

Our Mission is to prepare and support all students within a culture of excellence to do their best and to be their best, so that each can be a successful contributing citizen, able to adapt to change and to successfully respond to the future.

RSU #16  
Mechanic Falls \* Minot \* Poland  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Special School Board Meeting  
for 2013–2014 will be held  
Monday, March 24, 2014  
6:30 P.M.  
Poland Regional High School Library

### MINUTES

**Present:** Jennifer Boenig (7:20), Grace Gendron, Annette Hemond, Steve Holbrook, Mary Ella Jones, Tina Love, Mary Martin, Aaron Ouellette, Joe Parent, Ed Rabasco, Julie Rioux, Scott Sawyer, Jack Wiseman

**Absent:** Melissa Hodgkin, Scott Tiner

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Martin, Chair

Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the mission statement.

Mary Martin gave recognition to all board members, community members and administrators who have served on budget committees and provided help and input in developing the budget.

### ACTION ITEMS:

**2.0 NEW BUSINESS:**

- Draft 2014-2015 Budget – Tina Meserve

Tina Meserve and Kim Brandt presented the budget proposal with a PowerPoint presentation. This will be presented to the three towns next week at public meetings. They explained the goals that were followed in the budget development process to maintain and support current programs, meet the premises of the strategic plan and fiscal responsibility. They reviewed the mission statement and the 5-year vision and key points included in the strategic plan.

Tina and Kim explained in depth what maintaining current programs mean, along with additional priorities. The historical data for the annual budget was provided, along with the proposed FY '15 budget including anticipated revenue and expenses, town contributions and impact on local taxes. The additional priorities all referenced the strategic plan.

Tina reviewed the annual budget figures from FY 2008 through FY 2014. Most budget reductions over the last five years came from salaries via furlough days, frozen salaries, 1 and 2 % increases, reductions and program cuts.

***Discussion:***

Transportation: The state has said we could replace three buses. We have one in our Maintenance of Effort budget and another in our priority list. Steve Holbrook asked why we wouldn't replace the three the state has qualified us for. There are fewer costs in maintaining a new bus vs. an old one.

Tina Love suggested maybe have some statistical numbers on hand such as # of students in special ed, # of students not meeting standards and needing RTI support, etc. Tina Meserve explained that you can tell from our testing data how many do not meet the standards and need support intervention.

Steve Holbrook asked if we are tied to the strategic plan in terms of budget spending. Tina Meserve explained that the board makes the decision about what to put forth in the budget that the voters will

support. Jack Wiseman said the strategic plan is a living, breathing document and they are constantly reviewing it.

Scott Sawyer asked to have a slide added that explains our cost per student compared to the state cost per student. Tina Meserve said we are about \$1,200 below the state average in cost per student and our students are doing very well with our limited resources and high free and reduced lunch rates. We are still achieving above the state average.

Tina Love added that we should add something in the presentation about how well our students are doing. We want to maintain and attract qualified teachers.

Jack Wiseman suggested that the PowerPoint be sent to the town leaders prior to the public meetings.

Tina Love suggested a detailed explanation about how the charter schools work and that we have to send them our subsidy for the students who attend them. We don't know how many students are involved when putting our budget together.

Tina Meserve provided a handout for the board of the FY '15 proposed budget.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to add the 3<sup>rd</sup> bus to the proposed budget for FY '15

Seconded: by Julie Rioux

Vote: Motion failed via weighted vote; 338 for, 560 opposed

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to add additional ½ time GT teacher to make it full time to be paid for from fund balance

Seconded: by Joe Parent

Vote: Motion passed via weighted vote; 641 for, 200 opposed, 1 abstention

Motion: by Scott Sawyer to approve the proposed FY '15 budget proposal

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: All in favor except for Steve Holbrook who was opposed

### **3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

### **4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**

**5.0 REMINDER** – If you would like to attend the DWM School Law for Board Members (see attached) please contact Lauren as soon as possible so she can get you registered.

### **6.0 ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Meserve