

Tamworth School Board

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Tamworth School Board was held at the Kenneth A. Brett School on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 5:36PM. The meeting was called to order by Lisa Remick. Present were Gwen Poirier, Pat Kehoe, Noel DeSousa, Kathi Brown, Lisa Remick, Laura Pike, Brenda Robinson, and Dan Rowe. Dana Littlefield arrived at 5:45PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (October 8, 2008)

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2008. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Director of Special Services Update

Pat Kehoe presented and went over her report. There is one less student in elementary special education as they are no longer eligible for services. We have one student in a group home that is doing very well and may have a new placement next month. Pat also went over the NH special education district report and she is very pleased with the report. Kudos to the special education staff in this building for making this happen.

5. Education Views - Special Education Team

Kerry Dubuque presented a PowerPoint presentation of each team. Robin Steward talked about the 3 hats of special education. Resource room (pull out), Inclusion (mainstream model), and Team member (k,1,2 - 3,4,5 - 6,7,8). They work with the classroom teachers to use what is most appropriate to meet the student's needs. Sharon Roberts discussed her daily schedule stating that most kids are kept in the classrooms. Robin Steward and Kerry Dubuque also shared their daily schedules. Mary Pat Devine listed all of her responsibilities and Cindy Furnbach talked about her role as the speech and language pathologist and the social communications skills group at school. Chris Kennedy spoke about the connection between behavior and learning. Sometimes, misbehavior is due to academic issues. Dana Littlefield wondered if we sometimes over code the students. Pat Kehoe does not believe so as there is a comfortable relationship between the school and the families. Dan Rowe wanted to know where the leadership and interaction is. Pat Kehoe is here on

Tuesdays and she sets the standards and works with the teachers. Pat will bring evaluations between Madison and Tamworth to next months meeting.

6. Initial Review of the Proposed 2009-2010 Operating Budget

Gwen Poirier presentation. The hard copy is not available due to hardware problems. It will be available at the budget workshop on November 24th. The following are only generalities. The two bonds from 1988 were paid off in July so there is a decrease of \$150,000. There is a decrease in interest on the 2003 bond, (our district only) a decrease of \$160,000. We are looking at the staffing configuration and declining enrollment. K-3 class size (25) we are striving for (20)

4-6 class size (30) we are striving for (25)

The administration is presenting two less classroom teachers for a savings of \$90,000. to \$100,000. Insurance is projected to increase by 7.5%, which is good in comparison. The support staff bargaining agreement will be presented to see if that passes. There is an SAU budget hearing on November 19th at 6:00PM. It will be presented at level funding and our share is about \$2,000. less. Gwen explained about typical warrant articles and being able to compare current proposals. A handout was presented regarding the cost of the Gifted & Talented program, Behavior Specialist, and Alternative Education. Dan Rowe requested what the process is for the budget. It was stated that no goals are set up front and they work on it as it is presented by administration. Brenda Robinson stated that the administrators have always worked on the budget proposal first. Dan would like to see comparisons based on actual costs. Dan was concerned about how information is getting to the community and shouldn't the board know about things first so they know what is going on when a community member asks them about it. I.e.: the reduction of two teacher's proposal. Gwen will mail a hard copy of the budget to the board members when it is ready. It will show a comparison with actual numbers. A lot of lines are level funded.

7. Visitor's Comments

Peg DeLong wanted to know how much is left in the special education capital reserve fund. They estimate around \$205,000. but will get the actual figure for her.

Dan Rowe asked for an explanation of the alternative education program and wanted to know how many kids are involved in different programs. Noel DeSousa explained that the alternative education program teaches education in a different format. Gwen stated that the alternative education program along with the behavior specialist helps keep kids in regular school. Noel suggested getting a breakout of each program that is not mandated.

Dave Farley brought up the oil contract and wanted to know if we are doing anything similar to Conway. Lisa Remick stated that we would be talking about this later.

Ron Goodwin would like to know what the average students per class are and what the state recommends. Dan Rowe had some of these numbers available as of October 2007. Ron was also informed that Gwen and the administration propose the cuts and ideas first. The ready readers program costs about \$2,500. per student.

Dave Farley asked if there were any positions currently being recruited for. He was informed that there is currently a guidance counselor position open. Dave also wanted to know if hiring freezes are an option. Lisa Remick stated that the guidance position is a mandated one.

Dan Rowe liked the report showing why students have left, but some people still can't afford taxes.

Don Harte stated that Gwen and Noel work for the school board and that when the school board comes back saying they support the cuts, it should be made clear as to whether it is the board's opinion or personal opinions. The board's words should not come out the wrong way.

8. Committee Reports

a. SAU 9/13 Committee

There have not been any meetings yet. Bring it back next month.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

We are waiting for budget information from other towns.

9. Old Business

a. Energy Policy - Second Reading

Brenda Robinson made a motion to get the policy on the floor. Laura Pike seconded the motion. It was noted that item 7 has been added since the last reading. Motion passed.

b. Woodfuels

Noel DeSousa, Don Harte, Dan Rowe and three alternative energy people met. This is a no risk situation for us. Would like to monitor what happens over the next year and re-evaluate it then. We want to talk with other businesses using this company. Noel also stated that the fuel usage chart with this year's data on it will be helpful.

c. Fuel Usage Comparison

The chart was presented and it will be useful to update monthly with the financial statement. It should also list the average temperature.

d. Heating Oil Contract

Dan Rowe and Laura Pike were to have met with Lyman on two issues.

Renegotiation of the contract and the topping off of the tanks last year. Dan has not been able to reach anyone to talk to (general manager). We should get an oil recovery from last spring and Gwen needs to call as they will speak to her. The likelihood is remote that we can get out of our contract, but we should be able to get something back from them topping off the tank without permission. Norman & Peter at Lyman's would not talk with Dan and Laura Pike did not try to reach them as it was Dan's job. Lisa Remick stated that our attorney says that what we have is a contract. Laura Pike wanted to know if we should change the management of future

oil prices. This is up to the joint board and Brenda will bring it up at their next meeting.

10. New Business

a. Guidance Counselor Job Description - First Reading

The current guidance counselor's helped make suggestions to it. Brenda Robinson made a motion to get it on the floor. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed. It will be brought back next month for second reading. Laura Pike wanted to know who they reported to, it is the principal. Dan Rowe wanted to know if it is best to combine this position between schools. Brenda Robinson says no as our counselor is kept busy at school and in the community and at Kennett. It is a big job. Lisa Remick feels that the liaison part is an important part for grades K-12. Staff members felt that the need is too great to share this position with other schools. Dan would like Noel to send him the guidance counselor's schedule. Lisa Remick mentioned that Dan can go and meet with the guidance counselor to find out this information.

b. Format for Periodic Reporting on High School Students

Gwen presented a handout to look at. Dan Rowe would like to see a footnote for drop outs. Gwen has shared this with Jack Lloyd.

11. Superintendent's Report

a. Expenditure Report

Dan Rowe asked about the budget excesses and were there any problems. It was stated that the computer program sometimes shows some imbalances in classifications so they need to be corrected. Dan wants to see a corrected report, so problems can be solved.

b. Other

Nothing to report.

12. Principal's Report

a. Monthly Update

Presented by Noel DeSousa. For a right to know, the board was contacted by Noel via e-mail prior to the meeting regarding the guidance counselor's position. His report showed enrollment and decrease information. Laura Pike inquired about home schooling information. There is some listed in the top section. Dana Littlefield thinks that we should look at Pat's report and try to use that format for consistency. They do not need to know where the student's went. Noel also discussed the change in the athletic handbook regarding academic eligibility. Brenda Robinson made a motion to put the new language in the handbook. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Kerry Brooks explained the reasoning. Motion passed. Noel asked for a delay on the wellness policy until the rubric is done. He discussed the equipment and supplies sales handout.

b. Other

Noel would like to acknowledge the First Student Bus company for the donation of a bus plus the driver's services for use on the food walk if we need them.

13. Visitor's Comments

Peg Delong questioned the .80 cents per gallon fuel buy out amount. Dan Rowe explained how it worked as it is a sliding amount.

Marsha McKenna spoke about the \$500. that was cut from her budget supply line and asked that they please put it back as she needs those funds. Gwen explained that they try to be equitable across the board.

14. Board Comments

Laura Pike thanked Lisa Ferguson and all who helped out at the variety show. She spoke about the budget process and feels there is a lot of misunderstanding in the community about the process, which is very frustrating. The community needs to be educated as to how the budget process works. Everyone's vote is important and to respect the process.

Brenda Robinson said that the community needs to come to the meetings and the budget hearings to get the correct information.

Ruth Halpin wondered if 5:30 was a bad time. There is not really a good time as a lot of people are busy at different times.

Lisa Remick thought they might be able to move the budget information to later in the meetings if that is better for community members. People can also be encouraged to come to the meeting late, which is fine. February 4, 2009 at 7:00PM is the final budget hearing.

Laura Pike likes to have the teachers comment at the meetings.

Bill Anderson questioned the cost per student vs. the quality of the product. The figure Dan used last month used a gross budget to figure cost per student. Lisa Remick states that is not comparing apples to apples.

Peg Delong wanted to know if at the budget hearing they could have a handout to look at, showing a recap by category. Lisa Remick will see what they can do. Gwen Poirier will work on a handout.

Lisa Remick stated that the talent show was awesome and the West African drumming was fabulous. The Wizards game was a success as well as one stop trick or treat, and the open house. She encourages everyone to donate or come to the upcoming auction.

Noel DeSousa spoke about the letter to the editor regarding our acknowledgement of Veteran's at the monthly assembly.

15. Communications

Gwen stated that they will be putting out to bid the transportation bus bid which is currently a three year contract.

16. Non-Public Session

RSA 91 - A:3 II a,b,c,d,e

At 7:58PM Brenda Robinson made a motion to go into Non-Public Session. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed. At 9:05PM Dana Littlefield made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

17. Action as a Result of Non-Public

Dana Littlefield made a motion to nominate Donna Ulitz as Guidance Counselor starting January 5, 2009 for the remainder of the year. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dana Littlefield made a motion to appoint Kathi Brown as Administrative Assistant for the remainder of the year. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dana Littlefield made a motion to accept TESPA/Board negotiated agreement – 3 years. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed. One person voted no.

18. Personnel

a. Appointment of the Basketball Coaches

Dana Littlefield made a motion to appoint Kara Ouellette as Junior High girl's basketball coach. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dana Littlefield made a motion to appoint Parker Roberts as Junior High boy's basketball coach. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

19. Adjournment

At 9:17PM Dana Littlefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Brown, Recording Secretary
Draft pending Board Approval