

Educational Policy Committee Meeting

AGENDA/MINUTES

Monday, March 27, 2017

7:00-8:00 P.M.

Elm Street School District Conference Room

Members Present: **Jack Wiseman**, Missy Hodgkin, Melanie Harvey, Tina Love

Members Absent: Ed Rabasco

Other BOD Members Present: Mary Martin

Administrators Present: Tina Meserve, Amy Hediger

Staff Members Present:

Item 1: Dyslexia Screening SP: A.2.c (Amy Hediger)

Amy shared the Maine DOE Dyslexia Frequently Asked Questions with the Committee to provide a basic understanding of Dyslexia. She has begun working on our process. Amy and Holly put out questions to other districts through the Curricular Leaders and Special Education list serves. The State has 8-10 recommended screeners. Amy and Holly have a phone conference on Wednesday with the State to gather more information. Next steps will be to set a systematic process for completing the screening and how we respond when the screening reveals a red flag for dyslexia.

Item 2: Snow Day Decisions Tina Meserve

Tina shared that our last day is currently Wednesday, June 22nd. This includes 7 snow days so far. Her recommendation is to keep our school calendar as it is, with the additional 2 days added onto the end of the calendar. Other options would be to extend the school day by 1 hour for up to 25 days to make up some of the snow days. This would mean keeping high school students in school until 3:15 and elementary students until 4:15. The group felt this was a long day for our students and staff, and that it would not necessarily provide any educational advantages over a June day. They also agreed that it was not possible to eliminate April vacation or hold school on Saturdays, as attendance of both students and staff would be low. The Committee recommends the additional 2 days be added to the end of the original school calendar. This decision will go to the full Board for a vote.

Item 3: Budget and Educational Requests SP: A.1.d (Tina Meserve)

The Budget Committee has finished the proposed budget and Tina will present it to the Board at the April Board meeting. The final budget is up 1.2% but the Town impact is 4.7%. This is the result of the Governor's proposed budget shifting cost to the local community. The administrators and directors have cut money from every department. The cuts were difficult and deep. We are hoping some money will be added back into the budget by the legislature. If that occurs, the Committee is recommending using that money in all three allowable ways: reduce taxes, CIP account and Regular Instruction. We have suggested language from legal to include in the warrant articles to allow us to use that money. This decision will go before the full Board for a vote.

Item 4: Curriculum Coordinator SP: D.4.b (Tina Meserve)

The Board Policy GCFB-R Section K details the process for filling an open position when an internal candidate is deemed *exceptionally well qualified*. It says,

*the school unit may forego one or more of the steps set forth in sections B-E of this procedure and **appoint** a person who is currently employed by the unit to fill an administrative position,*

Tina recommends the appointment of Amy Hediger for the position of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Director to begin July 1, 2017. Amy is currently the Interim Assistant Superintendent. She has made considerable progress in all of these areas in the six months she has been at Central Office. The Committee recommends this appointment go to the full Board for a vote.

Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.