had been put into this proposal and she felt that offering full-day kindergarten would put equity in our community.

S. Heinrich said he hoped the people who spoke at the Public Hearing would attend and speak at Deliberative Session.

J. Guagliumi said he thought full-day kindergarten was something that not only benefited families with small children, but would benefit the entire community and would help attract young families to town.

D. Illg said he was in favor of full-day kindergarten regardless of the fact that he had a preschooler.

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A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 8 – 0 – 1. (D. Illg abstained.)

Article 9

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to recommend Article 9. Second: J. Hanson.

S. Heinrich told the Committee that this article also includes the default budget. He said the Committee does not create or vote on the default budget; nor can the Committee change the default budget. He further explained that the default budget includes recurring and contractual expenses and was more than the proposed operating budget.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 8 – 0 – 1. (N. Schoenfeld abstained.)

Announcements

S. Heinrich reminded the members that Filing Period is February 21st to March 2nd at 5 PM. He said there were four three-year seats up for election as well as one one-year seat. He requested that current members who had decided not to run for re-election notify him of their decision.

C. Mower asked if someone could be elected to a School District seat and a Town/Municipal seat at the same time. S. Heinrich told him this was possible.

S. Heinrich said the next meeting will be March 8, 2018, immediately after the Deliberative Session. He said if any article on which the Committee has voted a recommendation is amended, the Committee will revisit its recommendations. In addition, he said the Committee needs to approve meeting minutes.

S. Heinrich thanked the members for doing their hard work and thanked Administration for presenting a lean budget.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

C. Mower made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: J. Hanson. MOTION PASSED.

S. Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM