

TAMWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 5:30 PM
K.A. BRETT SCHOOL GYMNASIUM & LIBRARY
APPROVED MINUTES

Board members attending: Chairperson Jack Waldron, Kathi Padgett, Dennis Quinn, Helen Steele, Jen Westover

Others attending: Superintendent Lou Goscinski, Business Administrator Chuck Bates, Student Services Director Maria Dreyer, Principal Ken Hawkins

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Jack Waldron called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Jack Waldron declared a recess in the meeting at 5:33 PM in order to hold a Public Hearing.

TAMWORTH PUBLIC HEARING

A. Present Proposed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 School District Budget

Jack Waldron welcomed everyone and suggested turning to the handout with the proposed budget for FY 2017-2018, beginning with the summary on the last page. He noted that the grand total for the proposed budget is \$6,583,928, a 2.05% difference over last year's budget. Now turning to the Budget Summary on a separate handout, Jack said the proposed General Fund is \$6,745,360, an increase of 1.9%; Food Service is \$106,785, a decrease of (1.5%); and there are two collective bargaining agreements to be approved at the District Meeting, one with TESPAs and one with TEA. The tax rate impact is up \$0.51 based on this proposed budget.

Jack reviewed the Warrant Articles:

ARTICLE I. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,583,928 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for school district officials and agents, and for payment of statutory obligations of the district. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

ARTICLE II. To see if the school district will vote to adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$705,717 for the 2017-2018 school year in which \$268,216 is assigned to the school budget of this school district. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

This year's adjusted budget of \$697,703 with \$265,090 assigned to the school district budget will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the district voters in this administrative unit.

ARTICLE III. To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Tamworth School Board and the Tamworth Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

	Estimated increase
Year 2017-2018	\$38,315
Year 2018-2019	\$62,392
Year 2019-2020	\$70,177

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,315 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

ARTICLE IV. To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Tamworth School Board and the Tamworth Education Support Personnel Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

	Estimated increase
Year 2017-2018	\$ 10,070
Year 2018-2019	\$ 13,856

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,070 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent Collective Bargaining Agreement. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

ARTICLE V: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the previously established School Renovation and Emergency Reserve Fund. This sum to come from the June 30, 2017 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2017. No amount will be raised from taxation. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

ARTICLE VI. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

There were no questions or comments.

Jack then reviewed the major budget drivers. He noted that the biggest increase is Buildings, with a proposed budget of \$86,000. He said that reflects our capital expenses for this year, which is part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He said typically we spend about \$80,000 annually and we went down to zero last year. Other increases are due to Kennett tuition, health insurance, retirement costs, teacher longevity, and professional services for pupils. He said there is a decrease in out-of-district tuition, because we are anticipating that we're going to spend \$34,000 less this year; our best guess. Salaries are down a little due to retirement and replacement at lower cost. other equipment (with no maintenance) is down a little; special education transportation is down slightly; speech is down slightly; oil is down, but that's just a guess; interest on the bond is down, student transportation services down.

Jack then proceeded to review the budget function by function. There was a question about account notes and whether they are above or below the line they are referring to. Business Administrator Chuck Bates said our accounting software only allows us to put the note below the line they are referring to. There were some questions regarding plans for grades 1-3. There was a discussion including the benefits of small classes, the general trend toward decrease in school population, the size of the incoming kindergarten class, which is unknown at this point, and the goal of having flexibility in the schedule with the ability to move teachers around as needed. Jack Waldron said when we're seeing dropping school enrollment, the community at large is going to want to see a reduction in the number of teachers. Principal Ken Hawkins said he understood that the size of a class sometimes depends on the number of students and sometimes depends on the culture of the class. Superintendent Lou Goscinski said we also have to start looking at multi-age classrooms. He said we have to look at it class by class and find different ways of approaching how we educate kids. Kent Hemingway said he was happy to hear the consideration for multi-level classrooms and said he would encourage that because it's the most effective thing we can do. He said he advocates for this opportunity at every turn. Jack Waldron said there was a time when our budget was cut and multiple jobs were lost. He said now we are trying to stay in the middle and not have big divergences in either direction.

Jack continued reviewing the budget. He said a year ago we extended the contract of our guidance counselor to spend 5 days at Kennett verifying Tamworth residencies, and it has been well worth it. There was a question about summer programs. Lou Goscinski said we have teachers that apply to do summer work and they get paid per diem; we have grant money for this as well. Jack explained regarding the CBA agreements that health insurance is part of it. He said our provider is School Care and they have offered an alternative suite of consumer-driven health plans with much higher deductibles; we have agreed to bring this to the District Meeting to be approved. He said if a participant is willing to fill out a health profile, one half of the deductible will come off; and we agreed to increase our contribution to cover the other \$2,000 in deductibles, so in many ways it's the exact same plan. But we will still pay \$40,000 less. There was a question about

the health stipend. Jack said these are CBA items; if someone chooses not to take a health insurance policy we will pay them a stipend.

Present Warrant Articles for March 2017 School District Meeting: Already done.

B. Public Comments: None.

CHAIRPERSON CLOSING PUBLIC HEARING: Seeing no further question or comments, Jack Waldron declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:30 PM.

RESUMPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: The board moved to the Library to continue the meeting. The meeting resumed at 6:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Helen Steele to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathi Padgett. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular School Board Meeting 1-19-17: Motion by Helen Steele to approve the minutes of 1-19-17, seconded by Jen Westover. The motion passed unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Motion by Kathi Padgett to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Dennis Quinn. The motion passed unanimously.

- A. K.A. Brett School Principal's Correspondence
- B. KHS Principal's Correspondence
- C. 2016-2017 Expenditure Report
- D. Capital Reserve Fund Balances

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A. Calendar:

1. Annual Tamworth School District Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 @ 7:00 PM (Note: Snow Date is Friday, March 10, 2017, Same Place & Time).
2. Next Regular School Board Meeting: Thursday, March 23, 2017 @ 5:30 PM.
3. SAU #13 School Board Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017 @ 7:00 PM, Freedom Elementary School, Grade Six Classroom.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS

New

A. Vote to Approve the Final 2017-2018 Budget for Public Posting & Annual School District Meeting

Motion by Helen Steele to approve the final 2017-2018 budget for public posting & annual School District meeting, seconded by Dennis Quinn. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Vote to Approve the 2017 School District warrant for public posting & annual School District Meeting

Motion by Helen Steele to approve the 2017 School District Warrant for Public Posting & Annual School District Meeting, seconded by Dennis Quinn. The motion passed unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- A. Fire Inspection Results: Principal Ken Hawkins said there are things that need to be done to bring classrooms up to code and he wants to work with the Chief to see that the necessary changes are made.

STUDENT SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Student Services Director Maria Dreyer provided an updated overview of the status of special education. She noted that the special education staff in Tamworth is dedicated and hardworking and a pleasure to work with.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Business Administrator Chuck Bates said the audits are done and we hope to have the final report in time for the District Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Drew Fund – Next Steps: Superintendent Lou Goscinski advised the board that we will not be getting free legal services. He said going through the Probate Court may cost more than the fund is worth. He said the only other alternative is to go to the Attorney General's office. The board suggested trying to get a quick ball park estimate of the costs of either alternative.
- B. Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) Program: In the board packet. FYI.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION 6:55 PM: Motion by Kathi Padgett to enter non-public session to act upon a matter or matters referenced in the following provisions of RSA 91-A: 2, I & 91-A: 3, II (a), (b), & (c), seconded by Dennis Quinn. On a roll call vote the board entered non-public session:

Kathi Padgett – Aye
Dennis Quinn – Aye
Helen Steele – Aye
Jack Waldron – Aye

Jen Westover - Aye

The Ayes have it.

A. Personnel Matters: A personnel matter was discussed.

7:00 PM: Motion by Kathi Padgett that we direct the superintendent to discuss the situation with Ms. McKenna and explain the board position, seconded by Dennis Quinn. The motion passed unanimously: Kathi Padgett, Aye; Dennis Quinn, Aye; Helen Steele, Aye; Jack Waldron, Aye; Jennifer Westover, Aye.

B. Student Matters: None.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION 7:05 PM: Motion by Helen Steele to return to public session, seconded by Kathi Padgett. On a roll call vote the board returned to public session:

Kathi Padgett – Aye
Dennis Quinn – Aye
Helen Steele – Aye
Jack Waldron – Aye
Jen Westover - Aye

The Ayes have it.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION

A. Announcements: The superintendent discussed a personnel matter and the board gave the superintendent guidance on a personnel issue.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Helen Steele to adjourn, seconded by Jen Westover. The motion passed unanimously and the board adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Tamworth School Board Meeting & Public Hearing, February 9, 2017
Approved Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ambrose

Patricia Ambrose
Recording Secretary