

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #16 SCHOOL BOARD
Mechanic Falls – Minot - Poland

**The 5th Special Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board
for 2011 – 2012 was held**

Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

in the Poland Regional High School Auditorium

RSU16 District Budget Meeting
School Budget Public Vote 2011-2012

MINUTES

Present: Terri Arsenault, Carl Beckett, Sue Callahan, Jennifer Boenig, Melissa Hodgkin, Steve Holbrook, Mary Ella Jones, Jeanne Manley, Ed Rabasco, Scott Sawyer, Scott Tiner, Jack Wiseman

Absent: Tina Love, Joe Parent, Yvette Murray

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Ella Jones, Chair, Pledge of Allegiance
Mary Ella Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

2.0 **NEW BUSINESS:** Public Presentation of the 2011-2012 School Budget for public approval/vote

ARTICLE 1A: To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

- Dennis Duquette nominated Coleen Quint as meeting moderator.
- There was a motion and a second from the floor to nominate Colleen Quint as moderator and a unanimous vote to accept.
- Dennis Duquette swore in Colleen Quint as moderator.
- Colleen Quint swore in the ballot clerks.
- Colleen Quint welcomed the community to the meeting and explained the process for the meeting and referendum process.
- Mary Ella Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mary Ella Jones provided an overview of the budget being presented and read the budget meeting handout statement.

Questions:

1. Stan Tetenman – The only town who would have a tax increase would be Minot. How would the budget be affected to get Minot to a zero tax increase?
Dennis – an additional \$300,000 would have to be taken from the budget.
Stan - If that was done, what would be the impact on our students?
Dennis – it would decimate our students. Transportation, cuts in athletics, no field trips and no school supplies. We can't let any more staff members go due to previous cuts.
2. Bill Hiss – Regarding comparing the 2009 budget and the staff cuts, has the student count gone down along with the faculty? Are we worse or better off in student spending vs. state average than 2009?
Dennis – we have only lost 50 students overall since 2009, we have taken consolidation seriously.
Bill H. suggests adding up the total amount of financial aid offered to HS students; it dwarfs what we are asking for here.
3. Chris Woodford – The reason Minot's share has gone up is due to the cost sharing formula, correct? Student count and property valuation combined.
Dennis said it is correct. Even if the budget was flat, Minot would have an increase due to the formula. It may be time to revisit the formula and if we should take student counts into account for that.
4. Steve Robinson reviewed what each town pays for each student to attend school and the 90/10 formula.

ARTICLE 1: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$6,673,424.65 for **Regular Instruction?**

Motion: by Darren Littlefield to accept Article 1 as written
Seconded: by Norm Beauparlant
Vote: Motion carried after amendment was defeated

Discussion on Article 1:

Motion: by Steve Robinson to amend the motion and reduce the amount by \$100,000. Given that these are the same numbers that were defeated last time, he doesn't believe it will pass at referendum. He believes this amendment is close to what we spent last year when all was done and doesn't want to see reductions in what is being asked for.

Seconded: by Ollie Emery

Vote: Failed by paper ballot, 29 yes and 78 no

Motion: by Ollie Emery to have the amendment vote done by secret ballot

Seconded: by Chris Strout

Vote: Motion passed. Steve Robinson pointed out we only need 10% to have a secret ballot

Motion: by Mr. Strout for paper ballot for Article 1

Seconded: by woman in audience

Vote: Failed

- Kelly Crockett – we need to do what's right for the community.
- Norm Beauparlant – we need to pass the budget as presented.
- Hope Becker – Has tried to understand the whole budget. Could easily be trimmed. Afraid it's not going to pass. Take it from benefits.
- Jeff (Unknown) – 1,700 students in the district, 1,100 voters turned out last time. We can't take anymore out. It didn't pass by 13 people.
- Tammy English – If we want to look at other districts, we need to add the programs back in they have and pay our staff what they are paying their staff.
- Darren Littlefield – Was it clear what the \$100,000 would be cut from? Colleen explained you can only reduce a line item. The school board determines where the cuts come from. Terri Arsenault said it would fall under regular instruction. Dennis said it most likely would be cut all across the board. Transportation (which would affect parents), supplies, field trips and some athletics.
- Peter Keefe – What falls under regular instruction? Dennis said we would have to cut what we would cut and transfer the amounts to the lines affected.
- Steve Robinson – the \$100,000 amendment was meant to take off the total budget because the school board can make the cut where they want. I am not suggesting anything gets cut. I believe we will not need to make cuts.
- Mary Ella Jones – Last year we received stimulus funds that we don't have now and the positions have been moved back into the regular budget.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to move the question

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 2: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$2,875,985.82 for **Special Education?**

Motion: by Mark Hyland to accept Article 2 as written

Seconded: by Norm Beuparlant
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 3: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$0.00 for **Career and Technical**

Education?

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept Article 3 as written
Seconded: by Stan Tetenman
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 4: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$625,885.70 for **Other Instruction?**

Motion: by Mark Hyland to accept Article 4 as written
Seconded: by Stan Tetenman
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 5: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$1,416,635.05 for **Student and Staff Support?**

Motion: by Norm Beuparlant to accept Article 5 as written
Seconded: by Terri Arsenault
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 6: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$664,657.70 for **System Administration?**

Motion: by Stan Tetenman to accept Article 6 as written
Seconded: by Steve Holbrook
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 7: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$1,069,906.06 for **School Administration?**

Motion: by Mark Hyland to accept Article 7 as written
Seconded: by Bill Hiss
Vote: Motion passed

Discussion:

Unknown from audience - Is this article for pay increases for the teachers? Dennis explained it does not include teachers, all administrators. Total increase \$14,000.

ARTICLE 8: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$1,315,041.00 for **Transportation**

and Buses?

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept Article 8 as written
Seconded: by Stan Tetenman
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 9: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$1,935,218.56 for **Facilities Maintenance?**

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept Article 9 as written
Seconded: by Norm Beuparlant
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 10: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$1,231,010.62 for **Debt Service**

and Other Commitments?

Motion: by Norm Beauparlant to accept Article 10 as written
Seconded: by Stan Tetenman
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 11: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$40,000.00 for **All Other Expenditures?**

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept Article 11 as written
Seconded: by Bill Hiss
Vote: Motion passed

Discussion:

Bernice Frasier – what are “other” expenditures? Dennis said it is solely for food service, due to a loss in food service because of new nutritional guidelines and to provide more nutritious foods. Food service has not been profitable, but we have to provide for our students.

ARTICLE 12: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) appropriate \$16,433,256.74 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) raise \$8,121,384.00 and assess the amounts set forth below as each municipality’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688? (Recommend amounts set forth below):

Total appropriated (by municipality)

Total raised (district assessments by municipality)

Poland	(\$8,385,187.64)	Poland	(\$5,369,436.00)
Mechanic Falls	(\$4,566,754.73)	Mechanic Falls	(\$1,241,140.50)
Minot	(\$3,481,314.36)	Minot	(\$1,510,807.50)

RSU 16 Total Appropriated (\$16,433,256.73)

RSU 16 Total Raised (\$8,121,384.00)

Explanation: Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the district must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars. These amounts are set forth on page 4 of Computation of Unit Allocation to Fund Public Schools - Form ED279, under 'Local Contribution'.

Motion: by Norm Beauparlant to accept Article 12 as written
Seconded: by Stan Tetenman
Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 13: (Written ballot required) Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) raise and appropriate \$666,353.05 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$295,740.06 as required to fund the budget recommended by the RSU 16 Board of Directors?

The RSU 16 Board of Directors recommends \$666,353.05 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$295,740.06: This amount is needed to cover costs of RSU 16 schools that the State’s funding model does not recognize, namely, 1) costs of maintaining locally desired student-teacher ratios and/or student-teacher ratios in advanced placement and/or specialty classes, 2) costs of special education programming, 3) actual costs of extra- and co-curricular programs, 4) food service costs, and 5) actual transportation costs.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)'s local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act that will help achieve RSU 16's budget for educational programs.

Motion: by Stan Tetenman to accept Article 13 as written

Seconded: by Norm Beuparlant

Vote: Motion passed by paper ballot. 82 for, 18 opposed.

ARTICLE 14: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) authorize the RSU 16 Board of Directors to expend \$17,847,765.15 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012 from Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)'s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools?

Explanation: A school administrative unit must include a summary article indicating the total annual budget for funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 in Regional School Unit Sixteen (16). The amount must be the gross budget of the school system. This article does not provide money unless the other articles are approved.

Motion: by Mark Hyland to accept Article 14 as written

Seconded: by Stan Tetenman

Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 15: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) transfer \$150,000.00 from the ending balance of Fiscal Year 2010 school general operating funds to the Capital Improvements Reserve Fund previously established by the voters?

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept Article 15 as written

Seconded: by Stan Tetenman

Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 16: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$150,000.00 from the Capital Improvements Reserve Fund previously established by the voters for the purposes of boiler plant upgrades, paving, window replacement, ceiling replacement, electrical work, resolution of problem drainage issues and for correcting safety and code issues?

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept Article 16 as written

Seconded: by Mark Hyland

Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 17: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend up to \$27,283.00 from the Technology Reserve Fund previously established by the voters for the purposes of server and computer replacement, wireless network installation, hardware and software purchases and infrastructure upgrades?

Motion: by Stan Tetenman to accept Article 17 as written

Seconded: by Joe Lien

Vote: Motion passed

ARTICLE 18: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend federal funds and such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept Article 18 as written

Seconded: by Joe Lien
Vote: Motion passed

3.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

4.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Absentee ballots will be available in each town tomorrow morning. They must be returned to the town clerk by Thursday, November 3rd.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette