

## Woodbury School Board Meeting

January 20, 2009

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

School Board Members Present: Retta Dunlap, chair; Matt Hill; Lindsay Whelan; Chris Casey; Judy Sassi

Select Board Members Present: Elizabeth Thompson; Brian Shatney; Steve Friehofner.

Administration Present: Michaela Martin, principal.

Community Members Present: Kim Silk; Peter Peltz; Diana Peduzzi; Vail Leach; Earlene Leach; Suellen McGlynn Bottiggi; Sherri Wiswell; Brenda Maxfield; Monty Shatney; Earl Kehoe; Heather Gilcris; Julie Blake; Cassie Molleur; Eric Molleur; Kim Sample; Denise King; BJ King; Heather Lanphear; Kevin Lanphear; Tim Faryniaz; Paul Cerutti; Dan Brush; Cassandra Brush; Robin Grant. (Others may not have signed the sign in sheet)

Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

The school board had invited the select board to attend a joint meeting. Members of the select board and the school board discussed a proposed article to be warned for town meeting. The article would appropriate some money for an outside consultant to examine the viability of Woodbury Elementary School. School board members commented on what they hoped to see this study accomplish. Steve mentioned that specific parameters would need to be identified before the study could commence—this could not be a vague, open ended study. What exactly do we want to know? Several proposed writings of the article were examined with a general consensus that the article should examine future projections of the cost of keeping WES as it currently operates, possible areas of economizing to make the school more viable; the possibility of tuitioning out and what that would mean for the town and the parents; the possibility of privatizing the school, etc. Educational quality relevant to all of these options and cost analysis seemed to be the most important considerations. Retta mentioned that she had begun to gather some information regarding private schools and their costs. She also stated that this was a huge undertaking and that she did not have the time needed to do a comprehensive study of the information. The select board and the school board agreed that the study really needed to be done. The town would like to include this in the municipal budget rather than the school budget. Apparently, the superintendent discussed this with the Secretary of State who felt this would not be possible. Steve will look into the details and work on the wording of the article. Background work would also be done to find out a reasonable estimate of the cost of such a study. Hopefully, this can be pulled together for this year's budget.

There was a discussion regarding the possible shift of library cost from the school to the town. The library is the community library AND the school library. Perhaps the town could pick up some of the cost of keeping the library open to the community.

There was discussion regarding the items already cut by the board from the school budget and the possibility of cutting or reducing transportation in some way. Peter Peltz mentioned some of the governor's plans to economize and how these ideas may impact Woodbury. He also mentioned that Woodbury is the only town in his district facing the two vote issue. He said other communities were cutting deeply into their budget to avoid this issue.

There was also a discussion of how much taxes will increase with the budget as it is. Steve mentioned that the municipal budget is also a big factor. Woodbury is now considered a "sending town". Last year, the town sent \$100,000 to the state education fund that does not come back to our school at all. Community members spoke regarding the impact the school budget will have on their taxes with some stating they could easily deal with an increase and others stating an increase would make things very difficult financially for their family.

Chris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lindsay. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.