

TOWNSHEND SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
@TOWNSHEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes 12-9-13

Present: Beth Cutts, Brian Schmidt, April Chase, Al Claussen, Members of the Board, Deborah Leggott, Principal, Frank Rucker, CFO WCSU, Steven John, Superintendent, Judy Hawkins, Recorder

Absent: Kim Liebow

Call to Order: April called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Additions and Deletions: Steven proposed that the board go into Executive Session before making any public comment on the budget.

Executive Session: April made a motion to go into executive session at 7:13 pm. to discuss personnel. Motion carried. April made a motion to leave executive session at 7:21 pm. Motion carried.

Resolution: None

Members of the Public: None

Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes for November 13, 2013
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Principal's Report

Superintendent's Report was struck from the agenda as there was no report.

The consent calendar was approved with unanimous consent.

.Steven reported to the board that Daniela Hall will be doing a research study on Autonomy in Rural Vermont Elementary Schools.

Treasurer and financial reports: April reported that we currently have \$37,719.36 in our checking account. April drafted a letter for the selectboard members regarding the receiving of \$50,000 10 days after the tax collection. The board all signed the letter to be given to the selectboard.

Bills and Purchase Orders: April made a motion to pay the bills and purchase orders as follows: Payroll PO#38 \$21,948.12, Payroll PO#39 \$39,187.77, Payroll #40 \$18,227.54,

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Payroll PO#41 \$7,670.57 and Vendor Warrant PO #42 \$13,047.26, Vendor Warrant PO #43 \$15,786.72. No discussion. Motion carried.

Reports of Administration and Committees:

- a. Technology: None
- b. RED-none

Unfinished Business and General Orders:

Administration budget presentation: Budget: Frank presented the budget to the board for review and discussion. The statistics had just come in from the State of Vermont, these are preliminary numbers. Page 4 of the budget reflects 5 full time paraprofessionals with a reduction in force of 2 part-time. There has to be a cut in spending, if nothing is done there will be a 31% increase in the budget. The state has added about a 6% increase across the board for every school in the State of Vermont. The other important thing to keep in mind is this is a weighted average. The taxpayers are given a K-12 budget to look at. Income Sensitivity Provisions is what saves some of the residents. Frank reported that between 75-80% of Townshend residents are eligible for income sensitivity provisions. Townshend's board is the first to hear about the statistics. A lengthy discussion ensued. There is a small deviation in support iterant teachers. Steven said if the board wants administration to look at personnel or anything else the employee and the union need to be made aware. Steven said he could put together a menu of choices but he wants to make sure all the necessary personnel and union are notified. April would like this budget to go to the public and have them make that decision. The two vote requirement has gone away so Townshend will not have to deal with that with the increase. The 3 year comparison becomes available in January. Frank said he needs to know what the board wants to do fairly soon. Step one is to approve an amount to warn. Frank will look into the statute regarding the school funding law and report back to the board with his findings. April made a motion to present a budget of \$1,441.472 with a \$25,000 reserve for debt repayment contingent on if the statute supports an exemption sufficient to meet the spending ed per equalized pupil threshold. 1 nay and 2 yeas. Motion carried.

- a. Discuss collaboration with Jamaica: A survey was developed and the boards were asked to complete the survey and have it ready for the next board meeting. April had a talk with Rick Thorpe from Wardsboro. They might be interested in taking a look at what is going on with Jamaica and Townshend.
- b. Town Report preparation: Table until next month

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New Business:

- a. Town Warning-Table until next month

Correspondence: April received some correspondence from Heidi Russ from WCSU regarding voluntary reduction in force and was given to Deborah to file..

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Townshend & Jamaica Collaborative meeting January 13, 2014 at 7pm in Townshend Elementary School in the multi-purpose room
- b. RED Committee meeting January 2, 2014 at 7pm at L&G

Next meeting of Townshend School Board will be January 13, 2014 at 6:30 pm

Adjourn: Beth made a motion to adjourn at 9:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hawkins
Recorder