

SEDGWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

Sedgwick Elementary School

Regular Meeting Minutes

School Board Members Present: Susan Ford, Marti Brill, Michele Levesque, Sommer Gray, Elizabeth True

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, OJ Logue, Donald Buckingham, Lynnette Grindle, Dolphin Thalhauser

Guests: Anne Berleant, Leslie Schneider, Gary Schneider

1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum

Chair Susan Ford called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and declared a quorum.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Brill, second by Gray to approve the agenda as written. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting

Motion by Brill, second by True to approve the minutes as written. Vote: 5/Y, 0/N.

4. Citizens Comments

Larry Cassis thanked the Board for their support of his family. He noted that he, the Principal and Superintendent had a meeting on Friday regarding the technology coordinator position being shifted to the next principal and wanted to share what he has been doing behind the scenes. He has enjoyed his time at the school.

5. Reports

A. Principal

Don Buckingham distributed a written report. He reviewed the issues with the heating system. He also reviewed the upcoming events. He noted that the 6-8 graders are going to visit the area nursing homes.

B. Special Education Director

OJ Logue distributed a written report which included an overview of the programs he administers. He reviewed the grant challenges he has had with the turnover of central office staffing and staffing at the State level. He noted Title I student numbers are up and down as the idea is to identify the student, get them up to grade level and release them. There is approximately \$39,000 in carry forward funds from the grants within the Union which will be used to hire an expert for RTI training for the teachers and staff.

C. Superintendent

Christian Elkington noted the grant funds that will be used for the RTI training are funds we haven't requested before and that there is approximately \$39,000 across the Union to be used jointly.

6. Discussion Items

A. Playground Grant Update

Michele Levesque reported that they are over the \$41,000 mark for fundraising. January 20 will be design night for families. She is keeping up with the paperwork for KaBoom. Troy McLaughlin will be the site manager. The Play World Systems representative has visited the school to measure the playground area.

B. Superintendent discussion with U93

The Superintendent reported that he met with Mark Hurvitt superintendent of Union 93. Mark indicated that Union 93 is always open to talking to Sedgwick about joining their Union. However, their office is at capacity with work and space. Therefore, if Sedgwick did join them, they would need to pay for extra staffing and space. The Superintendent noted that if Sedgwick wanted to join Union 93, they would need a special bill in the legislature to allow the change.

C. Budget

a. Review of 1st Draft of 17-18 proposed budget

i. Review of draft

The Superintendent reviewed the binder materials. As presented, the budget stands at a 2.13% increase. This is without figuring in any carry forward. The requests for equipment and programs was reviewed.

ii. Possible position changes

The Superintendent reported there will be reductions in Technology and Educational Technicians. The technology position will be added to the Principal's position. We have an Ed Tech retiring who will not be replaced. Discussion also held on the GT and Occupational Therapy. Larry Cassis noted he does not feel the technology position should be added to the principal position. He feels there have been too many changes in recent years. This would take up too much of the principal's time.

iii. Overall increases and decreases

The Superintendent also noted they have figured in a 2.5% increase in salaries and an 8% increase in insurance for place holders. Gary Schneider questioned the 2.5% placeholder for salaries. The Superintendent explained that the Board is in negotiations for a one-year extension for contracts.

Also, discussion held on student numbers.

iv. Next steps

The budget will be taken up again at the January 9 meeting as the superintendent will again be reviewing all accounts for accuracy.

D. Principal Search Next Steps

Discussion held on the “father figure” comments. Consensus that this means more “parenting support”. Discussion held on advertising. Larry Cassis mentioned that the technology aspect should be mentioned in the ad.

7. Action Items

A. Policy Review

a. Facilities Use update

This policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

b. Food Allergies, 2nd Reading

This policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

c. Principal Job Description update

This is ready for a first reading in January.

8. Communications

9. Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(D) Negotiations

Motion by Levesque, second by True to enter into executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(D) Negotiations at 7:40 p.m. Vote: 4/Y, 0/N.

Participating: Susan Ford, Michele Levesque, Marti Brill, and Christian Elkington. Returned to regular session at 8:19 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Levesque, second by Brill to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. VOTE: 4/Y, 0/N

Respectfully submitted

Joanna Haskell

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Secretary