

Goffstown School District
Goffstown, New Hampshire

School Board Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2011

School Board Members, Present

Keith Allard, Chair
Philip Pancoast, Vice-Chair
Dian McCarthy
Henry Boyle
Jennifer Theroux
Ginny McKinnon (via phone)
Lorry Cloutier
Kent Nolan
Sue Tremblay (via phone)

Administration, Present

Stacy Buckley, Superintendent
Ray Labore, Business Administrator

Teacher Reps, Present

Mary Grasset
Jeanne Roy
Peggy Zola

Call to Order

Keith Allard called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and led the Board and public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Approval of 1/24/11 Minutes

The Board had the following changes to the January 24, 2011 minutes – *page 4 - Change Mrs. Cloutier to Ms. Cloutier. Dian McCarthy made a motion to approve the January 24, 2011 minutes as amended. Hank Boyle seconded. VOTE 8-0-1(Sue Tremblay abstained) MOTION PASSED as amended*

Correspondence

Nurse/Teacher Substitution Reports

Commendations/Good News

Mary Grasset reported that a fifth grade MVMS student won the spelling bee.

Jeanne Roy reported that there were 6-7 FBLA high school students who provided childcare for 40 children at the February 5th Deliberative Session.

Public Comment

Helen Laprise stated that she would be reading a statement on behalf of MVMS teachers. Mr. Allard stated that the Board was not going to permit Ms. Laprise to continue as there was a process in place that needed to be followed regarding complaints and/or grievances. Ms. Laprise stated that teachers were afraid to come forward in fear of retaliation which is why she was asked to read the statement to the Board. Mr. Allard stated that there is an individual who continues to fuel unfounded accusations and has never produced factual information to substantiate the claims and that he would not allow public comment to continue. Superintendent Buckley reiterated that there was a specific process in place for teachers to follow to voice their concerns and that no one she has met with had been intimidated or retaliated against. *Mr. Allard closed the public comment session.*

Donna Pinard was not recognized by the Board to speak as public comment was closed however she stated that Mr. Allard did not have the right to close public comment and that she knew Mr. Allard was referring to her when referencing an individual. Lorry Cloutier requested a point of order and stated that the school district's policy on public comment stated that public comment is open for a 15 minute period. Mr. Allard did not accept Ms. Cloutier's point of order. Mr. Allard stated that he would research the school district's policy.

Administration/Finance Committee Report

Hank Boyle motioned to move the manifest in the amount of \$1,515,232.92 forward for Board approval. Dian McCarthy seconded. Mr. Boyle briefly reviewed the contents of the manifest. VOTE 9-0-0 All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Human Resource Committee Report

The next HR Committee meeting will be on March 14th at 6:00 PM at the SAU.

Planning & Communication Committee Report

Dian McCarthy reported the committee will be working on news articles for the coming month and will also be producing another GTV16 show. Mrs. McCarthy stated that the committee discussed school and yard signs. The committee's next meeting date will be Monday, March 7th.

Curriculum and Education Committee Report

The next C&E Committee meeting will be on March 14th at 7:00 PM at the SAU.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Buckley reported on the following items –

- GHS students brought home 15 gold keys, 13 silver keys and 20 honorable mentions at the 2011 Scholastic Art Awards of NH.
- New Morning School was sold. Mrs. Buckley did not anticipate any changes to the after school programs provided at Maple Ave and Bartlett schools.
- NHSBA scholarship program is open to the children and grandchildren of school board members and to public high school students who are in their senior year.
- Attended a Legislative Session on Monday, February 7th - various bills were discussed:
 - establishing a bill to consolidate all SAUs in state; establishing a committee to look at vouchers, a moratorium was placed on building aid, catastrophic aid reduced by 50%; reductions to vocational transportation and tuition, home education bill, evergreen clause will be going through or vetoed by legislative body before March.
- NECAP test score results – Goffstown ranked 4th in math and writing and 2nd in reading

Telephone communication with Suzanne Tremblay was lost at 6:15pm.

New Business

A. Review of Vote Recommendations

Mr. Allard asked for a motion from the Board on Article 2 the Operating Budget as presented for amendment at the February 5th Deliberative Session – *Philip Pancoast motioned to recommend Article 2 as amended at the Deliberative Session and to move forward to the Ballot, Kent Nolan seconded the motion. VOTE 7-0-1 (Lorry Cloutier abstained). MOTION PASSED.* Ms. Cloutier spoke to her vote and stated that she would have liked to have seen a compromise on the operating budget amount. The amendment to Article 2 voted on at the Saturday, February 5th Deliberative Session was to bring the \$37,472,723.00 school board's budget to the ballot.

B. Scheduling Date for the Second Meeting in February

The second February Board meeting will be February 28th at 7:00pm.

C. ESOL – Alternative Plan for consideration by Board.

Stacy Buckley requested the Board's consideration and direction on exploring the possibility of hiring a part time certified ESOL teacher. Mrs. Buckley stated that the NHDOE ESOL audit stated that para- educator man-hours do not count toward the student's required ESOL series allocation. Mrs. Buckley explained that a certified part-time ESOL teacher would provide needed services and if hired, the position would be for the remainder of the current school year. The para-educator would be moved to a different position. *The Board directed the superintendent to explore the possibility of hiring a part time ESOL teacher to address the NHDOE ESOL audit.*

Other Business That May Legally Come Before the Board

Mary Grassett asked if there was information available on the process a teacher would follow to voice a grievance and/or complaint. She stated that if they are not in the union they cannot use the grievance process. Philip Pancoast directed the superintendent to gather the information and share it with the Board and Mary.

Philip Pancoast made a motion that going forward the Board will direct the administration to issue tuition bills to the sending districts consistent with the March voted budget and not the superintendent's proposed budget, Seconded by Kent Nolan. VOTE 8-0-0 MOTION PASSED. Mr. Pancoast explained that the purpose of his motion is to direct the superintendent to process tuition bills according to the budget voted in March and that the intent of his motion was not to make changes to the AREA Agreement. Mr. Pancoast explained that the tuition billing is currently processed in October and is based on the superintendent's proposed budget.

Jennifer Theroux requested the Board consider the "Blizzard Bags" for the up-coming school year. Mrs. Theroux stated that Kearsarge Regional is currently running this. Mrs. Buckley stated that this was a pilot program taken up by Kearsarge Regional and stated that there are state regulations to consider. Mrs. Buckley stated that she had addressed "Blizzard Bags" programs at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year with the three school district principals and that they were not in favor of adopting Blizzard Bags at this time. Mrs. Buckley stated administration discussed several concerns - placing a huge burden on the parents especially the working parents where the responsibility would shift to the student's childcare provider; the need for 100% on line participation from staff; 80% student participation is required in order to make the day count as a school day; not all families have internet access in their homes. Mary Grasset questioned the concerned shared by administrators as to whether the program would burden parents as she feels the responsibility for participation would fall to staff and student. Superintendent Buckley stated that she would gather "Blizzard Bag" regulations and information and would share that information with the Board.

Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A:3II(e) *Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.*

Philip Pancoast made a motion to enter non-public session at 6:30 PM to discuss a personnel matter - Kent Nolan seconded. The Chair took an individual voice poll of each School Board member. VOTE 8-0-0 All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Philip Pancoast made a motion to leave non-public session at 7:00 PM. Dian McCarthy seconded. The Chair took an individual voice poll of each School Board member. VOTE 8-0-0 All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Philip Pancoast made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for a period of ten years. Dian McCarthy seconded. VOTE 8-0-0 All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Adjournment

Dian McCarthy made motion to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Kent Nolan seconded. VOTE 8-0-0 All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted by:

Denise F. Morin
School Board Recording Secretary

These minutes are subject to School Board approval