

1 **GILMANTON SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

2 **TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014**

3 **GILMANTON SCHOOL SCIENCE ROOM**

4 Board Members Present: Renee Kordas, Michael Hatch, Robert Carpenter, Malcolm MacLeod,
5 Adam Mini

6 Administrators Present: Principal Locke, Business Administrator Donna Clairmont,
7 Superintendent Fauci, Director of Student Services Emily Reese

8 Others Present: Amy Small, Lynne Paige

9 **CALL TO ORDER:**

10 Board Chair Michael Hatch called the School Board Meeting to order at 6:06 PM

11 **PROOF OF POSTING:**

12 Proof of posting was verified by Superintendent Fauci.

13 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION-RSA 91-A :3 II (c)**

14 The Board entered into Nonpublic session at 6:06 PM. The Regular Board Meeting resumed at
15 6:26 PM

16 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

17 A letter of retirement was submitted by Mary Fougere, effective June 2015. This will impact the
18 budget because it was submitted after the budget was approved by the Board. Updated numbers
19 will be provided.

20 A letter requesting approval of maternity leave was submitted by Jen Murray.

21 **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

22 Malcolm MacLeod reviewed the NH School Board meeting. One of the topics discussed was
23 community engagement, in which they promoted the use of parent forums. They also talked
24 about collective bargaining and the Common Core. Also discussed was the teacher evaluation
25 system. They stated that outside of what is agreed on by collective bargaining units, a school
26 board has the right to determine how teachers are evaluated. The resolutions adopted include:
27 HB 142 Teacher evaluation system and HB 189:- a duty to provide education

28 **Principal's Report**

29 **Current Enrollment-** Our school population is currently at 403 students, up from last month's
30 398. The Kindergarten and Second Grade remain the largest classes at 51 and 50. First Grade just
31 gained three more children, so their numbers are back up to 48. The smallest class is Grade 5 at
32 36 students; the Seventh Grade is at 48 students.

33 **Musical Presentation-** The Elementary and Middle School Choruses and Bands performed their
34 holiday concert on the evening of January 7, postponed from December. The students did a great
35 job “bringing us back in time” to the holiday season!

36 **Curriculum Mapping Update-** Gilmanton School hosted a workshop yesterday with Dr.
37 Driscoll and members of other area school districts. The participants spend time building
38 assessments and unifying word lists for reading and writing.

39 **SEADS Program-** The SEADS Program started on Friday, January 10 and will continue for the
40 next two Fridays. We had 144 skiers and snowboarders going to Gunstock, 101 skaters, 60
41 bowlers, 24 horseback riders, 16 rock climbers, and 5 students went to Jump and Joy. The
42 students left in the building in the morning were snowshoeing and cooking as well as being
43 enriched in the computer lab, the art room, and the gym. The SEADS Committee booked three
44 afternoon presentations; this past week was a juggler and a comedian who entertained the
45 audience with his stunts. This Friday is the Seacoast Science Center with a presentation about sea
46 creatures, and the last Friday of SEADS hosts a magician.

47 **Blood Drive-** The Student Leadership Team is once again hosting a blood drive in the Gym
48 tomorrow afternoon from 1-6 PM. We are not having an Early Release Day this month, but Mrs.
49 Stockwell is going to teach in half the gym to accommodate the Red Cross.

50 **Young Inventors Club-**Young inventors in Grades 3 and 4 just completed their inventions;
51 judging took place yesterday.

52 Renee Kordas asked when the 8th grade transitions will occur this year. Principal Locke stated
53 that the guidance department will send notices out with exact dates, but it will occur sometime in
54 March. Director of Student Services Emily Reese stated the high school will have a better idea of
55 course availability at that time of the year.

56 **Superintendent’s Report**

57 There is an upcoming joint meeting with Gilford High School.

58 Business Administrator Donna Clairmont and Superintendent Fauci met with Schiavi Homes
59 about the modular. The presentation to the Budget Committee will take place tomorrow.

60 A Leadership Conference will be offered by the NH School Boards Association.

61 Superintendent Fauci believes we have made the right decisions regarding snow cancellations,
62 both for after school activities and school cancellations

63 **Second and Final Reading of Policy DKB - Funding Vehicles(s)/Vendor(s) Selection and** 64 **De-selection**

65 Superintendent Fauci suggested tabling this, stating that though he initially thought we did need
66 this, we really do not at this time.

67 **Budget /Warrant Articles Discussion**

68 Changes/updates have been made to the budget to address the retirement of one of our staff
69 members. Also, due to changes in special education's student population, the budget needs to be
70 amended to add two 1:1 paraprofessionals, psychological services, and support services.
71 Retirement costs have also been amended in the budget to reflect the changes. The default budget
72 number was also adjusted accordingly.

73 Responses to questions from the budget committee were noted for the Board to review.

74 All figures have been updated as were the frequently asked questions, which come directly from
75 the NH Department of Education website. Superintendent Fauci asked the Board if anything else
76 needs to be included. Board Chair Michael Hatch stated the only other thing we need is the
77 explanation of the money we returned. Business Administrator Donna Clairmont said she will
78 add that to the packet for tomorrow night. Renee Kordas pointed out that a sentence was cut off
79 on one of the handouts. Business Administrator Donna Clairmont said she will include the full
80 verbiage.

81 Superintendent Fauci said the projected enrollments were based on last month's information, but
82 we will amend this section that to reflect the current enrollment. That might affect the
83 projections, so according changes will be made.

84 Business Administrator Donna Clairmont said she will notify Budget Committee Chair Brian
85 Forst that some new adjustments have been made and will ask if an explanation of those changes
86 can be made prior to the meeting tomorrow night. All information requested by the Budget
87 Committee has been compiled and will be given to them tomorrow.

88 **Modular Discussion**

89 Because we have a new representative from Schiavi Homes and the possibility of a modular was
90 revisited, we received updated costs. She said the costs were similar to the quotes we received
91 last year. The Budget Committee asked if we had the opportunity to lease/purchase. The amount
92 would be \$133,661.70 over 5 years. Our choices are to lease, lease/purchase, or purchase
93 outright for \$132,000. The initial idea was to lease, which we would have chosen to do for three
94 years since the intent is to be short term. Included in the packet is what we own in terms of cost
95 for bringing in the modular, and what the company owns. Board Chair Michael Hatch said the
96 downside is getting rid of the modular when we no longer need it. Superintendent Fauci said that
97 there is a market for them, but the difficulty is deciding who is going to transport the unit. The
98 unit we are looking at is 5 years old and has been refurbished to bring it up to code.
99 Superintendent Fauci asked which way the Board is leaning. Business Administrator Donna
100 Clairmont stated our warrant article right now is based on a leasing option. If the Board is
101 considering doing something different, now is the time to make that choice. Malcolm MacLeod
102 asked about additional operating costs, such as electricity. The representative from Schiavi did
103 not have an answer. Robert Carpenter asked about the furnishings. Business Administrator
104 Donna Clairmont said that we will have to have it wired to our security and fire alarms. The units
105 do come furnished with white boards and some other equipment, but as previously noted, an
106 outline delineating what comes with the unit and the furnishings we provide will be created.
107 Malcolm MacLeod asked how much time this option would afford us. Renee Kordas asked how
108 many students modulares can accommodate. Superintendent Fauci said they can fit about 20 kids
109 in one classroom. She also asked about soundproofing. Superintendent Fauci said that he

110 believes at least one classroom would go in there but we would have to weigh our options as to
111 what would work best. Principal Locke said she believes a group old enough to come into the
112 building to use the restroom will be placed in the modular. He noted that he sent letters out to the
113 chairs of the Budget Committee and of the Planning Board regarding participation on a space
114 needs committee and we are just waiting to hear back. How long we keep the modular depends
115 on how long we and the community determine the need for the additional space. We will present
116 to them ongoing information as it comes. If the Space Needs committee eventually recommends
117 to the Board that an addition is needed, it won't happen immediately. Board Chair Michael
118 Hatch said he thinks the lease/purchase option makes more sense because it does not require all
119 the money at once. Superintendent Fauci said that we are only spending a little more to own it,
120 but it is being spread out. Principal Locke asked if they discussed the maintenance of the unit.
121 Superintendent Fauci explained that during the leasing period, maintenance is provided by the
122 company. He said we will inquire about safeguards if something happens to the modular during
123 the lease period so he can have that for the public tomorrow. Superintendent Fauci said that after
124 looking at the layout of the modular, he doesn't have as clear an idea of what the enclosed
125 hallway to the building will look like, but he believes it will still be manageable. Malcolm
126 MacLeod suggested putting the modular on the site for the time being, then create a corridor
127 when extra funds are available. Superintendent Fauci said that we have \$58,000 budgeted for
128 expenses, including the corridor. Business Administrator Donna Clairmont said that other
129 districts have adapted their emergency plans to accommodate the classrooms in the modular, so
130 we will need to do the same. She suggested the Board consider if they want to spend the money
131 to create the corridor if the modular is a short term solution.

132 **Space Needs Committee**

133 Superintendent Fauci reiterated that letters have been sent out to appropriate parties. Once all
134 parties have responded, a meeting date will be determined. He will have minutes taken and he
135 will have a power point to depict the changes that have been made to the building over the years
136 to accommodate the needs of the students. This will be followed by a walk through the building.
137 After that, Superintendent Fauci thinks the committee will give a direction in which they would
138 like to proceed. When our numbers reached 427 a few years ago, plans had been drawn and these
139 will be shared with the committee. If we get to that point, the committee and he will meet with
140 the State to discuss building aide as well as loans and other financial assistance options.
141 Superintendent Fauci said we are definitely feeling the pinch of the disproportionate numbers of
142 kids at the younger grades.

143 **Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2013**

144 No changes

145 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

146 No public comment

147 **ACTION ITEMS**

148 **On a motion made by Robert Carpenter, seconded by Malcolm MacLeod, the Board**
149 **unanimously voted to accept the Letter of Retirement from Mary Fougere.**

150 **On a motion made by Renee Kordas, seconded by Adam Mini, the Board unanimously**
151 **voted to approve the Maternity Leave Request of Jen Murray.**

152 **On a motion made by Malcolm MacLeod, seconded by Adam Mini, the Board unanimously**
153 **voted to table Policy DKB.**

154 **Superintendent Fauci asked that the Board revote on the budget and the warrant**
155 **articles. Board Chair Michael Hatch proposed we vote on the modular first.**

156 **On a motion made by Renee Kordas, seconded by Robert Carpenter, the Board**
157 **unanimously voted to approve the proposed modular as a lease to purchase.**

158 **Business Administrator Donna Clairmont said the lease/purchase payment is about**
159 **\$2000 less than the lease payment. She suggested keeping the warrant article as**
160 **written and using the extra \$2000 for any unforeseen costs associated with the**
161 **modular.**

162 **On a motion made by Renee Kordas, seconded by Robert Carpenter the Board**
163 **unanimously voted to approve adjusting the operating budget to \$9,856,693 to reflect**
164 **additional costs for Special Education, psychological services, and additional retirement**
165 **costs.**

166 **On a motion made by Robert Carpenter, seconded by Renee Kordas, the Board**
167 **unanimously voted to approve adjusting warrant article #15 , the default budget, to**
168 **\$9,737,606.**

169 **On a motion made by Robert Carpenter, seconded by Adam Mini, the Board unanimously**
170 **voted to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2013.**

171 **Superintendent Fauci stated that he has been asked why there is a deliberative**
172 **session BEFORE the public hearing. He agreed the order does seem backward. However,**
173 **as he has discussed this question with counsel, he has learned that according to the SB2**
174 **timeline the deliberative session, held on 2/8/14, is the last date that we can have it to**
175 **discuss the budget. The public hearing on the warrant articles, which is purely**
176 **informational, is held on 2/11/14. This meeting must be held no more than 30 days and no**
177 **less than 15 days prior to election. It is impossible to maintain timelines and have the public**
178 **hearing before the deliberative session according to SB2. He reiterated that the vote does**
179 **not happen at the deliberative session.**

180 **On a motion made by Robert Carpenter, seconded by Malcolm MacLeod, the Board**
181 **unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:17 PM.**

182 **Respectfully,**

183 **Renee Kordas, School Board Clerk**