

Dummer

Minutes of Annual School Budget Hearing

Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 6:30 pm
Dummer Town Hall, Dummer NH 03588

Dummer Members Present:

Joane Belleau, School Board Chairperson; Julie Glover, School Board Member; Marian Letarte, School Board Member.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Patrick Low, Superintendent, SAU-20; Pauline Plourde, SAU-20 Business Manager,
Rebecca Hebert-Sweeney, Director of Special Services, SAU-20; Malcolm Shute, Minute Taker.

Guests:

Six members of the public were present.

I. Introduction

Joane Belleau, School Board Chairperson, opened the meeting at 6:40 pm.

II. Budget

SAU-20 Business Manager Pauline Plourde provided the following information:

A. Bottom Line

- Projected tax rate is \$12.03/thousand.
- Fund balance to turn back to town is \$45,000. Last year \$26,381 was turned back.
- New elementary students have moved into town which increases the tuition budget.
- The school budget is \$45,524.00 which is a 7.65% increase over last year.
- There are 57 students now enrolled including three in kindergarten. There is an increase of one student at each level from last year; one in elementary, one in middle school, and one in high school.
- Special education costs have increased due to out-of-district placements.
- Rebecca Hebert-Sweeney, Director of Special Services, spoke about SPED saying that Dummer gets a limited amount of federal IDEA (Individuals for Disability Education act) money which is never enough to cover expenses. If new SPED students come into town, their expenses must be covered by the town.
- Cost for the SAU-20 has gone down \$590.00 due to the reduced, equalized State evaluation which is now 7%, down from 7.7% last year. This amounts to 3.8% of the school budget.
- Student transportation cost is keyed to the Consumer Price Index (cpi) and increases are not allowed to exceed the cpi. It has been increased to the maximum of \$4,475.00 which is 3.5% and is based on the December 2005 cpi. The transportation contract with Foreast Transportation is for five years. Increased fuel costs are reflected in this increase.
- \$15,000 is recommended for the Tuition Expendable fund which will come from surplus funds at the end of the year if available.

B. Proposed School Board Salaries

- School board member salary \$400.00/year.
- School board chairperson salary \$500.00/year.
- School board treasurer salary \$250.00/year.

C. AREA Policies with Milan & Berlin

The School Board Chairperson discussed the changes to these policies and about the possibility of having a study done regarding withdrawing from these two agreements. The revised AREA with Berlin is for a minimum of 10 years. More discussion took place following the reading of the warrant articles shown below.

D. Summary of Warrant Articles

The SAU-20 Business Manager read the following articles.

Article 1. Choose a school board member for a three year term.

Article 2. Choose an auditor for a two year term.

Article 3. Reports

Article 4. Salaries

Article 5. School Budget

Article 6. Tuition Expendable Fund (from surplus, if any).

Article 7. Continuation of amended AREA with Milan

Article 8. Continuation of amended AREA with Berlin

Article 9. Study regarding withdrawing from AREA with Berlin

Article 10. To transact any other business

III. AREA Discussion

- The SAU-20 Business Manager felt that Article 9 should be passed over if Article 8 passes.
- Two years prior to the expiration of the AREA, a study may be conducted about withdrawing according to the wording of the AREA with Berlin.
- If Article 8 is defeated, the AREA defaults to the old AREA which has no end date.
- The School Board Chairperson said the other school districts, Milan is singular in this, Dummer and Errol are not (no "motion" to do so) are also exploring the overall school districts' organization to see if there should be any changes or if the situation should remain as is.
- As of June 30th, there will no longer be six school districts in SAU-20 because of the formation of the cooperative school district consisting of Gorham, Randolph and Shelburne.
- The SAU-20 Superintendent stated that the revised AREA with Milan had been approved at a joint meeting of the Dummer and Milan school boards on October 5th.
- Both AREAs have been approved for wording at the state level.
- The AREAs can be amended again at a later date specifying suggested.
- It was generally agreed that Article 9 should remain on the warrant regardless of the outcome of the vote on Article 8.
- These articles will be voted on during the meeting on Monday, March 13th before the Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 14th.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 7:40 pm
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Joane Belleau, School Board Chairperson; Julie Glover, School Board Member; Marian Letarte, School Board Member.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Patrick Low, Superintendent, SAU-20; Pauline Plourde, SAU-20 Business Manager,
Rebecca Hebert-Sweeney, Director of Special Services, SAU-20; Malcolm Shute, Minute Taker.

Guests:

Laura Oullette.

No. Subject (No. & Subject Taken from Agenda)

I. Call to Order

Joane Belleau, School Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

II. Public Comments

- A carryover question from the budget hearing was discussed regarding if Article 8 is passed, can a study be made under Article 9 to get out of the AREA as soon as the town wants to? The consensus was that could not be done. It would require mutual agreement among Dummer, Berlin and the Berlin city council.
- A letter from Sherwood Fluery, Superintendent of the Stark school board in SAU-58, was read regarding the possibility of Dummer students attending the Stark Village school. Joane Belleau spoke with Mr. Fluery on the telephone and will follow-up.

III. Administrator's Report

None.

IV. Non-public Session

None

V. Other

Motion by Marian Letarte to add a new warrant Article 10 after the current Article 9 to undertake a study of the feasibility and suitability of a withdrawal from the AREA agreement between Dummer and Milan for its students in grades K-6.

Seconded by Julie Glover.

Vote: All in favor, motion passed.

- The wording of the new Article 10 will be similar to the existing Article 9 except it will be for Dummer and Milan students.
- The original Article 10 now becomes new Article 11.
- Joane Belleau discussed an exploratory meeting she attended yesterday with representatives from each of the school districts except Shelburne regarding how to provide SAU leadership should the current Superintendent depart. This was agreed upon at the January 20th meeting of the SAU. They are not looking at just the Superintendent, but are considering other issues based on RSA 194 c.2, Plans for Organization or Withdrawal. Sev-

eral scenarios were presented regarding formation of different SAUs, accepting tuition students from Stark to Milan and other considerations.

Motion by Marian Letarte to delete the phrase “recommended by the board” from Article 7.

Seconded by Julie Glover.

Vote: Motion passed with Joane Belleau abstaining.

Motion by Julie Glover to delete the phrase “recommended by the School Board” from Article 8.

Seconded by Marian Letarte .

Vote: Motion passed with Joane Belleau abstaining.

Motion by Julie Glover to delete the phrase “recommended by the School Board” from Article 9.

Seconded by Marian Letarte .

Vote: Motion passed with Joane Belleau abstaining.

Motion by Julie Glover to delete the phrase “recommended by the School Board” from the new Article 10.

Seconded by Marian Letarte .

Vote: Motion passed with Joane Belleau abstaining.

- The SAU-20 Business Manager will rework the warrant articles and post them in Dummer.
- It was noted that there was an error in the new Town Report. Marian Letarte's position on the school board is open not Julie Glover's.

VI. Next Regular Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2006 at 6:30 pm

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Marian Letarte to adjourn.

Seconded by Julie Glover.

Vote: All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.