

School Board Working Session

January 22, 2015

Attendees: Chairman, Richard Wallace, Earl Somero, Vice Chairman, Jeff Salmonson, Tara Sousa, Jim Kingston, Superintendent, Ruthann Goguen, David Jack, MRI Business Management Consultant, Tom Kelly, Principal, MRHS, Tom Starratt, Principal, BMS, Marion Saari, Principal, HHES, Melissa Vinal, Curriculum Coordinator, Gary Somero, Facilities Director, Janice Longgood, Director Student Services, Matt Ballou, Information Technology Director, Jeanne Cunningham, School Board Clerk, Various Members of the Community.

Welcome to attendees and invited attendees. Note: School Board Meeting Norms: Start/End on time; follow the agenda and avoid tangents; refrain from side conversations; respect and hear from all voices and assume best intentions.

Call to order 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome to attendees and invited attendees. Note: School Board Meeting Norms: Start/end on time; follow the agenda and avoid tangents; refrain from side conversations; respect and hear from all voices and assume best intentions.

Superintendent Goguen spoke to the Board about how the Administrators have been meeting for days and have come to them with FY16 Proposed Budget Reductions. There is a list of items that we have cut for a total of \$274,838. Descriptions are next to the items that have been cut. Each Administrator went through their list of cuts so the Board could follow along.

Chairman Wallace thanked everybody for going to the table again and making more cuts. Jeff Salmonson said it was very detailed, thank you very much everybody.

Tara Sousa asked if there are the things like the Leadership Conference and the automotive trip, will they be able to raise funds to send the kids that earned that spot. That is a complete reduction. That would have to be discussed once we know what the final budget is going to be.

Tom Starratt said that at the middle school, we have left some in the budget so that we can help some people who might need help on the trip to Washington.

Rich Wallace asked if we decide to move on the budget tonight, how will this affect things.

David Jack said that the most important thing is that we have to have these things posted by Monday. Reworking the budget means that we will have some problems. The warrant articles are done, we have sent them through the lawyers and the DRA. We may have a problem doing the book we give to the public. The timeframe is our problem tonight. If you change things, I will have to go in and adjust the cost center and everything we have to do takes time.

Jim Kingston said you have two numbers all set right now though. David said that he does.

Jim Kingston said that he wants to say thanks to everyone also for combing through your budgets as you did. I know this had been a hard process. I also did some digging into some of the information that Ms. Freeman gave us. She was correct about us being a little higher in our tax rate, we are not in the top 30 anymore, we are in the top 8. We are a pretty efficient school system now. It would be really easy to have a good tax rate if we had only a few kids in town, but we have a lot of children in our school system. I want to go back to the original budget because I feel that we have such an efficient system here.

Rich Wallace said that he also feels that we should stay with the original number and have said that all along. I appreciate that information Jim.

Earl Somero said that he appreciates all the work that everyone did. I am willing to go with the original budget.

Tara Sousa said that she agrees. When we were looking at going through these numbers and see that there are some discrepancies in what we have to cut, I believe that some of these things are things we could live without but I don't think that it will make that big a difference. But to cut money anywhere that is really going to hurt the schools is not the right thing to do.

Jim Kingston said that he thinks that the work you have done is not in vain, but should the default budget be the one that is passed, that we take a slightly different look at this.

\$19,295,348 is the original budget number. Jim Kingston said that he thinks we don't need to make a motion because we have already voted on this number. The Board all agreed.

Ruthann Goguen said that for clarification, we were only tasked by the board on Monday to look at further reductions of things, not personnel, and we have done that with the new proposed reductions presented totaling \$274,838.

Rich Wallace said the figure is the original number that we voted on. Now we can sign what needs to be signed.

Adjourned at 6:45.

Update to minutes received from Tara Sousa on 1/28/15:

The Board discussed the presentation of the budget and warrant articles at deliberative session. Jim Kingston will create a draft presentation using the power point used at the budget hearing. Tara Sousa will create the slides for the MESSA article.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm by Mr. Somero, 2nd by Mr. Salmonson.

Unanimously approved.