

Minutes Approved this ____ day of _____, 20__

Andrew Julow _____

Dave Davis _____

Judith Wimble _____

Bridget Timms _____

Jennifer Gariety _____

North Hero School Board
Tuesday, January 3, 2017 | North Hero School

Board Present: Andrew Julow (chair), Judith Wimble, Dave Davis and Bridget Timms

Board Absent: Jennifer Gariety

Administration Present: Barbara Burrington (Superintendent), Lynn Carpenter (Business Manager), Beth Hemingway (Director of Student Support Services) and Joe Resteghini (principal)

Guests: None

Call Meeting to Order

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the North Hero School Board was called to order at 6:06PM by Andrew Julow.

Pledge of Allegiance

Andrew led the pledge of allegiance.

Adjustment of Agenda

Andrew adds Executive Session for student matters (tuition status) and health benefits discussions.

Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2016

Andrew states the minutes were distributed and asks if there are any comments or questions. Hearing none they are accepted as read.

Minutes of December 6, 2016 are signed as approved by Andrew J., Dave D., Judith W. & Bridget T.

Comments & Questions from the Public Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

There are no guests in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Barbara B. reviews a written report she distributed to the board.

Dave D. asks if the District Management Council, which will coordinate the next phase of the Act 46 implementation, has worked in Vermont previously. Barbara states they have and are familiar with Vermont laws & practices.

Judith W. asks about the teams performing the Integrated Field Review scheduled for February 2nd and brief discussion follows.

Principal's Report

Joe R. reviews a written report he distributed to the board.

Judith W. verifies the new preschool student is due to a new family moving town.

Board Discussion

FY18 Budget

Lynn C. distributes the following:

- 2018 North Hero Draft Budget with North Hero FY 18 Revenues
- Anticipated North Hero Tuition Students FY 18
- ACT 68 Budget Presentation
- Packet of supporting documentation for Revenue projections
- North Hero School District Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2016

Andrew J. states the review of tuition students will happen in executive session.

Lynn C. leads the board through an overview of the projected revenues and uses the supporting documents to explain how the numbers were formulated. The board discusses the following:

- 001-1950-4000-000-00 Municipal Building Usage: Andrew verifies the \$68,800.00 will remain steady until 2020. Judith asks why FY16 shows a different amount and Lynn states there was confusion about prior year amounts being included in 2016.
- 001-1423-4000-00 Daycare Program Rent for bldg. use: The board requests this line be changed from \$0.00 to \$1.00 to account for lease to Eagle Care.
- Line 32 Balance Brought Forward: This line shows a \$116,114.00 surplus which Lynn C. states is confirmed by the audit. She clarifies she has not reviewed the audit but has no reason to believe the number is not accurate.

The board asks to review which special education expenses and corresponding revenues have been moved to the supervisory union level and which are still in the local budget. Lynn C. states only net expenses will show on the local budget. Beth H. explains all expenses and revenues for special education will now be in the Supervisory Union budget *except* for special education personnel expenses specific to local schools and any grant revenue generated from these expenses, which will remain in local budgets.

The board continues with a general review of the budget:

- 001-1200-5320-000-00 Spec. Ed.-Prof Educ. Svcs: This line is reduced to \$0.00 as agreed at the last meeting but did not update in the spreadsheet.
- 001-2150-5260-000-00 Speech Services-unemployment: This line is reduced by half to reflect North Hero's portion of an employee shared with Isle La Motte.
- 001-1100-5110-000-00 Instructional-salaries: This line increases when Andrew J. asks to review the grid and Ms. Aubin is adjusted from a BA15 to MA.
- 001-1100-5515-000-00 Field Trips Educational: Joe R. requests this line be adjusted to account for increases in busing expenses he wasn't aware of at the last meeting. The board agrees to raise the line from \$4000.00 to \$6000.00.
- 001-2600-5432-000-00 Operation/maint. Of Plant Repa: This line is reduced by \$2000.00 based on estimates for kitchen cabinets Joe R. has received since last meeting. The board agrees this will offset increases in field trip expenses.
- 001-2410-5110-000-00 Principal Service-salary: This line automatically increased when the 3% raise was entered into the spreadsheet last month. Judith W. asks it return to the flat rate of \$44000.00 as the principal operates under a contract.

Consideration of Board Reduction Ballot Item

Andrew J. asks if the board has any questions regarding this item which was discussed last month. There is no discussion.

Consideration of Capital Fund Ballot Item

Andrew J. reads potential language, as drafted by the school attorney, for a ballot question which would authorize the creation of a capital fund. Andrew J. states this would create a separate voter approved fund for money earmarked for capital improvements and can't be used to store money with no goal. The alternative would be the surplus would go right back into tax payers pockets. The fund would become part of the unified school district in FY19 so ideally would be used in the next two years. Once the fund exists it would operate independently of the general school budget but could only be used for capital improvements. Discussion on benefits of creating a fund versus adding expenses to current budget to offset the revenue follow. The board agrees projects which have been put off for years, septic system replacement, gym floor replacement, roofing repairs, bathroom upgrades and a new boiler, would be a judicious use of the surplus. The board decides to revisit the discussion after executive session when they have discussed all information necessary to finalize the budget.

Executive Session

Dave D. motions to enter executive session for student matter to discuss secondary enrollment at 7:25PM, Bridget T. seconds and the motion passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Bridget T. motions to come out of executive session, with no action taken, at 7:40PM. The motion is seconded by Judith W. and passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Bridget T. motions to enter executive session at 7:41PM to discuss salary and benefits, Judith W. seconds and the motion passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Dave D. motions to come out of executive session, with no action taken, at 7:45PM. The motion is seconded by Judith W. and passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Board Discussion

Consideration of Capital Fund Ballot Item

The board reviews with the Lynn C. how the tax rate changes depending on the amount of the surplus used to create the fund. The board decides to put the ballot item forward with \$100,000.00 of the surplus to be used. Andrew J. asks Joe R. to create a two year capital improvement plan to be presented to voters at town meeting.

Board Action

Approval of Bills for Payment

The warrant was circulated for board review.

Judith W. asks Joe R. to review the tuition invoices; he does and approves them for payment.

Judith W. asks why we appear to be paying full amount of benefits for the speech aid we share with Isle La Motte. Barbara B. states we are reimbursed by Isle La Motte for their half of these bills.

Approval of Town Report Submission

Andrew J. reads aloud his draft of the report for inclusion in the 2016/17 town report.

Dave D. motions to accept as read, Judith W. seconds and the motion passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Approve Warning

Andrew J. reads aloud the warning.

Dave D. motions to approve as read, Bridget T. seconds and the motion passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Andrew J., Dave D., Judith W. & Bridget T. all sign the warning.

Approval of Bills for Payment

Judith W. motions to authorize payments in the amount of \$59,322.61, Dave D. seconds and the motion passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Adjournment

Judith W. motions to adjourn at 8:37PM, Dave D. seconds and the motion passes 4-0 with no further discussion.

Agenda Building

February 7, 2016:

- Preschool policy
- School Day Length
- Class pet discussion
- Integrated arts report card review

Respectfully Submitted, Corinn Julow

CC: School Board - Andrew/Judith/Dave/Jennifer/Bridget
Central Office
Principal Resteghini
Town Clerk's Office
File