

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 7, 2021 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board: Shannon Darrah, Charlie Buttrey, Donna Pluta, Megan Snider, Julie Acker

Principal: Chance Lindsley **OESU:** Bruce Williams, Linda Metcalf

Community/Staff: Kim Crow

Correspondence:

- Darrah received correspondence regarding the solar array, and a question about the willingness to expand it. TTSD does have ownership of the array.
- TASP is wondering about prorating the rent since they have not been operating Sept-Dec. They are going to be operating at a reduced capacity. Questions: Is it true that only kids of essential workers are going to be admitted to TASP? Williams and Lindsley will look for a contract that has been used in previous years. Lindsley will get more clarification on what they mean in prorating the rent.

Reports:

Principal Report (Lindsley)

Ms Kendal's class had written a grant to the Poor Family Farm trust. Joe Toful dropped off a check for \$1,744.00 from the Farm Trust today.

Review Draft of FY22 Budget:

- Metcalf went back into the budget and put in the correct numbers for the OESU assessment. She also lowered the TA numbers from 5 extra students to 2 students above the budgeted numbers
- Lindsley - letting go of the digital schoolhouse, but holding on to a teacher keep class sizes low
- Cut Psychology by 0.2; Lindsley feels that the success of PBIS, outdoor classrooms, and smaller class sizes, there has been less need
- Addition of an eco-literacy para to work with Cat Buxton
- There is still a foreign language teacher in the budget
- Williams: having discussed meal plans with Sheila Piper, and TES being at provision 2 for meals, \$50,000 was a good guess for the school lunch program
- Technology - the school is getting new equipment this year, but then next year we will need new software.

Questions/Clarifications (Acker):

- Elementary instruction professional services - spent \$50,000 but budgeted only \$10,000 last year? It has to do with SD Associates, so \$30,000 puts it more in line with the actual cost
- Tech center costs are up 29%? More students will be enrolled at the tech centers next year

- Library up by 87%? A portion is paid by Medicaid, Metcalf wanted it to be in the budget to show the actual costs/reimbursements, it hadn't been organized that way before
- Debt service - confirming closure of bonds? The water/sewer bond will be paid off this FY, the multi-purpose room is also paid off
- Tax worksheet - are we now under the Excess Spending Penalty Threshold? Yes - with the TA reduction and final OESU assessment we are able avoid the penalty
- Equalized pupil drop - was that a result of an increase in homeschoolers? Possibly - we had four to five students at TES that were homeschooled this year, as far as Lindsley knows they will be back next year

The current proposed budget is an overall increase of 1.1%, which translates to a 2.25% increase in the local homestead tax rate, vs. 12-13% last week.

The warning needs to be signed between, but including, January 16-26. Discussion followed.

Executive Session – Student Matter:

MOTION (Buttrey/Acker) to find that the premature general public knowledge regarding a student matter would place the board at a substantial disadvantage because it would reveal confidential information and possibly identify a student. Unanimous.

MOTION (Buttrey/Snider) to enter into executive session to discuss a student matter at 6:30pm. Williams and Lindsley were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:01pm.

No action taken.

MOTION (Acker/Pluta) to adjourn at 7:02pm. Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS:

January 19, 2021 @ 5:00 via Zoom

January 26, 2021 @ 6:30 via Zoom