

December 16, 2010

Tamworth School Board

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Tamworth School Board was held at the Kenneth A. Brett School on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 5:30pm. The meeting was called to order by Chair Laura Pike. Present were board members Laura Pike, Charlie Pugh, Dan Rowe, John Cleveland and David Farley, Superintendent Jay McIntire, Principal Rob Troon, Special Ed. Director Raina Chick, Finance Manager Barb Clifford, Transportation Coordinator Angela Reppucci, and Secretary Kathi Brown.

2. Approval of Agenda

Jay McIntire would like to move item 9a under 4e, and move item 4e in front of 4a-4d. The Town Selectmen are coming for item 5 and when they appear the board will suspend the agenda for this item to occur at that time. David Farley made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (November 18, 2010)

John Cleveland made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed. Charlie Pugh and Laura Pike abstained.

4. Administration Reports

Superintendent

a. First Meeting of Cost to Quality Group

Charlie Pugh attended this meeting. Teams within the school will meet to go over the parameters and ideas discussed. He is waiting for input on the goals and objectives.

b. Principal

All Day Kindergarten - Forum plans

A brochure was handed out regarding the upcoming forum on January 11, 2011 at 6pm. The beginning of the meeting will be informational and the end will be a question and answer period. Other school districts will be invited so they can provide input and feedback on their programs. This information should be posted on the Tamworth Exchange.

Rob Troon informed the board that the recent PTA auction brought in around \$5,000.00 and a good night was had by all. At the end of this fiscal year, the PTA will be submitting a bill to the Tamworth School for reimbursement of field trip money spent this year, as the field trip money was supposed to have been put back in the budget and was not. The PTA is trying to raise funds for long term goals, such as artist in residence programs and playground swings.

c. Finance Manager

Dan Rowe stated that the encumbrances do not include all the expenses and that a budget variance report is needed. He also commented that this comes up every month, and the School Board needs to manage this, not the report managing the Board. John Cleveland would like a column for additional anticipated expenses, and he would like to see a budget forecast for the whole year.

d. Special Services Director

Raina Chick gave the board members a hand out on the Out-of-District Special Education Report showing how much is being spent this year along with her recommendation for preparing a warrant article to expend some funds from the Capital Reserve Fund. The board members should meet in executive session to go over the details. Kennett High is reviewing its programs, so a one to one aide may not be needed next year. Charlie Pugh would like to see the results that are happening with these students, and if it is not working Tamworth should request better placements for these students.

e. Transportation Coordinator

Busing on Private Roads

There were discussions regarding the stop at Chocorua Ski & Beach and Whittier Road. First Student can discuss, or reject, a bus stop with the School Board, for safety reasons. Brenda Wilson-Rhemer stated that it is the bus company's practice that they do not go into private communities where roads are not maintained by the town or state. The bridge in this development is not state rated. First Student is looking for three criteria to be completed, before considering continuing a bus stop in this development. 1) The roads must be constructed and maintained the same as town standards, this must be given to them in writing. 2) The bridge must be DOT inspected, with the report given to them in writing. 3) They must have a notarized letter, signed by all owners in this development, relieving First Student of all liability and management risks. First Student has had issues with snow, ice, and spring flooding in the past. The alternate site that is being proposed is at the top of the hill at Route 16. The state would install a bus stop sign at this place. Robert Parasol, President of Chocorua Ski & Beach association stated that the bridge is equal to or better than state requirements. The Town of Tamworth plows the road and sands the road going in until 10 feet to the bridge, they plow through the bridge. It is a private road with public access. Several homeowners in this development spoke on their desire to keep the bus stop where it currently is for the safety of the students, as they feel the Route 16 stop would be very dangerous. It was stated that as of Monday, First Student would no longer be going into this development. Robert Parasol asked for a one month extension so he can get the permits and approval needed, and he also has the legal body to act on all the owners' behalf. John Cleveland made a motion to request First Student to provide a one month extension to Chocorua Ski & Beach so they can prepare the documents needed. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion passed. Robert Parasol was given a copy of the information that First Student needs from him.

5. Tamworth Selectmen/Generator Bid Opening

Dana Littlefield opened two bids. One from Rays Electric in Berlin, NH for \$141,680.00 and one from DW Electrical Contractors in Center Conway, NH for \$64,000.00 to \$70,500.00. The selectmen made a conditional award to DW Electrical Contractors based on the specs and bids received. The selectmen will review the proposals and then come back to the School Board with a recommendation at a later date.

6. 2011-2012 Draft Budget Discussion

a. All Day Kindergarten

Full day kindergarten for next year is included in the proposed operating budget. The budget also reduces two full time teaching positions. A hand out was given to board members regarding the FTE by functional areas. There were discussions regarding

whether the kindergarten program should be a warrant article or not. Jay McIntire wants to have it in the operating budget. Dave Farley made a motion to put all day kindergarten on a separate warrant article. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion did not pass.

b. Capital Improvement Program Report

A hand out was given to board members and Laura Pike recommends the six items listed in the report. Rob Troon will go over this report to check the figures used. Barb Clifford stated that the SAU office expenses were paid out of the operating budget and there were discussions about if this was the correct way to do it. Charlie Pugh stated that the District needed to look back at the original purpose of the warrant article on Capital Reserve Funds. Jay McIntire will bring this back next month with information on the old warrant article. Regarding the proposed budget for 2011-2012, Dan Rowe stated that it does not include any increase in health insurance or salaries. Rob Troon stated that the Paraprofessionals is an estimate and should be slightly higher and that when the two teachers salaries were removed from the budget, the two bottom salaries were taken out as per the RIF clause. Dan Rowe does not support the proposed budget as it equals an increase in spending of \$200,000.00 with special education.

c. Special Education

Raina Chick discussed the proposed budget for 2011-2012 and stated that next year's out of district tuition is estimated to be \$340,696.00 which includes four paraprofessionals at Kennett and tutoring. Physical therapy & occupational therapy are up about \$9,000.00. Dan Rowe asked if she had reevaluated the 8.8 paraprofessional positions. Raina Chick has not done this yet. Laura Pike wants any changes to the paraprofessionals to become known by the next budget meeting.

John Cleveland - He wants analytical information, structural, fixed, and variable costs. The staffing chart shows we are back to where we were in 2004-2005 as far as staff/student ratios. The administration should lay out the information in graphic forms with the public comfortable with programs laid out for next year. Highlight the benefits side, and the impact of health insurance. How to get consolidated school districts. Wants it on the annual agenda.

Laura Pike - She wants a warrant article on consolidation from this board. John Cleveland will shape the article for the next board meeting, and have it at the budget hearing. Dan Rowe will help him word it.

Charlie Pugh - Stated that consolidations do not always work. It is hard to evaluate change, what is effective and right? Smaller classes, teachers instead of aides? He challenges Kennett to give us more services.

Dave Farley - He would like to see the administration sharpen their pencils more. He would like to see the following areas come in a little lower: paraprofessionals, aides, and the nurse. If the District returns \$250,000.00 each year, why not reduce the budget. The Board was presented an expense budget, what are the projections for revenue? The Board needs a profit & loss actual report. He wants to see a revenue report on a regular basis. He wants to have a copy at the next meeting.

Dan Rowe - There are a lot of areas that need to be challenged. The total budget should be \$200,000.00 less. In the future look at outsourcing the computer technology position and doing the nursing position differently. Look at funds that do not have a direct impact on the students.

John Cleveland - Staffing; salaries and benefits are the big items for a cost difference. He is not in favor of nickel and diming it.

Laura Pike - Asked about the special program summary fees. Rob Troon spoke about bringing in a drama program.

Laura Pike - Regarding the staff development line - she will re-send the email regarding HQT or optional course reimbursement.

Jay McIntire - The staff development is now linked to professional objectives/professional development.

Laura Pike brought up the subject of contracting out the computer services and Jay McIntire reminded the Board that this cannot be done unless it is in the contract, per legal counsel.

Laura Pike - At the next meeting she will go over her concerns in the budget. Another meeting will be scheduled for budget discussions.

7. Visitor's Comments

Heather Booska gave the Brett School a check for \$100.00 which was generated from the sales at the school and the Cook Library for the DVD Bag It. Silas Berrier was the driving force behind this, and the thought was to donate the money to the recycling/composting project at the Brett School.

Peg DeLong noted that the bottom line in the budget does not include the 5.8% increase for health insurance and negotiated salaries. She asked if the kindergarten issue was originally a warrant article, going back to the 1980's. The board should check into this as it may be challenged. The board should also check with the other districts to see if they are interested in consolidations or not. Also consider that we still pay our portion of services, even if we do not use the consolidated services, such as the transportation coordinator. What is the catastrophic aide based on? Raina Chick responded to her. The Tax rate is based on the budget, and we are always giving back \$250,000.00. Can you do a deficit article? Jay McIntire stated that the problem with that is the timing, as it must be done in March.

Kelly Rines asked if kindergarten is mandatory in New Hampshire. Jay McIntire stated it is mandatory that the District provide a program. Kelly also spoke on another bus issue as she has a sophomore at Kennett and in the pm her daughter can be dropped off at Maple Road and Turkey Street and then walk the total length of Turkey Street to get home, or else she takes the bus back to the school and then arrives home at 3:45pm. Rob Troon stated that the high school students often spend 20 to 25 minutes in the Brett School hallway. If the Brett School started and ended the school day 15 minutes earlier, this would help alleviate this problem. Kelly Rines also spoke about how it would be nice to see more board members and townspeople at Kennett's board meetings and that the Tamworth Board's agenda needs to get out to parents ahead of time.

Laura Pike stated that board members try to make an effort to get to meetings at Kennett and they are participating as their time and lives allow.

8. Old Business

a. Board Member Qualifications Policy (BBBA) - 2nd reading/adoption

John Cleveland made a motion to adopt this policy. David Farley seconded the motion. Motion passed. Charlie Pugh abstained.

b. Bonded Employees Policy (DH) - 2nd reading/adoption

David Farley made a motion to adopt this policy. John Cleveland seconded this motion. Motion passed. Charlie Pugh abstained.

c. Bullying and Cyber bullying Policy (JICIB) - 2nd reading/adoption

John Cleveland made a motion to adopt this policy. Dan Rowe seconded this motion. Motion passed. Jay McIntire will have a distribution plan.

d. Actions in non-public from prior meeting

None.

9. New Business

a. Busing on Private Roads

Discussed under 4e.

10. Visitor's Comments

None.

11. Board Comments

Laura Pike stated that October and November were really busy months and that the board members attended many meetings. She appreciates the additional time and effort.

12. Communications

None.

13. Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II a, b, c, d, e

John Cleveland made a motion to go into non-public at 9:20pm. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

14. Action as a Result of Non-Public

None.

15. Personnel

David Nelson was appointed as the Highly Qualified Title 1 Math Paraprofessional.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi S. Brown, Secretary
Draft Pending Board Approval