

**GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Goffstown High School – Library  
27 Wallace Road, Goffstown, NH 03045**

**Goffstown School Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 8, 2018**

**School Board Members Present: Dian McCarthy, Steven Dutton, Reta Chaffee, Ginny McKinnon, Dan Cloutier, Lorry Cloutier, Heather Trzepacz, Jenelle O'Brien (Kristie Curtis, excused absence)**  
**SAU Administrators Present: Superintendent Brian Balke, MaryClaire Barry, Assistant Superintendent**

Dian McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

**Approval of 12/18/17 School Board Meeting Minutes - *Heather Trzepacz motioned the approval of the December 18, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Ginny McKinnon Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed***

**Commendations/Good News:** The CU4Reality Fair was held at Goffstown High School today. Students learn about real life issues including learning about daily and unexpected expenses and the best way to prepare for them. The students and teachers were very pleased with the programs outcome and the students did a great job.

**Public Comment(s)**

Justine Kasley - does not believe the school board was covering anything up as they worked toward presenting the best options and were only trying to look out for community members who have their taxes escrowed. We as a community need to look out for those who can't. Ms. Kasley commented that the school board needs to find a way to get the information out at this point. She does not have children in the schools and does not receive parent e-mails. She found the information through the internet and is concerned with residents that are in the same situation. Ms. Kasley suggested posting information at local businesses, doing direct mailings and encourages word of mouth by going door to door.

Beverly Powden – asked when the 2017 audit would be made available for public viewing. Ms. Powden stated that this was an important piece and would like to make sure this situation does not happen again.

Kristie Garrison - Tirrell Hill Road - was reading previous year's school board minutes and commented that she would like to see past year minutes posted to the website as well so that community members can research historical information on the website.

Karen Hawk Mountain Road – questioned how residents can be assured that the upcoming proposed budget is the real budget in light of discovering such a huge surplus.

Tim Redmond - Stinson Road – was elected to the Planning Board and the Board elected him to sit on the CIP Committee. If the town or school district exceed available funding for their CIP items in a particular year, they would need to move the projects out a few years. Mr. Redmond recommends that all funds be returned to the town and then allow the residents and the Board of Selectmen to make the decision and suggested inserting this language into the warrant article verbiage.

Rose Gilbert - Royal Pond – has a lot of problems with finding \$9.1 million. Ms. Gilbert stated that back in 2013, the voters allowed the school district to retain unassigned funds in a 2.5% Contingency Fund and that was understandable however, the school district should return any unused funds to the taxpayers. Ms. Gilbert stated that she did not want to see it all in a lump sum and would prefer paying down the bonds and put that in front of the voters to decide. Ms. Gilbert does not trust that the budget is equitable or realistic.

Erik Harding - Friendship Drive – has concerns about what the school board is going to do moving forward and asked if things are in place so that this will never happen again. He wanted to know so that he can hold the school board accountable for what happens.

Joe McCarthy - Mountain Base Road – gave kudos to the school board and believes that some of the money should go back for needed projects but most of the money should be returned for tax relief. My trust is in you.

Jarret Talbot – thanked the school board for the opportunity to speak. He is glad to see that people are being held accountable. Education needs to be balanced with taxes and money and this money has been stolen from the individual taxpayers to offset actual taxes. The money should be returned to the taxpayers.

**Policy Review Committee Report – Steven Dutton Reporting:** The next Policy Review Committee (PRC) is 01/29/18 @ 5:30pm @ SAU Central Office.

**Planning and Communications Report – Reta Chaffee Reporting:** The Committee discussed drafting a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FQA) regarding the surplus situation. Some of the questions that were asked tonight will also be inserted into the list. *Reta Chaffee motioned to allow the P&C Committee to continue working on and publishing the document on the website so that everyone can see, seconded by Ginny McKinnon.* Dan Cloutier stated that he did not believe a motion is needed for the committee to continue their work on the FQA document and website posting. Upon further discussion Reta rescinded her motion and Ginny McKinnon rescinded her second. Board members were in consensus to allow this process to continue and the publishing of the information on the website.

**Curriculum and Education Report – Ginny McKinnon Reporting:** The next C&E Committee meeting is scheduled for 01/29/18 @ 7:00pm @ SAU Central Office

**Budget Committee Report – Dian McCarthy Reporting:** The Budget Committee met last Friday night and recommended two warrant articles on behalf of the patrolmen and the Board of Selectmen. The Collective Bargaining Agreement article will be brought forward to the public hearing and we will hear more about the article at that time. The Budget Committee questioned if the school district budget was too high given that there is a \$9.1 million surplus. The Budget Committee recommended our budget as presented.

**A&F Committee Meeting Report – Dan Cloutier reporting:** The next A&F Committee meeting is scheduled for 1/22/18 @ 6:30pm @ GHS – Library – *Dan Cloutier motioned the approval of the \$2,582,071.69 manifest, seconded by Heather Trzepacz. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed. Major Items:* Payroll/Taxes/Benefits: 12/21/17 and 01/04/18 Payroll and Payroll Taxes; Health Trust FSA Deposits; NHRS – December Contributions; TSA Consulting – 403b Contributions; **AP Activity: SPED:** Bedford School District – NECC Program for 1 student; The Birchtree Center – January 2018 services for 2 student; C.O.R.E. Vocation Services for 1 student, Durham School Services – August-September Out-Of District/December in District; Lighthouse – December Services for 1 student; Spaulding Vocational Center – November tuition for 2 students; Valley Collaborative Services for 1 student; **General Expenses:** Dead River Company, Propane-Glen, GHS, MVMS, Maple, Eversource – Multi locations; Freedom Cycle – Snow blower repair; Goffstown School District – Bon interest to transfer from TD Bank to Citizens; Goffstown Truck Center – December Regular bus & cameras November MST; Melanson Heath – Legal Services through November – Goffstown School District Surplus; North Country Tractor – compact tractor repair; Performance Food Service – Food Supplies; SAU#19 - January Assessment; Stantec – Construction Program billing; Sulloway & Hollis – Legal services through November; Wells Fargo – Installment for Apple Computers. *Vote: 8-0-0 - All in Favor - Motion Passed.*

**Superintendent Report:** School District Deliberative Session is February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am in the Dr. Craig Hieber Auditorium. Superintendent Balke approved an early graduation request for Hope Delorme who currently is in dual enrollment and earning college credits. A color-coded 2017-2018 school district calendar was distributed to the board members indicating the snow dates and the effect on the last day of the school year.

**Good News - Jac St. Jean reporting:** Poetry Out Loud Prelims and competition were last week, with the prelims on Tuesday and Wednesday and the competition after school Thursday.

**Review of Draft 2018 Warrant Articles:** The warrant discussion was tabled at the last meeting. *Dan Cloutier motioned to remove the warrant discussion off the table, seconded by Steven Dutton. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.* Dan stated that he is in favor of Article #2 – the budget article. Two additional warrant articles will be placed on the warrant which have been talked about publicly for many years and have nothing to do with the \$9.1 million surplus. Article #3 is to create a capital improvements plan capital reserve fund that is to raise and appropriate \$200K from taxes and not from the unassigned fund. Dan emphasized that the school board is not trying to take money from the \$9.1 million surplus. That will be returned to the taxpayers. Steven Dutton stated that he is in favor of Article #3 as it is a good way of saving for CIP items. This money is coming from this fiscal year and is not part of the \$9.1 million surplus. Ginny McKinnon stated that part of the unassigned funds comes from tuition and grant money and is not due to over budgeting. Dan Cloutier stated that depending on the moderator’s decision, without modifying the intent, it could be changed a deliberative session. Dan if the warrant article is approved the money is there and guaranteed to be there. Dan repeated that the intent is to raise and appropriate not take from the unassigned fund balance. *Dan Cloutier motioned to add warrant article #3 as shown here in the amount of \$200K and striking the wording with DRA approval given, seconded by Steven Dutton. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Dan Cloutier stated that he is in favor of Warrant Article #4 and let the voters make the decision. Board members agreed to place the articles on the warrant as this is something that we have been talking about publicly for quite a while and let the voters decide. We are doing our due diligence by way of the taxpayers and the town with these proposals. Dian McCarthy agreed to put these warrants forward and offer the community the opportunity to decide on the choices. Had we been given the correct information all along we could have given the towns people the opportunity the choices but unfortunately, the school board was not given that opportunity as well. The school board has heard loud and clear from so many people that it is important to bring these warrants forward to give the people the choice. Ginny McKinnon stated that the more information we can provide to the public the more time the voters will have a chance to digest. Steve Dutton stated that the school board considered a wide range of options and have worked hard with what is out there. We have been talking about these options for years and we should put them out to the voters. The articles are forward thinking and will move the district forward and into the future. Reta Chaffee agreed that the school board has been working on these options for a long time. We removed one of the warrant articles last year and we already know that next year is not the right time. The timing is right except for the circumstances we find ourselves in and we should put these warrant articles forward for the voters to decide.

Jenelle O’Brien commented that the board has put in a lot of work on Article 3 and 4 and we have talked about these two issues for many years. This is the year to bring these articles forward to the community and voters. The elementary school buildings are crowded and modular units were needed to accommodate that growth. We need to keep our eyes focused on the future. One of the reasons people move to Goffstown is because of our schools and we need to keep this in mind as we move forward. Jenelle stated that she is in full support of Article 3 and 4.

Brian Balke stated that there are options to consider with regard to the language in Article 4. The article language states purchasing the land with unassigned funds that become available June 30<sup>th</sup> keep the unassigned funds separate and give the voters the choice to vote to raise and appropriate funds for the land purchase. Dan Cloutier commented that land is not only for buildings but for sports as well. The high school’s sports program was upgraded from Division II to Division I and we currently do not have the ability to play varsity and junior varsity games at the same time. Allard Park has offered us the use of their fields so that we can have the ability to play JV Baseball next year but that is only for 1 year and we do not have any other place to go after the year is over. Dan stated that it is more than just future planning we have an immediate need. Ginny McKinnon commented if we should need to build we would have available land. This is not only to address immediate problems but future problems as well. Board members were in agreement to strike the Article 4 language “funds coming from the unassigned funds” in article.

**Surplus Fund Discussion -** The town notified us that our report submissions for the 2017 town report are due January 25<sup>th</sup> and we have notified our independent auditor that the completed 2017 audit report is needed at that

time. The audit reports have always been available for town report publication but it has been delayed this year due to what we have been dealing with. It will be a public document once we have received it and the independent auditor will come before the board and give a full presentation as has been past practice. As always, the Board meetings will be televised and can be viewed on GTV 16 On Demand. That link is on the town’s website.

Dian McCarthy stated that with regard to the surplus funds, there seems to be a perception around the options we discussed that this Board was trying to keep and hang onto the taxpayers’ money. The Board would like to clarify that is not our intent. Our intent is to return the \$9.1 million to the taxpayers. The Board took action tonight with Article 3 and 4 to remove the language “from the unassigned fund balance on June 30, 2018” and it is left up to the voters whether they want to raise and appropriate the sum needed to support those articles or not. Any funds that are left in the unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2018 must be returned to the taxpayers for tax relief. Dan Cloutier stated that when the \$9.1 million was discovered, that was the amount that was available after \$600K from our reserve went for tax relief. If we hadn’t moved the \$600K, the surplus amount would be \$8.5million as we returned \$570K back in December. This will give us the opportunity to populate the 2.5% Contingency Fund which can only be used for emergencies and tax relief. Our spirit is to give it back. Dan stated that everything we discussed was going to the voters and they were the ones that were going to make the decision Dan commented that Article 3 and 4 are things that the Board has been discussing publicly for years.

**Notifications:**

**Track Changes (effective 2/1/18):**

Cathy Whitney .....	Bartlett .....	B to B+15
Aspasia Cote .....	MVMS .....	B+15 to M
Shawn Johnson .....	MVMS .....	B+30 to M
Michael Lee .....	MVMS .....	B+15 to M
Jaclyn Lewis .....	MVMS .....	B+30 to M
Christina McLaughlin .....	MVMS .....	B+30 to M
Kristi Upschulte .....	MVMS .....	B+15 to M
Christine Bean .....	GHS .....	B+30 to M
Jessica Brown .....	GHS .....	B+30 to M
Sarah Fleck .....	GHS .....	B+15 to B+30
Monica Galamaga .....	GHS .....	B+30 to M
Daniel Kalloger .....	GHS .....	B+30 to M
Erin McKinnon .....	GHS .....	B+30 to M
Kathleen Sargent .....	GHS .....	B+30 to M

**Leave of Absence:**

Diane McCain .....	GHS .....	SS/Special Education
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**Long Term Substitute:**

Daniel Pare .....	GHS .....	SS/Special Education
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**Student Teacher:**

Emily App (SNHU) .....	Glen Lake .....	Al Tisbert & Kim Hubbard
Christina Kelly (UNH) .....	Bartlett/GHS .....	Jessica Fournier

**Approvals:**

**Co-Curricular Sports Nominations (2017-2018):**

MegAnn Owens (n) .....	GHS .....	Skiing
Doug O’Hara (n) .....	GHS .....	Basketball – Varsity (Boys) Volunteer

***Reta Chaffee motioned to approve the two Co-Curricular Sports Nominations as presented, seconded by Heather Trzpacz. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed***

**OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING** – The Board will be re-locating to the office conference room for the 2017 Town Report Board Picture.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3II(d)** *Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.*

*Dan Cloutier motioned to enter non-public session at 7:45pm, seconded by Steven Dutton. The Chair took an individual voice poll. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

*Lorry Cloutier motioned to leave non-public session at 8:11pm, seconded by Dan Cloutier. The Chair took an individual voice poll. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

*Dan Cloutier motioned to seal the non-public session minutes until the matter is resolved, seconded by Steven Dutton. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

*Dan Cloutier motioned to move Article 4 forward and remove the reference to use unassigned funds as presented at tonight's Board meeting and bring forward to the Budget Committee Budget Hearing tomorrow with the Map# and dollar amount stated, seconded by Heather Trzepacz. Vote: 7-0-0 (Dian McCarthy recused herself from the vote).*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Lorry Cloutier motioned to adjourn at 8:38pm, seconded by Heather Trzepacz. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise F. Morin  
Recording Secretary