

JACKSON SCHOOL BOARD

Draft Minutes - February 1, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.

WHITNEY COMMUNITY CENTER

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Jerome Dougherty, President. Present are Jerome Dougherty, Jessica DellaValla, Genn Anzaldi, Keith Bradley, Andrew Kearns. Also in attendance were Superintendent Kevin Richard, and Principal Gayle Dembowski. Absent: - Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Wilson

2. Ms. Anzaldi made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1-16-18 meeting. Mr. Bradley seconded. **APPROVED 5-0-0**

3. Citizen Comments – There are two open seats on the school board. Tomorrow is the last day to sign up.

4. Presentation of School Programs/FYI ITEMS - none

5. Old Business

A. Preschool

1. Recommendations Regarding the Preschool Proposal - A note has been received from Ms. Dembowski and Ms. Della Valla, to be reviewed for edits.

B. Pavilion Update – Finn and Molly gave an updated progress report. The budget is being developed. Most of the goods and services are being donated and will not have any cost, so this is a mock budget. They explained part of the budget line by line, then explained future plans and expected timeline.

6. Instructional Issues - none

7. Consider Personnel Actions

A. Approval of Job Descriptions - A motion to approve these items, 1, 2, and 3 was made by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Mr. Kearns, approved **5-0-0**

1. Personalized Learning Coordinator (50%)

2. Technology Facilitator (part-time)

3. Instructional Paraprofessional

B. Approve Request by Carrie Scribner for Leave of Absence – A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Kearns **APPROVED 5-0-0**

8. Business Affairs

A. FYI – 2017-18 Budget Status Report

9. Administrators' Reports

A. Superintendent – there is an SAU 9 meeting next Thursday, prior to that is an executive board meeting. On the 18th of January there was a competency based education forum.

B. Principal

10. Citizen Comments – Emily – will preschool be a ballot vote? Mr. Dougherty explained that there will be a budget hearing tonight regarding the warrant articles. There won't be voting tonight, this is a night for questions and challenges. On March 1 the legislative body has a chance to amend what is presented. Warrant articles are not voted on by ballot. There is a process for a secret ballot, Mr. Dougherty will explain that to anyone who asks. The meeting will be held at 7 pm on March 1. Child care is being worked on at this time. A petition to request a secret ballot with 5 signatures is required for a secret ballot vote.

11. Board Member Issues -- Board Discussion/Committee Reports

A. Set Date for Next Meeting (Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. – School District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

Mr. Bradley is disappointed with the program of studies. Mr. Dougherty thinks perhaps a discussion should be held under old business at some point.

12. Signing of Manifest

13. Nonpublic Session - RSA 91-A:3 II

14. Ms. Anzaldi made a motion to adjourn at 5:53 pm. Mr. Kearns seconded. **APPROVED 5-0-0**

PUBLIC HEARING on 2018-19 Proposed Budget (6:00 p.m.)

The hearing was opened at 6:00 pm by Jerome Dougherty, President. Present are Jerome Dougherty, Jessica DellaValla, Genn Anzaldi, Keith Bradley, Andrew Kearns. Also in attendance were Superintendent Kevin Richard, and Principal Gayle Dembowski. Absent: - Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Wilson

Article 1 – recommended by the School Board 4-1 – Ms. Dembowski explained the costs. Notes from the previous presentations were available for the audience. Student enrollment is estimated at 9 that are eligible. The program is Monday through Friday. Yearly, the number will vary. Is there a point where more staff is needed or where the cost per student will go up? 10 has been set as the cap, the maximum would be 12. Sarah Clemons – a parent was concerned at last meeting – the noise factor that the young children will bring. Are we talking about an add-on to the school? Ms. Dembowski explained that art and music were moved to the Whitney Center due to space, not due to the noise factor. Mr. Dougherty explained that if an add on was to be considered in the future, it would be a well thought out process.

Public preschool are showing up all over the Valley. We need to balance the needs of our community with the trends.

Denise – Preschool is not a requirement by law. Have the families of the nine children been approached to see if there is interest/commitment? Are these children expected to go every day, or will they attend 2 or 3 days a week? What is the glue that will hold this together? Ms. Della Valla spoke to these questions. Parents here want their children educated here. She feels that the commitment will be here.

Kate Fournier – has a child who will hopefully be in the upcoming preschool. They love the preschool he is in now, but are confident that Jackson will provide the same quality.

Sarah – is transportation being provided? No, it is up to the parents.

Jack – is absolutely committed to the school. This is an important investment.

Joe - What is the investment at risk? Ms. Dembowski - Without the interior/exterior costs, it is just the salaries, custodial, etc. Mr. Dougherty states that any improvements will add value to the school. Joe has seen preschool moving from a nice thing to an essential thing in the past 8 years.

Peter – there is a lot to this. How do we view ourselves as a community? This town has a hard time retaining young families. He feels it is important to support the young families. Full day kindergarten has paid off immensely. This town can and should be able to do this. This is an experiment.

Tish – concerned about the infrastructure and the school accommodating this amount of children. She is concerned that the preschoolers can't be accommodated in the same building with the older children. Should you be thinking about an addition on the school? Is there enough space, the noise factor, and the pavilion taking up space are all factors to be concerned with. If other towns do not build preschools, more children will be coming here.

Mr. Kearns spoke about the flexibility of the School Board and the possibility of accommodating more children if the need arises.

(Mr. Bradley departed at 6:29 pm)

Ms. Della Valla views the pavilion as an outdoor classroom. Education is changing and we are trying to personalize things.

Mr. Kearns – if the numbers are too large, 4 year olds will be enrolled first. Ms. Dembowski spoke about tuitioning out of town students in if there are spaces available. Configurations are changed every year as needs change.

Any resident here over 50 would likely put their children in preschool. Commitment is what we are concerned about, because if it is at no cost, you may need to worry about the commitment. She is not sure the public in general feels that they should all be paying for a preschool.

Pam shared some financial information from 2013 to current school years. Special education budgets for preschoolers have gone from zero to over \$14000. The expense is variable. The law requires only that access be provided. It is up to the parent to choose if they want to go somewhere else.

The cost of the preschool will be .29 per thousand.

Mica – commuting for preschool is very difficult for her family. Knowing that Jackson was considering this was a big driver when they moved here. Not having to pay for preschool is a great opportunity.

Mr. Dougherty – this is an experiment.

Denise – questions about Special Education monies that were paid out – Clarification on the special education tuition cost that will disappear if the preschool is here.

Mark - If the Town thrives with this preschool, will it be covered? Mr. Dougherty explained that this is an investment in the future.

Sarah – doesn't understand how an IEP will be taken care of. Pam explained that there is currently no child with a profile of severe disability that required out of district placement. Mr. Dougherty explained that there is a Capital Reserve fund to cover those unanticipated costs. No child will be deprived if the preschool is not passed.

Peter – What is current enrollment? (Current enrollment is 42. The building was designed for 75 originally.) There has been creativity in configurations.

Scott – does Conway have something on the ballot for preschool? (Bartlett does, Conway does not.)

Tish – the high school bond will be done soon, will this help offset the preschool? Mr. Kearns states that it will be 5 years.

Mr. Kearns requests budget figures for tuition next year that will have to be paid if we do not have a preschool. \$8959

Mr. Richard explains that if this article passes, the operating budget will reduce.

Audience member - There are families living in this community who cannot afford to send their children to preschool. Ms. DellaValla spoke to this, there are people in this community who need just a little bit of help.

What did the Conway vote look like? Pam spoke to this. The recommendation to the Conway School Board was not made this year.

Sarah – glad to hear it mentioned that Jackson is a very caring town and that we have always cared about our children. People have to vote their conscience. She is concerned about the tax impacts, and the commitment levels from the community.

Audience member – sees a stronger commitment if the preschool is provided free.

Peter – the vote for this is on March 1st. Town voting is on the 13th. Town meeting is on the 15th.

Jack asked for clarification on numbers.

Mr. Dougherty - If the preschool passes, the following year it will likely be incorporated into the operating budget and should reduce slightly.

Jack also asked about the private donation for the playground. (\$2000).

Mr. Dougherty – referred monetary questions to Becky – you would not see offsets in the first year. Income will go into a fund balance at the end of the year.

Article 2 – Mr. Richard gave a quick overview of the budget highlights.

Peter – last year Middle School tuition had a shortfall.

Sarah – comment regarding meetings – she attended the Competency Based Education meeting at KHS. She is basically asking where are the parents. We lost the preschool that was here because the numbers didn't qualify. She would feel better if she saw interaction from the parents.

Ms. DellaValla – our call is to provide for the kids, regardless of what their parents or caregivers do.

Mr. Richard - if Article 1 passes, there are tuition pieces in the budget (\$5987) that a motion should be made to reduce the budget by.

Peter – is this the order the Articles are going to be presented at the meeting?

(Yes)

Audience member - Item 24-10 – allocation from teacher to principal salary? Mr. Dougherty explained that two items have been combined into one description.

Article 3 – Board recommends 5-0 – set up to satisfy needs of the contract with the Whitney Foundation. This is not anticipated to increase the taxes.

Article 4 – required by law. Will be determined March 1.

The hearing was closed at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Donaldson

Recording Secretary