

Unified School District No. 36
Waits River Valley School
East Corinth, VT 05040
March 18, 2019

Present:

Board Members: Joseph Nolin, Chair, Stacy Emerson, Alison Bruce, Suzanne Kingsbury

OESU: n/a

WRVS: Carlotta Perantoni, Larry Hatch

Guests: Chris Preston

Next Meeting: April 11, 2019

Call to Order: The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Board Business:

Agenda Review: no changes noted

Approve 2/18/2019 Minutes:

Tabled, a quorum of members who attended the meeting were not available to vote and the minutes were not available for review

Correspondence: none received

Contracts: None

Sarah Nolin joined the meeting via phone

Board Orders:

A motion was made and seconded (S.Nolin/ Kingsbury) to approve Board Orders as presented (\$473,744.26). Approved 4-0, 1 abstained

S. Nolin left the meeting

Public Comments:

C. Preston suggested to the Board that they consider consolidating the funds (approximately \$75,000) from the Future Expense Reserve Fund into the Capital Improvement Fund. He provided some history on the two accounts. The Future Expense Reserve Fund was created by the Board years ago, and voted on at an annual meeting, for the purpose of putting money aside for large expenses. However the use of the funds requires a town vote. The Capital Improvement Fund was established at a later date for the same purpose, large unexpected expenses to the school, but is able to be accessed by a majority board vote to enable quicker action when needed, for example if the boiler heating system broke.

C. Preston also commented on the Tax Worksheet that outlines total expenditures of the school and anticipated receipts from State and Local revenue and grants and the estimated tax rates from each town. Preston stated when the Board voted on the budget at the February meeting, they incorrectly voted on a figure that was \$6MM. The correct figure should be \$5,989,350 as noted

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: not available

Principal's Report:

Perantoni provided the Board with the following updates:

- Pursuant to the retirement of a 5th grade teacher, interviews have been occurring to find a replacement. Perantoni provided the Board Michael Lamarre's resume, who was the recommended selection of the interview committee. Lamarre's work experience and references make him seem like a very good fit for our school. Discussion ensued pertaining to his ties to the area, educational background, and interest and experience in elementary education.

A motion was made and seconded (Kingsbury/ Emerson) to approve offering Lamarre a teaching contract. The motion passed unanimously.

- Perantoni has been involved in conversations with Watch Them Grow regarding offering an afterschool program at WRVS. While not finalized yet, the program is anticipated to be offered starting this fall, pending completion of all of the licensing requirements and other details. It will be offered Monday thru Friday from 3-6pm at no expense to WRVS. The program is able to accept subsidies for those receiving state help with daycare costs.
- We are anticipating receiving a grant to allow the school to offer an open gym on Sundays, including balls and materials. The receipt of the grant has not been finalized, and the details are still being worked out.
- We are anticipating receiving grant funding to build an outdoor wood fired pizza oven at the school. This will be used as part of our outdoor education programs.

Larray Hatch provided the Board with an update on the status of the pavement in the parking lot. He indicated that it is in need of repairs, but that he has been unable to get quotes in time to include them in the upcoming budget vote due to the need to measure the area and the ice and snow impeding that measurement. Hatch will work with OESU Assistant Superintendent Williams to put out a bid for these repairs.

Annual Meeting Warning:

S. Emerson commented that when reviewing the budget she had questions on how OESU determined WRVS's assessment fees. She relayed to the Board information she received from the Financial

Manager at OESU, which leads her to believe that we are incorrectly being assessed fees based on 7-12 student population at Oxbow High School, instead of based on 9-12. Emerson stated that it is possible that WRVS is being charged for a portion of the 7 – 8 grade expenses at Oxbow based on the worksheet used by OESU to determine the assessment fees, and that we should not be. Emerson will reach out to the State to gain some clarity and guidance on next steps to determine if WRVS is being accurately and fairly assessed fees based on their structure.

The Board entered into conversation pertaining to Preston’s comment to consider consolidating the Future Expense Reserve Fund into the Capital Improvement Fund. A motion was made and seconded (Emerson / Kingsbury) to add Article 5 to the Annual Meeting Warning to ask the voters to authorize this consolidation, the wording of which was proposed as: “Shall the voters authorize the school board to consolidate the current Future Expense Reserve Fund (\$75,000) into the Capital Improvement Fund”. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019-2020 total expenditures of \$5,989,350. (Kingsbury/ Emerson). The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Annual Meeting Warning as presented with Articles 1 through 6. (Bruce/ Kingsbury). The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Strategic planning conversation will be added to the next meeting’s agenda.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded (Emerson/ Bruce) to adjourn the meeting at 7:00. Approved 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Alison Bruce, Board Member/ Minutes Clerk

	Adopted		% Change	Proposed	
	Budget 2017-18	Budget 2018-19		Budget 2019-20	% Change
<u>Estimated Education Spending</u>					
School District Budget	\$6,351,872	\$5,735,199	-9.71%	\$5,820,918	1.5%
Article - Capital Improvement Fund	\$0	\$87,476	0.00%	\$0	
Special Revenue Fund Grant Expenditures	\$233,695	\$201,506	-13.77%	\$168,432	
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$6,585,567	\$6,024,181	-8.52%	\$5,989,350	-0.6%
<u>Less Anticipated Receipts</u>					
State and Local Revenue	\$952,441	\$330,267	-65.32%	\$326,636	-1.1%
Future Expense Reserve	\$0	\$87,476		\$0	
Grant Revenues	\$233,695	\$188,312		\$168,432	
Prior Year Surplus	\$69,882	\$0		\$30,538	
Total Estimated Receipts	\$1,256,018	\$606,055	-51.75%	\$525,606	-13.3%
Estimated Education Spending	\$5,329,549	\$5,418,126	1.66%	\$5,463,744	0.84%
<u>Tax Rate Estimates</u>					
Equalized Pupils*	351.65	370.84	5.46%	358.41	
Estimated Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$15,156	\$14,610	-3.60%	\$15,244	4.3%
Excess Spending Calculation:					
Less net eligible construction costs per equalized pupil	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Less share of Special Ed Costs excess of \$50,000 2 yrs prior	\$0	\$0		\$0	
New Teacher retirement adjustment	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Net Education Spending per Equalized Pupil for Excess Spending	\$15,156	\$14,610		\$15,244	
Excess Spending Threshold	\$17,386	\$17,816	Per State	\$18,311	
Est.Excess Spending Penalty Above Threshold	\$0.00	\$0.00	No Penalty	\$0.00	No Penalty
Total Estimated Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil	\$15,156	\$14,610	-3.60%	\$15,244	4.3%
Property Yield (was: State BASE Education Amount)	\$10,160	\$10,220		\$10,565	
Adjustment for Spending above State BASE	149.172%	142.959%		144.291%	
State Base Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.00	\$1.00		\$1.00	
Estimated Total Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$1.4917	\$1.4296	-4.16%	\$1.4429	0.9%
<u>Education Tax Rate Estimates by Town:</u>					
Corinth (48.67%)					
CLA - Estimate Common Level of Appraisal	110.23%	109.89%	-0.31%	108.57%	
Estimated LOCAL Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.3533	\$1.3009	-3.87%	\$1.3290	2.2%
Topsham (51.33%)					
CLA - Estimate Common Level of Appraisal	111.79%	114.01%	1.99%	108.18%	
Estimated LOCAL Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.3344	\$1.2539	-6.03%	\$1.3338	6.4%

ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 36

The legal voters of Unified School District No. 36 are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Waits River Valley School in the town of Topsham on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following School District Officers for the ensuing year: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.

ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Officers and School Directors.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters of the Unified School District No. 36 authorize the school board to expend five million, nine hundred eighty-nine thousand, three hundred fifty dollars (\$5,989,350) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,244 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.3% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters authorize the school board to borrow money in anticipation of tax receipts?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters authorize the school board to consolidate the current Future Expense Reserve Fund (\$75,000.00) into the Capital Improvement Fund.

ARTICLE 6: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Joseph Nolin, Chair

Stacy Emerson

Sarah Nolin

Suzanne Kingsbury

Alison Bruce

Kenneth Schaffer

Dated at Topsham in the County of Orange and State of Vermont this ____ day of March 2018.

Recorded on this date prior to posting, March _____, 2019.

Barbara O'Connell, Clerk