

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

January 13, 2021

Present:

Board Members: Angeline Alley, Sara Dennis, Paul Hazel, Allison Ingerson, Judy Murray, Kristen Murray, Allana Page, Kelsey Root-Winchester, Sarah Sanders

Administration: Emilie Knisley, John Barone, Scott Blood, Linda Metcalf

Others:

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair. The agenda was reviewed.
- II. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to approve the Board minutes of January 6, 2021 with the correction of adding Paul Hazel as having been present. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
- III. Correspondence—none
- IV. Budget/Warning Discussion
 - A. Angeline Alley: She believes it is more beneficial to the tax payers that the Board not put \$100K in the capital account. Paul Hazel: How does this effect tax rates? Emilie Knisley: The tax rate will still see a small bump in each of the towns due to Common Level of Appraisal in the various towns. This seems to be a universal situation in other districts across the states.
 1. Angeline Alley: feels it is more palatable to taxpayers to have the budget a little lower and have capital expenses, such as a roof or air quality remediation, as separate articles.
 2. E. Knisley: another round of COVID money is coming in. She thinks the cost of air quality study could be paid with COVID funds.
 3. A. Alley: Next year remediation costs can be put on the ballot. E. Knisley: if there were remediations that needed to be done immediately, we could hold a bond vote mid-year. A. Alley: if voters know that we're voting on a specific item and what the cost is, they have historically been willing to approve it. Capital funds have to spent in 5 years.
 4. Other Board members weighed in, agreeing with what has been said. The Public Relations Committee will share information, clarifying for the voters that if a capital expense arises, the Board will come to the voters to ask for their support.
 - B. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Sara Dennis to approve a budget of \$8,328,091.00, with an Estimated Education Spending per Equalized Pupil of \$16,974.41, which is .203% less in per pupil spending than this year. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
 - C. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Allison Ingerson, pursuant to Act 162 of 2020, to conduct the BMU School district's annual meeting using the Australian Ballot voting

method for all articles. Motion voted on and approved unanimously. Supt. Knisley reminded all school board members, who are up for re-election, to get their name into their Town Clerk and fill out the candidate form. Sara Dennis, Angeline Alley, and Judy Murray are up for re-election this year.

D. The informational meeting will still be held on Monday evening, March 1st, via Zoom.

The Warning will be sent to Board members electronically to sign.

- V. Public Participation—None
- VI. Executive Session—None Needed
- VII. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to adjourn at 6:29 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.