

Merrimack School District Budget Committee
Minutes
October 13, 2020

Present: D. Coakley, L French, C. Lang, C. Mower, M. Murphy, L. Peters, G. Savitch, J. Guagliumi, E. Wilson, B. Stisser and School Board liaison A. Schneider

Absent: D. Illg

C. Mower called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and asked B. Stisser to lead everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Prior Minutes

C. Mower asked if anyone had any corrections to propose to the minutes of August 11, 2020. No one did.

C. Mower called for a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020 as printed.

C. Lang made a MOTION to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020. Second: J. Guagliumi. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Vacancy

C. Mower told the Committee that Jenna Hardy had accepted an appointment to the School Board which meant she is no longer on the Committee. He asked how the Committee wanted to proceed.

L. Peters made a MOTION to fill the vacant seat. Second: G. Savitch. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

C. Mower told the Committee that he had anticipated the Committee's decision and had already prepared a press release about the vacancy as well as a schedule of upcoming meetings. He told the Committee that residents who are registered voters and interested in the open seat can submit letters of interest to the Superintendent's office by October 23rd and a meeting to interview candidates would be held on October 27th.

Training and Financial Updates

C. Mower told the Committee that two additional meeting dates were tentatively scheduled:

- A Training Session on November 17th. C. Mower clarified that Training was not considered a meeting but would be open to the public.
- A meeting on December 1st to review the final FY 2019-2020 budget results and get an update on the current budget.

C. Mower said he felt that the Committee needed as much information as soon as possible about how Covid has affected the immediate past and the current budgets as well as what budget goals

the School Board will be giving Administration for the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget. He asked A. Schneider for a status update.

A. Schneider told the Committee that the School Board has not yet received the final FY 2019-2020 budget details nor made a decision about what education model will be utilized for the rest of the first semester. He said that once those things happen, the School Board will make decisions about this year's budget as well as goals for next year's budget. He said he hoped to have an update to share at the October 27th meeting.

C. Mower asked if the Board wanted to have Assistant Superintendent for Business M. Shevenell do the FY 2019-2020 budget review on October 27th in addition to filling the vacant seat.

Discussion included the following:

- There could be several candidates for the Committee to interview and the interview process might take a long time.
- Training should be held before the prior year budget review.
- Training will be open to the public.
- The Committee needs to find out if M. Shevenell is available for both training and financial updates.
- Members want the budget review and update to be as thorough as possible.
- The Committee will review the final FY 2019-2020 budget results and get an update on the current (FY 2020-2021) budget.
- Can the Committee schedule training earlier than November 17th?
- Can the Committee schedule the budget review/update earlier than December 1st?
- The Committee may want additional updates on current year expenditures during the budget proposal process.
- If training and budget update occur on the same night, which will happen first?

G. Savitch made a MOTION to hold Budget Training followed by the Financial Update on November 5th. Second: M. Murphy. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Other

C. Mower announced that the School Board has named Jenna Hardy as its Alternate to the Committee.

Public Participation

There was none.

B. Stisser made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: M. Murphy. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

C. Mower adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich

