

**\*\* THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL \*\***

**Goffstown School District**  
Goffstown, New Hampshire

**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
January 3, 2011

**School Board Members, Present**

Keith Allard  
Philip Pancoast  
Dian McCarthy  
Henry Boyle  
Jennifer Theroux  
Ginny McKinnon  
Lorry Cloutier  
Kent Nolan  
Sue Tremblay (via Telephone)  
Liz Kelly, Student Representative

**Administration, Present**

Stacy Buckley, Superintendent  
Ray Labore, Business Administrator

**Teacher Reps, Present**

Peggy Zola  
Mary Grasset  
Jeanne Roy

**Call to Order**

Keith Allard called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led the Board and public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Correspondence**

- Nurse/Teacher Substitution
- Copy of letter of thanks to the Hillsboro Department of Corrections for work done in repairing and painting of the SAU building.
- Copy of letter to MCI Medical for a donation made to the district

**Commendations/Good News**

- Liz Kelly stated next Thursday there would be a benefit concert for the purchase of the grand piano. Ms. Kelly stated over winter break, the boy's basketball team won their game. Ms. Kelly stated next week new national honor society students would be inducted. Ms. Kelly stated Phantom of the Opera tickets would be going on sale this week.
- Mary Grasset stated three MVMS band students made it into NHBDA, the students have several music passages to work on with no assistance for two months, then have to record themselves, and submit to the NHBDA in order to be chosen to be in the honors band and flute choir.
- Liz Kelly stated the GHS hockey team beat Hanover, 4-1.
- Dian McCarthy stated the Maple Ave. 4th grade Holiday Concert was wonderful; a great job was done by all.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of 12/20/10 Minutes**

The Board had the following changes to the minutes: under Food Service Presentation, add ...Dian McCarthy asked about attempts to have the breakfast program run in the black and Ray Labore stated it would take price adjustments and greater volume to get the program at a break even point. *Ginny McKinnon made a motion to accept the December 20, 2010 minutes as amended. Dian McCarthy seconded. VOTE 7 yes, 2 abstain (Kent Nolan, Sue Tremblay) MOTION PASSED*

### **Administration/Finance Committee Report**

*Henry Boyle made a motion to accept the manifest in the amount of \$897,790.41. Dian McCarthy seconded. Mr. Boyle briefly reviewed the contents of the manifest. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED*

Henry Boyle stated as of January 1, 2011 the IRS mileage reimbursement rate will go up to .51 cents a mile.

Henry Boyle referenced a handout Board members received in their packet "Cost Avoidance Summary for Honeywell, July 1, 2009 to June 10, 2010". Mr. Boyle stated that \$89,339 was the guaranteed savings; \$119,396 was the actual savings.

### **Human Resource Committee Report**

The next HR Committee meeting will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the SAU.

### **Planning & Communication Committee Report**

Dian McCarthy stated the Committee has nominations for Dream Keeper and Cornerstone Awards; these will come forward in the non-public session at the end of the meeting. Mrs. McCarthy stated they would like to have the Board meet in May or June to discuss Board goals. Mrs. McCarthy stated the Committee would like to go forward with plans for a GTV presentation for budget with Philip Pancoast, Dian McCarthy and Stacy Buckley. Mrs. McCarthy stated it was time to work on the Voter's Guide and asked for Board input.

### **Curriculum and Education Committee Report**

The next C&E Committee meeting will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the SAU.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Stacy Buckley stated there is a substitute training tomorrow; 18 people are coming in. Mrs. Buckley stated this Wednesday is their monthly fingerprinting session; if any volunteers need to be fingerprinted, please send them to the SAU.

Stacy Buckley stated they have a nurse intern, Kimberly Caudill, coming in to work with Jennifer Wilson at GHS.

Stacy Buckley stated the SAU has been painted and looks really great. Mrs. Buckley stated the Hillsboro County House of Corrections was there for about twenty days with 10 men on a daily basis; was a great value to the district. Mrs. Buckley stated Jerry Agate has been in contact with them about maybe having some painting and yard work done this summer.

### **Development of 2011 Warrant**

The Board reviewed the six proposed 2011 Warrant Articles: Article 2 is the budget and will be filled in after the Budget Committee makes a decision, Article 3 is the collective bargaining agreement, which the Board will ratify tonight and enter figures, Article 4 is to have another meeting if Article 3 fails (*Sue Tremblay made a motion to remove Warrant Article 4. Philip Pancoast seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED*), Article 5 is the sum of up to \$200,000 to put in the Capital Reserve Fund, and Article 6 is to change name of allocation (*Henry Boyle made a motion to remove Warrant Article 6. Ginny McKinnon seconded. VOTE 7 yes, 1 no (Philip Pancoast) MOTION PASSED*).

### **Policy JKAA – Use of Restraints – 2<sup>nd</sup> Read**

*Lorry Cloutier made a motion to accept Policy JKAA – Use of Restraints as presented. Jennifer Theroux seconded. VOTE 7 yes, 1 abstain (Sue Tremblay) MOTION PASSED*

### **Review of "Draft" 2011-2012 School District Calendar**

Keith Allard asked if Board members had any comments/questions about the draft calendar; there were no comments from Board members. Stacy Buckley asked the Board to hold off on voting on the calendar until the next meeting as Dunbarton and New Boston have not seen it yet.

### **Ratification of support staff contract**

The School Board will discuss this agenda item in non-public session.

### **Review of Budget Committee Decisions**

Keith Allard stated the Budget Committee came back with an approximate amount of \$2.4 million less than the Board's recommended budget. Mr. Allard stated cuts were made to numerous lines, including contractual lines like professional development and gas/oil, where cuts cannot be made. Stacy Buckley stated Mr. Allard had asked her to look at cuts that could be made. Mrs. Buckley stated in the three years she has been in this role as Superintendent it could not be forgotten that they have significantly cut the budget and staff each year, 18 positions have been cut and 25% of supply line. Mrs. Buckley stated she went through the proposed budget with administration and principals to look where more cuts could be made. Mrs. Buckley stated she does not support these cuts at all, that she cannot support them as they will have a significant effect on the school district. Mrs. Buckley reviewed the proposed cuts they would have to make in order to meet the Budget Committee's number; these cuts would just keep us in our legal obligation:

#### *Staffing Cuts*

- Bartlett: cut part-time library para-educator
- District-wide: have all para-educators only working a school day, cut an administrator, cut 2 1/2 technical staff positions, cut SRO, elimination of entire GAP Program, cut 3 custodians
- Elementary: cut 1/2 music teacher and eliminate Strings Program
- GHS: Cut EMT, cut a paraprofessional, cut alt-suspension program, reduce secretary, cut a tech teacher, cut 5 general teachers, cut a guidance counselor
- Glen Lake: reduce to EMT for nurse
- Maple Ave: Cut part-time library paraprofessional, cut special ed secretary to 1/2 time, cut a special ed teacher
- MVMS: cut EMT, Cut 2 world language teachers, cut library para-educator, cut 2 general para-educators.

#### *Other Cuts*

- Late buses, NWEA testing, the summer success program, outside landscaping, furniture lines, testing lines, field trip transportation lines, 50% of media library books, purchase of pre-calculus books, new maintenance, textbook adoption at GHS, all assemblies, replacement of gym floor at MVMS, and a general reduction of \$93,000 in supplies.

Philip Pancoast stated the impact seems to be absent from the list. Mrs. Buckley stated it is 36 positions being cut. Mr. Pancoast stated in order to appreciate that, you need to look at what is left, that he thought the presentation the district put on for the Budget Committee did a good job addressing where we were at a numbers standpoint. Mr. Pancoast stated the Board maybe needs to create a new illustration that shows not where they are at after 3-4 budget cuts, but where the schools would be after all the cuts and the impact it would have on the district as a whole. Ginny McKinnon stated taking this amount out of the school budget is crazy and irresponsible, that she would like to know where the Budget Committee was when the Board did their presentation, that contractual items cannot be cut. Mrs. McKinnon stated the Budget Committee is giving information to the public that is completely erroneous. Mrs. McKinnon stated the voters have to realize we have state laws, federal laws, and NEAS&C and if Goffstown does not have an accredited school it would affect taxes and tuition. Mrs. McKinnon asked where the district would be at a liability standpoint if the schools have no police coverage and limited medical coverage, that it is irresponsible. Mrs. McKinnon stated people need to stand up for their vote and know what they are voting about. Mrs. McKinnon stated this was completely irresponsible of the Budget Committee and even more irresponsible for the School Board to consider; hopes voters will get their knowledge from the School Board instead of GRA and Budget Committee. Mr. Pancoast stated that in fairness to the Budget Committee they came forward with a presentation that at least suggested the notion that none of these things needed to happen, that it occurred in a

forum where there was no longer an opportunity to have dialogue, no more questions allowed. Mr. Pancoast stated the Board's goal need to be to educate the constituents of the community.

*\*Sue Tremblay was disconnected at 7:43 PM and reconnected to Board meeting at 7:45 PM*

Jennifer Theroux stated she thought the Superintendent's cut list should go public, that it is a real picture of what could likely happen and add a frame of reference of what would be left so that people could see what happens after two years of cuts. Lorry Cloutier asked the difference between the cuts they are doing and the default budget. Ray Labore stated about \$1.6 million below our default budget. Ms. Cloutier asked how the paraprofessionals from other districts factored into the lower budget being presented. Mr. Labore explained there would be an impact on the revenue side. Dian McCarthy stated she thought the budget the Board put forward to start with was responsible and they had not asked for more than they needed. Mrs. McCarthy stated to hear the cuts from the Budget Committee is tremendously concerning to her, she thinks of the library and in her experience there are already multiple occasions now where they depend on volunteers. Mrs. McCarthy stated everyone wants our schools accredited, that we have an AREA agreement and they could decide to send their students to other schools at the end of the contract if we lose accreditation. Mrs. McCarthy stated she did notice that one thing not on the cut list is co-curriculars, no athletic cuts.

Ginny McKinnon stated she felt it should be noted that the first year they started in this process with the economic decline they took huge cuts out of the budget thinking they would be helpful, but they cannot do that every year and still be responsible to our students and school needs. Mrs. McKinnon stated the Board is being asked to do this every year and the budget they are being asked to take out of is smaller and smaller; this cannot continue to be done and still meet state, federal, and NEAS&C standards.

Stacy Buckley stated the district has to meet adequate education, if they do not meet it, they put in jeopardy adequacy aid which is \$7-8 million. Keith Allard stated he does not support these cuts, that he does not feel they are educationally sound, and are a disservice to the community and students. Mr. Allard stated the Board put forward a very lean budget, zero-based, and only asked to maintain the current level of education. Sue Tremblay stated in her personal opinion there was not a lot of thought by a majority of the Budget Committee in these reductions, that they were presented to them and voted on within an hour. Mrs. Tremblay stated she did not know how they could sit there and justify that they worked so hard to come along with these numbers, that one worked hard and the rest followed along.

#### **Other Business That May Legally Come Before the Board**

None

#### **Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A: 3 II (a)-(c)**

*(a) – The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of an charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted and*

*(c) - matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person request an open meeting.*

***Ginny McKinnon made a motion to enter non-public session at 7:57 PM to discuss Henry Boyle seconded. The Chair took an individual voice poll of each School Board member. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED***

***Jennifer Theroux made a motion to leave non-public session at 8:16 PM. Dian McCarthy seconded. The Chair took an individual voice poll of each School Board member. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED***

***Ginny McKinnon made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for a period of 90 days. Kent Nolan seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED***

***Sue Tremblay made a motion to ratify support staff contract; this contract will be an increase of \$10,630 to tax payers if the warrant article is passed. Philip Pancoast seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED*** Ginny McKinnon stated the support staff is really taking nothing this year in order to keep the budget flat-based and work with the community. Mrs. McKinnon stated the support staff should be commended. Keith Allard agreed with Mrs. McKinnon and stated the support staff also did this to save as many positions as they could, that it really is a reduced net pay agreement.

***Henry Boyle made a motion to affirm the votes taken for the Dream Keeper and Cornerstone Awards in non-public session. Kent Nolan seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED***

**Adjournment**

***Lorry Cloutier made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Henry Boyle seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED***

Deborah Jore  
School Board Recording Secretary

**\*These minutes are subject to School Board approval\***