

2009-2010 Dummer School District Budget Hearing Minutes

Monday, February 2, 2009

Board Members Present: Jennifer Miller, Julie Glover and Elizabeth Reudiger
Administration: Superintendent Paul Bousquet and Business Administrator Pauline Plourde
Public: Joane Belleau, David Dubey, Elizabeth Hawkins, and Mariann Letarte

- I. Call to Order – Jennifer Miller called the Public Hearing to order at 6:03 pm.
- II. Presentation of the Dummer School District Budget/Warrants – Jennifer began by outlining the huge impact the District is facing due to Out of District Tuition placements. At this point, the tax impact is projected to have a \$4.08 increase per thousand.
- III. Public Comments – The public commented and questioned the following:
 - The payment to the Berlin School District for \$18,892. It was pointed out that this money would be due Berlin as the State Building Aid to the Berlin School District would be reduced by that amount in the event of the withdrawal from the AREA with Berlin. A question was asked that if only one or two students’ exercised “choice” that the \$18,892 would still be payable and the answer was yes! The payment would be adjusted to \$15,163 for the following three years.
 - Discussion took place on the letter that was mailed to all residents of Dummer. The term “exclusive” Tuition Agreement with Berlin was questioned as to the difference between this agreement and the AREA. It was explained that by having only one formal agreement with a District would prevent the necessity of transporting students to outlying districts. Those parents who opt to send their children to other than the Berlin Schools, they will be responsible for their own transportation costs and any tuition payment above what Berlin is charging. The group was assured that verbal agreements have taken place with outlying districts in accepting students from Dummer.
 - The AREA was discussed and questioned if it was possible to allow a percentage of students “choice” other than Berlin. Pauline pointed out that at the time the language was being worked on with Berlin, our attorneys had suggested allowing a number of students choice. It was not accepted by the Berlin District.
 - It was pointed out that it is expected that the current year would end in a deficit due to out of district placements but that the Tuition Expendable Trust Fund would then be tapped to make up the difference. The balance in this account is roughly \$118,000 and could be reduced to \$90,000. The appropriation to the Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$25,000 is written using surplus at year end. It is expected that this will not happen. The group in attendance was asked as to their opinion. Elizabeth Hawkins stated that she believes it is prudent to keep this fund going and would keep the article on the warrant. No other discussion on this topic took place.
- IV. Other
- V. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.