

# **Mascenic School Board Meeting Agenda**

**3/26/15 6:00 p.m.**

School Administrative Office, 16 School Street, Greenville, NH 03048

**Attendees:** Richard Wallace, Earl Somero, Jim Kingston, Jeff Salmonson, Tara Sousa, Ruthann Goguen, Superintendent, Glen Waring, Business Administrator, Matt Ballou, Information Technology Director, Janice Longgood, Director, Student Services, Melissa Vinal, Curriculum Coordinator, Thomas Kelly, Principal, MRHS, Marion Saari, Principal, HHES, Thomas Starratt, Principal, BMS, Jeanne Cunningham, School Board Clerk, Various Community Members.

Welcome to attendees and invited attendees.

*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.*

## **1. Oath of Office – Jeanne Cunningham, District Clerk**

Jeanne Cunningham gave the Oath of Office to Jeffrey Salmonson who is the newly elected representative to the Town of New Ipswich.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Time Keeper – Earl Somero, Process Observer Jim Kingston**

## **2. Call to Order – Ruthann Goguen, Superintendent**

Superintendent Goguen called the meeting to order and said she would chair the meeting until the Board chooses a Chairman.

Superintendent Goguen welcomed Glen Waring to the Board as the new Business Administrator.

Superintendent Goguen wanted to congratulate the DI teams and wish them well in their upcoming competition at the DI State Competition. We wish Mrs. Leel's team Creature Feature, and Mr. Letter's team Making Waves the best on Saturday's competition in Hampton NH.

Superintendent Goguen congratulated to BMS student Treyton K, who will be competing in tomorrow's National Geography Bee, held at Keene State College.

Superintendent Goguen congratulated our student show participated in Special Olympics basketball games. Our Mascenic team placed in the Division 2 and will play in the State games on April 11<sup>th</sup>. She also thanked coaches Diana Griffin and Nick Miranda and all the volunteer for making this opportunity possible for our students.

Superintendent Goguen also shared that it was a busy week with lots of fun with Spirit Week at both Boynton and the High School.

## **3. Agenda Adjustments**

Jeff Salmonson asked to review the Feb 26<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes notes to review the mailer that went out prior to the election.

*All are in favor of agenda adjustment.*

The next meeting will be on April 6, 2015.

#### **4. Elections/Appointments**

Superintendent Goguen stated that it was now time to hold the elections.

Jeff Salmonson made a motion to nominate Richard Wallace as School Board Chairman. The motion was seconded by Earl Somero. It was decided that there should be a paper ballot vote. No members opposed, motion passed. It was a unanimous vote for Richard Wallace.

Mr Wallace thanked the Board for their votes and support.

Jeff Salmonson made a motion to nominate Earl Somero as School Board Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Tara Sousa. There was a paper ballot vote. No members opposed, motion passed. It was a unanimous vote for Earl Somero.

Earl Somero thanked the Board for their votes and support.

#### **5. Committees**

The Negotiations Committee had Tara Sousa and Earl Somero on it for the past year.

Tara said I have been telling people I would be getting off this year, but because of the conflict of interest that exist, I will grudgingly accept the job again. Jeff Salmonson said that Tara has done a wonderful job. Mr. Wallace agreed. Both Tara and Earl agreed to stay on the committee for another year.

The Co-curricular Committee had Jeff Salmonson and Earl Somero on it. Jeff commented that this has not been a real active committee. We met twice in the past year. I would like to be considered for the policy committee instead, because I would like to be active. Rich Wallace said he would step in and work on that committee. Earl will serve again

The Building Facilities committee has Gary Somero on it. Jim Kingston said that he will serve on that committee and that they usually have members of the community on that committee.

The Policy Committee will include Superintendent Ruthann Goguen.

Jim Kingston and Richard Wallace are on this committee and will be happy to serve again. Jeff Salmonson said that he would like to be on this committee. Richard Wallace said that he is willing to give this committee up and let Jeff serve in his place.

The Finance Advisory Committee hasn't gotten off the ground yet. Tara Sousa said that she got some feedback from the accountants. They need to define what the committee's goals are before getting started. The members have been Jeff Salmonson and Tara Sousa. This will be an exploratory committee.

The Hall of Fame committee: Tara Sousa has been on this committee in the past. This is not really a board committee. The Board decided to let this committee stand on its own.

Rich Wallace made a motion to carry the slate of members as discussed. The motion was seconded by Earl Somero. No members opposed, the motion passed.

## 4. Budget Discussion

### 1. Default budget

Superintendent Goguen gave the Board members a listing of items that she was proposing to cut to get to the default budget; in actuality, she managed to cut \$300,000 from the budget.

Mr. Somero asked if the decision on the budget had to be decided tonight. How critical is it.

Superintendent Goguen stated that it was very critical. We have contractual obligations to deadlines and it is a goal to get contracts out early this year.

Most of these reductions we have been talking about since the fall.

Mr. Somero commented that we would be bound by the budget. I think that we should be looking for further cuts. People are worried about their taxes now and we have a disadvantage that other towns don't have. We don't have the businesses in this town.

Jeff Salmonson said that looking at the results of the vote, I advocate that cuts should be made. I put out an email the following day saying that we would be looking for other cuts beyond what we have done to this point. I feel we should be asking our Administrators should be looking at more cuts. Maybe another \$500,000 cuts for our next budget that we will be proposing.

Mr. Wallace asked if he was talking about this budget right now and Mr. Salmonson said no, the next budget coming up.

Mr. Kingston said that he has no problem approving this default budget as proposed by Superintendent Goguen. We need to make sure that the next budget coming up needs to be well thought out. The people do not want any more administration so we do need to look at cuts. We need to listen to all the messages that are being given.

Mrs. Sousa said that anything that we do getting below default is not going to affect the tax rate this year. Most of these things were not talked about previously, but in Greenville, people have asked to not have major cuts below the default budget because they came out to support the default budget. If we are going forward with these, I have specific questions for the Administrators. I think we could consider some options. I think we could look at giving back all of the fund balance to lower the tax rate.

Mr. Wallace commented that he had heard that people were concerned too, but when you put all the towns together, there is no mandate on anything. People are concerned and I understand that. It is a hard thing to cut a budget.

Mrs. Sousa said that when we have the budget meetings in November people didn't know what we were going to cut until they came here tonight. We are presenting this tonight and potentially voting on it tonight and it may change the fabric of our schools.

Mr. Salmonson said Mrs. Sousa mentioned that it won't affect the tax rate this year, true, but we have an opportunity to let people know that we did hear them. I am for these cuts including the additional staff cuts.

Superintendent Goguen said that it is highly recommended that every school have a sped director to manage special education programming. I want to be very clear on this and state, the SAU staffing has

been shorthanded since I came to this district. We are not adding additional administrators to the SAU, and the special education coordinator has been a long standing position in this district for year. The only difference is this is now going to be funded through the general fund.

Chairman Wallace said to envision an umbrella. The Special Ed coordinator works for the Director of Student Services. Jan is trying to do the Sped job and the building job at the same time and it is undoable. There is a lot to the Special Ed job on its own.

Mr. Salmonson said that previously that position was grant funded. As we all know, we have had some problems with grant writing and grant use. The state has been very good to us in not making us pay back much of what we owed.

Mr. Kingston said that as far as he was concerned, we are operating with one position and we should be able to make it through this year as we did last year.

Mr. Somero said there are two programs that come to mind. Fire Fighter program, did the EMT program fail. Superintendent Goguen said that yes it did fail, and The Fire fighter program will continue. Mr. Somero said that he is in favor of sports and in going to basketball games. They are not charging for attendance at the games. I think that could bring in some revenue. Why aren't we? Mr. Wallace said that he believes that the Board approved that because of low attendance.

Tom Kelly said he believes that we did that because people couldn't afford to come to the games, but when we stopped charging, the attendance came up and people were happy to come.

Mrs. Sousa said that she is happy to see that sped coordinator is the title of that position instead of director. I appreciate that that is the title we are putting to this position. Mr. Kingston said that when he looks at eliminating a computer science teacher, he is not feeling good. Technology is definitely the future.

Principal Starratt said the kids will only see a computer science teacher once a year as opposed to twice a year.

Superintendent Goguen said that as a board, you have asked me to create a default budget. Instead of using the 4 attritions from teacher retirements and then having class size go up, we have come up with the plan before you. We looked at non-mandatory programs and the elimination of the free full day kindergarten program and due to the low numbers we saw we could still have low class size for kindergarten by reducing our section from 5 to 4. Class size would be an estimated 17 for kindergarten. These changes do not cut programs. The reductions in specialist do not completely eliminate programs. These are all difficult decisions. If the Board wants to make the personnel reductions themselves, they are certainly welcome to do so, but we will need to go into non-public.

Jeff Salmonson made a motion to cut \$127,384 from the default budget. There was no second on Mr. Salmonson's motion.

The motion lost for want of a second.

Jim Kingston said that we can approve the budget to go forward as the default budget.

We can only approve the budget that was voted on.

Earl Somero made a motion that the School Board approve of the default budget as approved by the will of the people. Jeff Salmonson seconded the motion. No members opposed, motion passed.

Mr. Somero asked what would stay if we went with the default budget. Mr. Wallace said that we can't say at this point. We voted on the budget number. That is the budget we will be working with.

Tara Sousa said that she is asking what will be cut. When is the board going to come to a final decision as to what is going and what is staying.

Earl Somero said that we have a list and we are going to be working on this list and adopt this and then move forward and adjust it as we go.

Chairman Wallace said that once we vote for a budget, the budget is done, whatever happens after that is the day to day operation. We are charged with approving the budget, we are not in charge of the day to day business.

## **5. Personnel**

Ruthann Goguen commented that she had two resignations.

Resignation from Barry Jake Reed who is a part time custodian and a resignation from Cheryl Costa from the Guidance Dept.

Jim Kingston made a motion to accept the resignations of Barry Reed and Cheryl Costa, with regret. The motion was seconded by Jeff Salmonson. No Members opposed, motion passed.

## **6. Public Comment**

**Public Comment will be restricted to precise topics announced in advance. This means public comment will only be allowed on items in this weekly agenda.**

There is concern about Kindergarten being cut. Are we cutting a kindergarten session? We are concerned about this being cut as we feel that this is a very important time for these children.

Concern about the sped coordinator. I realize that you are putting in a new position in this budget.

Comment about the sped coordinator position. I understand how difficult it is for Jan to do both positions but she did a great job this year and we believe she could do the same next year.

Rich Wallace said that a sped director would not be on the par of Director of Student Services. That position would be reporting to the Director of Student Services.

Superintendent Ruthann Goguen stated that she holds monthly coffees just so that people can come and ask any questions that they may want to have answered. She welcomes everyone.

A conversation took place about what the job of the Director of Student Services does as opposed to what the Special Ed Coordinator does.

## **7. Non-Public Session**

Jeff Salmonson made a motion to move to non-public per RSA 91A:3 II (a). The motion was seconded by Tara Sousa. Roll Call Vote: Jeff Salmonson, yes, Jim Kingston, yes, Tara Sousa, yes, Earl Somero, yes, Richard Wallace, yes. Motion carries.

Rich Wallace said that he would like to thank the public for coming to this meeting. He wanted to thank them for their participation in this meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

1. Process Observer Report Out 7:30 PM

Motion by Mr. Kingston, second by Mr. Salmonson to re-enter public session at 9:05 pm.

Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Kingston, second by Mr. Salmonson to seal items discussed under 91-A: 3, II (a) in perpetuity.

No members opposed, motion passed.

The Chairman reported a vote taken to increase a paraprofessional's hourly rate due to a change in position/responsibilities.

Motion by Mr. Kingston, seconded by Mr. Somero to direct the Superintendent to create a line item budget reflecting the proposed personnel changes (\$127, 694 below default). Motion carried with 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

The Board discussed items to be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Sousa, seconded by Mr. Somero, at 9:20 pm. Unanimously approved.