

Woodbury School Board Meeting

January 6, 2009

Minutes UNAPPROVED

Board Members in Attendance: Retta Dunlap, Chair; Matt Hill; Judy Sassi; Lindsay Whelan; Chris Casey.

Administration in Attendance: Michaela Martin, Principal; Mark Andrews, Co-Superintendent.

Community Members in Attendance: Dan Brush, Kim Silk, Vail Leach

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Lindsay made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Chris and approved unanimously.

Matt made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Lindsay.

Executive session: 6:07 pm to 6:56 pm.

Lindsay made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Chris Parkhurst, administrative assistant at WES, and to carry her health insurance for the month of June 2009. Chris seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

The board made it plain to the community members that a full review of the budget could not be given due to ongoing discussions regarding personnel and transportation. Mark will have more figures to present to the board at the next meeting. He will also contact Monty Shatney and Sue Ellen Bottiggi, our representatives on the Hazen Union board, and see if they are able to attend our next meeting to aid in the discussion regarding transportation.

The board went over some proposed reductions made by Michaela to the budget. These cuts amounted to approximately \$6,000.

It was the consensus of the board that the appropriation of \$1500 for board development should be cut from the budget. Board members felt that some other method of learning about policy governance could be found that did not add to the budget. It was also the consensus of the board that the \$750 earmarked in the budget to be paid out to the board members for serving on the board should be removed as well.

Mark mentioned that the board should contact the select board members and ask that an article be warned for town meeting regarding the financing of an independent consultant to look at the school and provide cost effective options. Dan mentioned that there might be money from a grant that could be used for such a study. Mark will get the proper wording for the article and Retta will speak to the selectmen.

There was discussion regarding the likelihood that Woodbury's school budget would be subject to a second vote as required by new legislation. Retta stated that, in light of the current economic situation, she did not feel that she could support a budget that required a second vote. There was discussion regarding the possibility of a second vote, which many at the meeting felt was likely. Apparently, the law does not permit that the items affected by the second vote be written down and provided to voters, but the voters could be told in general what programs, etc. would be eliminated if the vote failed. The board felt this transparency would be essential to the voters.

The board decided to meet on Wednesday, January 14th, at 5:30 pm to discuss the budget again. Mark should have more figures available at that time. Community members were told that this meeting would probably be primarily in executive session. The normally scheduled January 20th meeting would also be held to further discuss budget issues. At one of the January meetings, the board will select a date to have a community meeting in February regarding the budget.

Vail mentioned that he had some ideas regarding the budget. He said he had a proposal explaining his ideas that he would forward to the board for consideration.

Retta mentioned that she was still working on the newsletters for the community and will try to pull something together this month.

Lindsay made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matt. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.